

A8906
RECODING ARCHITECTURAL BIOGRAPHIES
PHD COLLOQUIUM
Open to select March. students

Tuesdays, 11-1

The basic format for biographies of architects has changed very little for two centuries. The narrative remains based on a 19th-century notion of the autonomous individual, a singular genius, and usually – until quite recently -- a white man. This architect's life supposedly followed a resolutely independent trajectory, hostile to the conventions of professional education and practice, resisting “outside” cultural influences and the demands of clients, never deviating from an essential teleology.

In principle, we no longer accept this caricature, yet there is as yet no alternative format. Biographies of major figures in literature, science and the arts now routinely consider more complex narratives, and history often focuses on seemingly “minor” figures. Architectural history has instead continued with hagiographies or just eluded questions about biography.

This seminar will delve into the patterns, variations and deviations in architects' formation in different times and places (principally from the 19th century to the present), juxtaposing creative individuals and various collective entities -- including firms, schools and organizations -- as well as larger contexts. On one hand, this entails significant but largely unexplored influences, inspirations and constraints; on the other, it explores variations and shifts in individual architects' lives.

Texts will be on CourseWorks and **Seminar Shelf 305**.

Week 1 (Jan. 20—Now Feb 2!): Introduction

Michel Foucault, "What Is an Author?" (1969) in *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice: Selected Essays and Interviews* by Michel Foucault, ed. Donald F. Bouchard (Ithaca, 1977), pp. 6, 113-138

Jean-Louis Cohen, "Scholarship or Politics: Architectural History and the Risks of Autonomy," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians [JSAH]* 67 (September 2008): 325-329

Nicholas Bourriaud, *Relational Aesthetics* (1998; Dijon, 2002), pp. 7-33

John Macarthur and Naomi Stead, "Introduction: Architecture and Aesthetics,"; Jorge Otero-Pailos, "Architectural Phenomenology and the Rise of the Postmodern," and Bart Verschaffel, "Art in (and of) Architecture: Autonomy and Medium," in C. Greig Crysler, Stephen Cairns and Hilde Heynen, eds., *The Sage Handbook of Architectural Theory* (London & Thousand Oaks, 2012), pp. 128-151, 165-176 [E RESOURCES]

"Culture," *New Keywords: A Revised Vocabulary of Culture and Society*, eds. Tony Bennett, Lawrence Grossberg and Meaghan Morris (Malden, Ma., 2005), pp. 63-69

Nigel Hamilton, *Biography: A Brief History* (Cambridge, Ma., 2007), intro and skim any chapters [EBOOKS]

Recommended:

Hermione Lee, *Biography: A Very Short Introduction* (NY, 2009)

Peter Burke, *What Is Cultural History?*, 2nd ed. (Cambridge, 2008), esp. pp. 31-88, 93-104

Nancy Stieber, "Space, Time and Architectural History" in Dana Arnold, Elvan Altan Ergut & Belgin Turan Ozkaya, eds, *Rethinking Architectural Historiography* (L&NY, 2006)

Week 2 (Feb. 10): The Spectrum of Biographies

Everyone should present a biography of an architect, past or present, outlining *the book's* basic premises about this individual: temperament, early development, distinctive talents, conditions (race, gender, class, etc.), client relations, and major shifts in his/her life. Explore how these might have affected design commissions and aesthetic predilections -- as well as how the biographer seems to have presented (or suppressed) various circumstances.

The choices are immense. I recommend Eeva Pelkonen's *Alvar Aalto: Architecture, Modernity and Geopolitics*, Jean-Louis Cohen's *Le Corbusier, 1887-1965: The Lyricism of Architecture in the Machine Age*; Zeuler Lima's *Lina Bo Bardi* (an Italian-Brazilian architect); and Loretta Lorange's *Becoming Bucky Fuller*.

If possible, compare these with a biography in another field. One example is Eric Kandel, *In Search of Memory: The Emergence of a New Science of Mind* (New York, 2006), esp. pp. 3-51 and 376-429. This eloquent book by a Nobel-Prize winning Columbia neuroscientist later became a film; he describes the powerful effects of his childhood in Vienna and his youthful collaborations in medicine.

Week 3 (Feb. XXX): Theories of Creativity

Rob Pope, *Creativity: Theory, History, Practice* (London and New York, 2005), pp.14-33, 91-106, 114-20, 132-3
Bruno Latour, *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to*

Actor-Network Theory (Oxford and New York, 2005),
esp. pp. 1-42

Recommended:

K. Thomas, *Handbook of Research on Creativity* (Cheltenham, 2014, EBSOCOhost); and *Creativity Research: An Inter-disciplinary and Multi-disciplinary Research Handbook* (Abingdon and New York, 2014)

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi, *Creativity: The Psychology of Discovery and Invention* (New York, 1997, 2013)

Andrew Saint, *The Image of the Architect* (New Haven, 1983)

Week 4 (Feb. XXX): Individual Formation through Education

Hyungmin Pai, *The Portfolio and the Diagram: Architectural Discourse and Modernity in America* (Cambridge, MA, 2002), pp. TK

Mark Crinson, *Architecture—Art or Profession? Three Hundred Years of Architectural Education in Britain* (Manchester, 1994), pp. TK

Spiro Kostof, ed., *The Architect: Chapters in the History of the Profession* (1977; 2nd ed., Berkeley, 2000), esp. 209-279

Recommended:

Gwendolyn Wright and Janet Parks, eds., *The History of History in American Schools of, 1865-1975* (New York, 1990)

Jill Pearlman, *Inventing American Modernism: Joseph Hudnut, Walter Gropius and the Bauhaus Legacy at Harvard* (Charlottesville, 2007)

The Education of the Architect: Historiography, Urbanism and the Growth of Knowledge: Essays Presented to Stanford Anderson (Cambridge, 1997)

The Berlage Survey of Culture, Education and Practice of Architecture and Urbanism (Rotterdam, 2011)
Space Unveiled: Invisible Cultures in the Design Studio
 (Abingdon and New York, 2015)
 Michael Jenson, *Mapping the Global Architect of Alterity: Essays in Practice, Representation, and Education*
 (Abingdon, 2014)
 Cho Padamesee, *Architectural Education in the Commonwealth*
 (London, 1991)
The Humanities in Architectural Design: A Contemporary and Historical Perspective (Abingdon & New York, 2010)
A Time for the Humanities: Futurity and the Limits of Autonomy
 (New York, 2008)
Architectural Education in Europe and the Third World: Parallels and Contrasts (Newcastle upon Tyne, 1984)

Each student should analyze a particular school of architecture and/or engineering outside the U.S. What were the goals and the curriculum? How did they change over time? What were differences between “major” schools in capital cities, in colonial capitals (e.g., Seoul, Hanoi or Casablanca) and in provincial schools? What were attitudes toward history, including the modernist canon, and to local/vernacular traditions? How did faculty relate to the students they taught?

Week 5 (Feb. **XXX**): Architects’ Early Projects and Experiments

Gwendolyn Wright, “Frank Lloyd Wright’s Domestic Landscapes,” *Frank Lloyd Wright, Architect*, ed. Terence Riley (New York, 1994), pp. 80-95
 Kimberly Elman Zarecor, “Czechoslovakia’s Model Housing Developments: Modern Architecture for the Socialist Future,” in Vladimir Kulić, Timothy Parker and Monica

Penick, *Sanctioning Modernism: Architecture and the Making of Postwar Identities* (Austin, 2014), pp. 66-89
Jorge Otero-Pailos, "LSDesign: Charles Moore and the Delirious Interior" in *Architecture's Historical Turn: Phenomenology and the Rise of the Postmodern* (Minneapolis, 2010), pp. 100-145
Sarah Williams Goldhagen, *Louis Kahn's Situated Modernism* (New Haven, 2001), pp. 1-135

Recommended:

Andrew Saint, *Architect and Engineer: A Study in Sibling Rivalry* (New Haven, 2007)
Mark Jarzombek, *The Psychologizing of Modernity: Art, Architecture, History* (Cambridge, 2000)
H. Allen Brooks, *Le Corbusier's Formative Years: Charles-Edouard Jeanneret at La Chaux-de-Fonds*, (Chicago, 1997)
George Arbid, ed., *Fundamentalists and Other Arab Modernisms, 1914-2014* (Venice, 2014)

Week 6 (Feb 23): Collaboration I: The Architectural Office

Pierre Bourdieu, *The Logic of Practice*, tr.R.Nice(Stanford 1990)
Anne Pedret, *Team X: An Archival History* (London and New York, 2013)
Hyun Tae Jung, "'Technologically' Modern: The Prefabricated House and the Wartime Experience of Skidmore Owings and Merrill," in *Sanctioning Modernism*, 186-218
Magali Sarvatti Larson, *Reflections on Architectural Practices in the Nineties* (New York, 1996)
Peggy Deamer, ed., *Building (in) the Future: Recasting Labor in Architecture* (New Haven and New York, 2010)

Recommended:

Dana Cuff, *Architecture: The Story of Practice* (Cambridge, 1991)
Magali Sarvatti Larsen, *Behind the Postmodern Façade: Architectural Change in Late-Twentieth-Century America* (Berkeley, 1993)
Jonathan King and Philip Langdon, *The CRS Team and the Business of Architecture* (College Station, Tx, 2002)
Botond Bognár, *Nikken Sekkei: Building Future Japan, 1900-2000* (New York, 2000)
Peter Blundell Jones, Doina Petrescu and Jeremy Till, eds., *Architecture and Participation* (London, 2005)
Michael Hensel, ed., *Design Innovation for the Built Environment: Research by Design and the Renovation of Practice* (New York & Abingdon, 2012)

Each student should present a brief analysis that seeks to understand the interrelations in an architectural firm at every level from the principal or the partners down to interns.

Week 7 (Mar. 2): “Other” Architects: Race and Ethnicity

Guest Speaker: Mabel Wilson

Readings:

Michael Juul Holm and Mette Marie Kallehauge, eds., *Arab Contemporary* (Copenhagen, 2014)
Vijayanthi Roy, “Slum as Theory: Mega-Cities and Urban Models” in C. Greig Cryster, Stephen Cairns and Hilde Heynen, eds., *The Sage Handbook of Architecture Theory* (London and Thousand Oaks, 2012, pp. 671-686)
Iain Low, “Architecture in Africa: Situated Modern, The Production of Locality,” Esra Akcan, “Global Conflict and Global Glitter: Architecture of West Asia (1960-2010),”

Kelly Shannon, "Beyond Tropical Regionalism: The Architecture of Southeast Asia," Amit Srivastava and Peter Scriver, "Internationalism and Architecture in India after Nehru," and Tao Zhu, "Architecture in China During the Reform Era: 1978-2010"

Recommended:

Leslie Naa Norie Lokko, ed., *White Papers, Black Marks: Architecture. Race Culture* (Minneapolis, 2000)

Ned Kaufman, *Place, Race and Story: Essays on the Past and Future of Historic Preservation* (New York, 2009)

Week 8 (Mar. 9): Collaboration II: Gender, Partnerships, Sexual Identity and Love

Charles Green, *The Third Hand: Collaboration in Art from Conceptualism to Postmodernism* (Minneapolis, 2001)

Gwendolyn Wright, "A Partnership: Catherine Bauer and William Wurster," *An Ordinary Modernism: The Dwellings of William Wurster*, ed. Marc Treib (San Francisco, 1995), pp. 184-203

Alice Friedman, *Women and the Making of the Modern House: A Social and Architectural History* (New York, 1998)

Annmarie Adams and Peta Tancred, *Designing Women: Gender and the Architectural Profession* (Toronto, 2000)

Shelton Waldrep, *The Dissolution of Place: Architecture, Identity and the Body* (Surrey, 2013), esp. pp. TK on Philip Johnson

Recommended:

Arie Graefland, ed. by Michael Speaks, *Architectural Bodies* (Rotterdam, 1996)

Jane Rendell, "Tendencies and Trajectories: Feminist Approaches in Architecture," in *The Sage Handbook of*

Architectural Theory, pp. 85-97 [EBOOKS]
Richard J. Williams, *Sex and Buildings: Modern Architecture and the Sexual Revolution* (London, 2014)
Kathryn H. Anthony, *Designing for Diversity: Gender, Race and Ethnicity in the Architectural Profession* (Urbana, 2001)
Hilde Heynen and Gülsüm Baydar, eds., *Negotiating Domesticity: Spatial Productions of Gender in Modern Architecture* (London and New York, 2005)
Aaron Betsky, *Queer Space* (New York, 1997)

Week 9 : SPRING BREAK

Week 10 (Mar. 23): Individual Temperaments

Guest Speaker: Joseph Giovaninni

Readings TK

Week 11 (Mar. 30): Global Contexts v. Cities, Nations & Regions

“Design/Production/Practice” in *The Sage Handbook of Architectural Theory*, pp. 385-442
Jean-Louis Cohen and Monique Eleb, “Architectural History and the Colonial Question: Casablanca, Algiers and Beyond,” *Architectural History* (2006): 249-268
Izumi Kuroishi and Aoyama Gkuin, eds., *Constructing the Colonized Land: Entwined Perspectives of East Asia around WWII* (Surrey, 2014)

Felicity Scott, "Bernard Rudofsky: Allegories of Nomadism and and Dwelling" and Cherie Wendelken, "Putting Metabolism Back in Place: The Making of a Radically Decontextualized Architecture in Japan," in Sarah Williams Goldhagen and Réjean Legault, eds., *Anxious Modernisms: Experimentation in Postwar Architectural Culture* (Montreal & Cambridge, 2000), pp. 215-237, 278-299.

Recommended:

Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference* (Princeton, 2000), pp. 3-23, 97-114

Aaron Betsky, ed., *Spatial Murmuring: Migration of Spaces and Ideas* (Winterbourne, Berkshire, 2012)

Tim Vrijaldenhoven, *Reaching Beyond Gold: The Impact of Global Events on Urban Development* (Rotterdam, 2007)
The European City: Architectural Interventions and Transformations (Delft, 2005)

Valerie Fraser, *Building the New World: Studies in the Modern Architecture of Latin America* (London, 2000)

Kris Olds, "Globalizing Shanghai: The 'Global Intelligence Corps' and the Building of Pudong," *Cities* 14 (1990): 109-123

Andrew Bromberg, *New Architecture in the Emerging World* (Philadelphia, 2011)

Week 12 (Ap. 6): Travel Abroad: Inspirations & Commissions,

Duangang Lu, ed., *Third World Modernism: Architecture, Development and Identity* (New York and London, 2011),
esp. p. 3-27 for an overview

Jilly Tragabiy and Nuidrag Mitrasinovic, eds., *Travel Space Architecture* (Burlington, 2009)

Gwendolyn Wright, "Global Ambition and Local Knowledge" in *Modernism and the Middle East*, ed. Sandy Isenstadt and Kishwar Rizvi. (Seattle, 2008), pp. 221-254

Jean-François Legeune and Michelangelo Sabatino, *Modern Architecture and the Mediterranean: Vernacular Dialogues and Contested Identities* (New York and London, 2010), esp. pp. xv-12, 41-109

Ken Tadashi Oshima, *International Architecture in Interwar Japan: Constructing Kokusai Kenchiku* (Seattle, 2009)

Recommended:

The Domestic and the Foreign in Architecture (Rotterdam, 2007)

Robert Alexander Gonzales, *Designing Pan-America: U.S. Architectural Visions for the Western Hemisphere* (Austin, 2011) [EBOOK]

Jeffrey W. Cody, *Exporting American Architecture, 1870-2000* (London and New York, 2003)

Thomas DaCosta Kaufmann, *Toward a Geography of Art* (Chicago, 2004)

Caren Kaplan, *Questions of Travel: Postmodern Discourses of Displacement* (Durham, NC, 2000)

Week 13 (Ap. 13): Student presentations

Week 14 (Ap. 20): Student presentations

Week 15 (Ap. 27): Summary