

Arch of NY

ARCHITECTURE AND DEVELOPMENT OF NEW YORK

Architecture A6705

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This course will trace the development of New York City through its architecture and will examine the history of architecture as it is reflected in the buildings of the city. We will look at the architectural styles popular in New York from the time the city was a minor colonial settlement to its development as a great commercial and institutional center in the 19th century, through the 20th century when New York became one of the great cities of the world, and into the 21st century, as the city continues to evolve. We will discuss why various architectural developments became popular in New York and will explore what these developments mean to New York's history. We will examine the major architectural monuments of New York's five boroughs, but we will also look at the more typical buildings that reflect the needs and aspirations of the city's middle- and working-class residents. The class lectures will be supplemented by several weekend walking tours. By the end of the term the city should begin to come alive as you become aware of the notable buildings to be seen on almost every street.

Note that the class includes one Saturday and one Sunday walking tour.

Books (available at Labyrinth Books, 536 West 112th Street between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue):

If you don't already have them, you should buy:

Elliot Willensky, Norval White, and Fran Leadon, *AIA Guide to New York City* 5th edition (NY: Oxford, 2010).

Andrew Dolkart and Mathew Postal, *Guide to New York City Landmarks* 4th edition (Hoboken: John Wiley, 2009).

You may also want to acquire these books; all are on reserve in Avery Library:

Charles Lockwood, *Bricks and Brownstone* (NY: McGraw-Hill, 1972; reprinted, Rizzoli 2003. Currently out of print but available on line.

Elizabeth Cromley, *Alone Together: A History of New York's Early Apartments* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1990).

Clifton Hood, *722 Miles: The Building of the Subways and How They Transformed New York* (NY: Simon & Schuster, 1993).

Margot Gayle, *Cast-Iron Architecture in New York* (NY: Dover, 1974). Out of print but available on Amazon

Andrew S. Dolkart, *Biography of a Tenement House in New York City: An Architectural History of 97 Orchard Street* (Chicago: Center for American Places at Columbia College, 2012).

Carol Willis, *Form Follows Finance: Skyscrapers and Skylines in New York and Chicago* (NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 1995).

Assignments:

1. Student Guided Tour

For this class, we will meet for a walking tour that will be led by you. Each student will be assigned one or more buildings to discuss. You should prepare a brief presentation. This might include discussion of such issues as the building's history, architect, style, date, use, significance, relationship to its neighborhood, etc. Presentations are limited to four minutes. Become familiar with your building so that you do not have to read your presentation (you can refer to notes). Your presentations should not be a simple description of the building (we can see what the building looks like). A 1-2 page summary of your presentation will be handed in on the day of the tour and it must include a list of the sources that you consulted.

2. Final Exam.

3. Term paper. Due on April 16, 2014; topic due March 5, 2014

Pick a topic of your choice that deals with New York City's architecture or development. Topics can vary according to your interests. Some ideas:

1. Choose a neighborhood or street and trace its architectural development in depth. Topics might include the architecture of Washington Heights, the 1920s apartment houses of Ocean Avenue in Brooklyn, the row houses of 107th-109th streets.

2. Pick a notable building or group of buildings and undertake an in depth study of its design and construction. Examples might include a hotel, an individual house or a row of houses, a church, etc. Please do not choose Penn Station, Grand Central Terminal, the Bayard-Condict Building, the Flatiron Building, the Chrysler Building, the Empire State Building, the Woolworth Building, Yankee Stadium, the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, St. Patrick's Cathedral, the Dakota Apartments, Brooklyn Bridge, Rockefeller

Center, Columbia University, or the Guggenheim Museum.

3. Research the New York City work of a particular architect.
4. Examine the development of a particular building type such as clubs or police stations; or pick a building type at a specific period, such as 19th-century public schools in Brooklyn or skyscrapers of the 1920s.
5. Examine a specific style of architecture or the buildings in a particular style in a specific neighborhood. Topics might include the Italianate row houses of Greenwich Village or the Dutch Colonial farmhouses of Staten Island.
6. Study a specific part of an architect's work such as the churches of Richard Upjohn, the row houses of McKim, Mead & White, or the skyscrapers of R. H. Robertson.
7. Examine a building material and discuss its use on New York buildings.
8. Research a particular building component such as murals, bronze doors, terrazzo floors, or elevators.
9. Study a decorative feature that relates to the architecture or design of a building such as the furniture in the lobbies of apartment houses.

Your paper should be illustrated and the source of images should be noted.

It must include complete footnotes or endnotes (notes placed within the body of the text are not acceptable) [Example: Andrew S. Dolkart, *Morningside Heights: A History of Its Architecture and Development* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998), 156. This note has author, title, place of publication, publisher, date of publication, and page number]

It must include a bibliography. Bibliographies are arranged alphabetically by author's last name, for both books and articles. If there is no author then use the title for alphabetizing. You should include author, title, place of publication, publisher, and date for books. For periodical articles, include author, title, name of journal, volume number, date, and page or pages cited. For newspaper articles include author (if there is one), title of article (you do not need to follow the graphics of the headline if it is printed in all capitals, for example), date, section (where appropriate), and page. If your source is a website list the site and the date accessed (this is not necessary for newspaper articles from easily accessible papers such as the New York Times). If you are not sure how to create notes and a bibliography check a style guide such as *A Manual of Style* (often referred to as the "Chicago Manual" since it is published by the University of Chicago) available as an ebook. SYLLABUS (subject to change). Unless noted, all reading is available online. On Avery reserves, readings often listed by chapter title.

Class 1, January 22: Introduction to New York Architecture; Architecture of the Colonial Era

Class 2, January 29: The Development of New York; Architecture of the Early Nineteenth Century

Reading:
Edward K. Spann, "The Greatest Grid: the New York Plan of 1811" in *Two Centuries of American Planning*, ed. by Daniel Schaeffer (1988), pp. 11-39.

Hilary Ballon, ed., *The Greatest Grid: The Master Plan of Manhattan 1811-2011* (New York: Museum of the City of New York, 2012), pp. 1324, 27-29, 32-38, 73, 76-84 (the rest of this book is also worth examining)

Charles Lockwood, *Bricks and Brownstone: The New York Row House 1783-1929* (New York: McGraw-Hill, 1972; reprinted, New York: Rizzoli, 2003), chapter 1 ("Federal Style"), pp. 1-34 (I recommend the rest of the chapter as well).

Class 3, February 5: New York in the Decades Before the Civil War (1830-1860)

Reading:
Ellen Fletcher Rosebrock, *Counting-house Days in South Street* (NY: South Street Seaport, 1975), read entire short work. ON RESERVE

Margot Gayle, *Cast-Iron Architecture in New York* (NY: Dover, 1974). Read the introduction and browse through the illustrations

"New York Daguerreotypes" *Putnam's Monthly* 1 (February 1853), 121-136.
[Http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/browse.journals/putn.html](http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/browse.journals/putn.html)

Lockwood, *Bricks and Brownstone*, chapter 2 ("Greek Revival Style"), pp. 55-78 (recommend the rest of the chapter as well).

Lockwood, Charles, "The Italianate Dwelling House in New York City," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* vol 31 (May 1972), 145-151. Available as an ejournal through Jstor. For more detail look at chapter 4 in *Bricks and Brownstone*.

Class 4, February 12: Remaking the City: The Infrastructure of transit, parks, and water; Tenement Housing.

Reading:
Clifton Hood, *722 Miles: The Building of the Subways and How They Transformed New York*. chapters 2 ("Making Government Safe for Business") and 3 ("William Barclay Parsons and the Construction of the IRT").

Elizabeth Barlow, Frederick Law Olmsted's New York. pp. 17-25.

Richard Plunz, A History of Housing in New York (NY: Columbia University Press, 1990), chapter 2 ("Legislating the Tenement"), pp. 21-49.

Andrew S. Dolkart, Biography of a Tenement House in New York City: An Architectural History of 97 Orchard Street (Chicago: Center For American Places, 2012). ON RESERVE

Class 5, Saturday February 15 at 10:00: East Village Tour. Meet in the small park in front of the Church of St. Mark's-in-the-Bowery on the northwest corner of Second Avenue and East 10th Street at Stuyvesant Street. Closest subways are Astor Place (No. 6) and 8th Street (N&R). Dress warmly.

Class 6, February 19: Post-Civil War New York

Reading:
Elizabeth Cromley, Alone Together: A History of New York's Early Apartments (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1990), Chapters 2 ("Reference Points: Good and Bad Dwellings") and 5 ("The Family Flat Grows Up").

Sarah Bradford Landau, "The Row Houses of New York's West Side," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 34 (March 1975), 19-36. Available as an ejournal through Jstor.

Robert A. M. Stern, Thomas Mellins, and David Fishman, New York 1880: Architecture and Urbanism in the Gilded Age (NY: Monacelli, 1999), 477-491 (masonry warehouses).

Class 7, February 26: Architecture at the Turn of the Twentieth Century

Reading:
Robert A.M. Stern, Gregory Gilmartin, and John Massengale, New York 1900: Metropolitan Architecture and Urbanism 1890-1915 (NY: Rizzoli, 1983). Browse through the book to get a feel for the richness of turn-of-the-century New York architecture.

William C. Shopsin and Mosette Glaser Broderick, The Villard Houses: Life Story of a Landmark (NY: Viking, 1980), chapter 2 ("The Genesis of a Design") and chapter 3 ("Precedents and Parallels"), pp. 33-54.

Class 8, March 5: Skyscrapers - The First Generation

Reading:
Carol Willis, Form Follows Finance: Skyscrapers and Skylines in New York and Chicago (NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 1995), Part 1 ("Vernaculars of Capitalism") (in part), pp. 19-48.

Barr Ferree, "The High Building and Its Art," Scribner's 15 (March 1894).

<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/browse.journals/scri.html>

You might also want to read Montgomery Schuyler, "The 'Sky-Scraper' Up-To-Date," Architectural Record 8 (January-March 1899), 231-257.

Class 9, March 12: New York In the Early Twentieth Century

Reading:
Gail Fenske, The Skyscraper and the City: The Woolworth Building and the Making of Modern New York (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008), Introduction, pp. 1-10.

Andrew S. Dolkart, Morningside Heights: A History of Its Architecture and Development (NY: Columbia University Press, 1998), chapter 8 ("Building for Profit: The Development of a Residential Community on Morningside Heights"), pp. 286-323.

Class 10, March 26: New York in the 1920s

Reading:
Robert A.M. Stern, Gregory Gilmartin, and Thomas Mellins, New York 1930: Architecture and Urbanism Between the Two World Wars (NY: Rizzoli, 1987). read Introduction, pp. 15-48 and browse through the book to get a feel for the richness of New York architecture in the 1920s and 1930s.

R. W. Sexton, American Apartment Houses of Today (NY: Architectural Book Publishing Co., 1926), pp. i-ix ("Development of the Apartment House"), xiv-xvi ("Design of the City Apartment House"), xxii-xxv ("Design of the Suburban Apartment House").

Class 11, April 2: Student Led Tour

April 9: No class

Class 12, April 16: New York in the 1930s; Skyscrapers - The Second Generation

Reading:

Harvey Wiley Corbett, "The American Radiator Building New York City," *Architectural Record* 55 (May 1925), 473-477.

Carol Willis, *Form Follows Finance*, ("New York Zoning and the Setback Style"; "Finance Dictates the Fenestration..."; "The Empire State Example"), pp. 67-101.

Rosmarie Bletter, "The Art Deco Style," in Cervin Robinson and Rosemarie Bletter, *Skyscraper Style: Art Deco New York* (NY: Oxford University Press, 1975). pp. 35-81 and look at architectural photographer Cervin Robinson's magnificent images. Class 13, April 23: Post-War New York

Reading:

Carol Krinsky, "Architecture in New York City," in *New York Culture Capital of the World 1940-1965* ed. by Leonard Wallock. pp. 89-122.

Hillary Ballon and Kenneth T. Jackson, eds., *Robert Moses and the Modern City: The Transformation of New York* (NY: Norton, 2007), Introduction, pp. 65-66 and Ballon, "Robert Moses and Urban Renewal: The Title I Program," pp. 94-115.

Class 14, Sunday April 27 at 10:00: Lower Manhattan. Meet on the steps of the former U.S. Custom House (now the Museum of the American Indian) at Bowling Green (foot of Broadway). Closest subways are Bowling Green (4/5), Rector (1/9; get out at the front)

Class 15, April 30: Conclusion



[Syllabus 2014.doc](#)