

**CourseNo:** ARCHA4529\_001\_2013\_1  
**Meeting Location:** BUELL HALL 300  
**Meeting Time:** T 01:00P-03:00P

## COLONIAL AND POSTCOLONIAL ARCHITECTURES

Colonialism shaped the architecture of housing, schools, factories, civic and corporate structures, parks and tourist facilities around the world. Its spatial controls included economic exploitation and military power but also social and environmental reforms - visible signs of the so-called 'civilizing mission.' Yet power never operates in a simple, straight-forward manner. Colonial architecture and urbanism helped stir indigenous resistance to outside domination. Unexpected alternatives emerged, most notably illegal, informal shantytowns. This interplay has continued from the early 'postcolonial' era after WWII to the mega-cities of today's Global South: Rio, Lahore, Seoul, Shanghai, Nairobi, and others. It has also had a major impact on multinational western cities like New York, London, Amsterdam and Paris.

Past and present, diverse groups have battled over the forms and meanings of terms like 'modern,' 'traditional' and 'improvements' - all of which take on loaded meanings in these settings. European colonial cities touted some of the earliest examples of modern architecture and planning; modernism's universalist ideals also helped fuel progressive demands for equality. Government officials sponsored major historic preservation districts and categorized certain formal traits they considered authentic to a particular locale; those who challenged globalism also invoked spatial memories and myths. Contemporary designers are still caught in this tension, both western architects who work abroad and the surge of innovative architects from Asia, Africa and Latin America - some of whom are now peripatetic themselves.

This seminar will first explore the architectural and urban design tactics of European colonialism from the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century, together with imperialist expansion by countries like Japan, the USSR and the US. (This is no minor undertaking: By the 1930s colonies and former colonies, including Latin America, comprised over 85% of the globe.) We will then consider shifts, breaks and continuities during the early decades of Third-World independence after World War II. The last part of the semester analyzes the significant architecture and new kinds of cities in the contemporary global world.

Weekly readings and class discussion will juxtapose case studies with theoretical texts about cultural hegemony, reforms, innovations and unforeseen effects in the transnational world. Students will make several short presentations about specific sites, either individually or in small groups. A final research paper (c. 15 pp. with illustrations) will focus in depth on one place or topic, contemporary or historical.

### DISCUSSION TOPICS & TEXTS (Readings on CourseWorks & Avery Library's Reserve Reading Room Shelf 360.)

#### WEEK 1 (Jan. 22): MAPPING COLONIAL SPACE

Useful background:

Duanfang Lu, ed., *Third World Modernism: Architecture, Development and Identity*

(New York and London, 2011)

Jane Burbank and Frederick Cooper, *Empire in World History: Power and the Politics*

*of Difference* (Princeton, 2010)

Norrie MacQueen, *Colonialism* (London & New York, 2007) [excellent 180pp synthesis]

Pramond Nayar, *Postcolonialism: A Guide for the Perplexed* (London, 2010), EBooks

Maurice Culot and Jean-Marie Theiveaud, eds., *Architectures francaises outre-mer*  
(Liège, 1992)

Robert K. Home, *Of Planting and Planning: The Making of British Colonial Cities*  
(London, 1997)

Felix Driver and David Gilbert, eds., *Imperial Cities: Landscape, Display and Identity*  
(Manchester, 1999)

Fassil Demissie, ed., *Colonial Architecture and Urbanism in Africa* (Burlington, 2012)

Antoni Folkers, *Modern Architecture in Africa* (Amsterdam, 2010)

Tom Avermaete, Serhat Karakaydki and Marion Von Osten, eds, *Colonial Modern:  
Aesthetics of the Past, Rebellions for the Future* (London, 2010)

WEEK 2 (Jan. 29): THE GLOBAL, THE LOCAL AND “THE OTHER”

Frederick Cooper, *Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History* (Berkeley,  
2005), 3-32

Timothy Mitchell, ed., *Questions of Modernity* (Minneapolis, 2000), pp. 1-27

Nezar AlSayyad, “Urbanism and the Dominance Equation: Reflections on Colonialism  
and National Culture,” in Nezar AlSayyad, ed., *Forms of Dominance: On the  
Architecture and Urbanism of the Colonial Enterprise* (Aldershot, 1992), 1-26

Recommended:

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, *Empire* (Cambridge, 2000)

Anthony D. King, “Introduction: Spaces of Culture, Spaces of Knowledge” in  
Anthony D. King, ed., *Culture, Globalization and the World-System* (NY, 1991),

Edward W. Said, *Orientalism* (New York, 1979, 1995), 1-28, 329-352

WEEK 3 (Feb. 5): COLONIAL SITES AND SPACES, AT HOME & ABROAD

START STUDENT PRESENTATIONS of a colonial building or urban plan

“Introduction: Between Metropole and Colony” in Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler, eds, *Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World* (Berkeley, 1997), 1-40

Gwendolyn Wright, *The Politics of Design in French Colonial Urbanism* (Chicago, 1991), esp. pp. 53-84 [Reserve Desk, AA1588 M3W93]

Recommended:

Mark Crinson, *Empire Building: Orientalism and Victorian Architecture* (New York and London, 1996)

William Glover, *Making Lahore Modern: Constructing and Imagining a Colonial City* ((Minneapolis, 2008)

Brenda Yeoh, *Contesting Space: Power Relations and the Urban Environment in Colonial Singapore* (Oxford and New York, 2000)

Peter Scriver and Vikramaditya Prakash, eds., *Colonial Modernities: Building, Dwelling and Architecture in British India and Ceylon* (London and New York, 2007)

WEEK 4 (Feb. 12): CONTINUE STUDENT PRESENTATIONS

Duanfang Lu, ed., *Third World Modernism: Architecture, Development and Identity* (New York and London, 2011), pp. 3-27

Carola Hein, “The Transformation of Planning Ideas in Japan and Its Colonies” in

Joe Nasr and Mercedes Volait, eds., *Urbanism: Imported or Exported?* (Chicester and New York, 2003), 51-82

WEEK 5 (FEB. 19): SPECTACLES OF TRAVEL, TOURISM AND DEVELOPMENT

Mary Louise Pratt, *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation* (NY, 1992), esp. pp. 1-11 [EBOOKS]

Stephen Cairns, ed., *Drifting: Architecture and Migrancy* (New York and London, 2004), esp. pp. 1-47

Recommended:

Caren Kaplan, *Questions of Travel: Postmodern Discourses of Displacement*

(Durham, 1996), esp. pp. 27-64

James Clifford, "Travelling Cultures" in Lawrence Grossberg, Cary Nelson and Paula

Treicher, eds., *Cultural Studies* (New York, 1992), pp. 96-116

Ziauddin Sardar, *The Consumption of Kuala Lumpur* (London, 2000)

Michael Guggenheim and Ola Söderström, eds., *Re-Shaping Cities: How Global*

*Mobility Transforms Architecture and Urban Form* (London /New York, 2009)

WEEK 6 (Feb. 26): MODERNISMS, NATIONALISMS AND CONTEXTS

Abidin Kusno, *Behind the Postcolonial: Architecture, Urban Space and Political*

*Cultures in Indonesia* (New York and London, 2000), pp. 49-70

Hannah Le Roux, "Modern Architecture in Post-Colonial Ghana and Nigeria,"

*Architectural History* (2004), 361-92

Recommended:

Back issues of architectural journals such as *Mimar*, *Dialogue* (Asia), etc.

Lawrence Vale, *Architecture, Power and National Identity* (New Haven, 1992)

Abidin Kusno, *Appearances of Memory: Architecture & Urban Form in Indonesia*

(Durham, 2010)

WEEK 7 (Mar. 5): INNOVATIONS, IMPROVEMENTS, AND GOOD INTENTIONS

Gwendolyn Wright, "Global Ambitions and Local Knowledge," in Sandy Isenstadt and Kishwar Rizvi, eds., *Modernism and the Middle East: Architecture and Politics in*

*the Twentieth Century* (Seattle, 2008), pp. 221-254

Monique Eleb, "An Alternative to Functionalist Universalism: Ecochard, Candilis and

ATBAT-Afrique," in Sarah Goldhagen and Réjean Legault eds., *Anxious*

*Modernisms* (Cambridge, 2000), 55-73

Hashim Sarkis, "Design, Planning and the Pursuit of Development" (2010 ms.)

Recommended:

Liane Lefaivre and Alexander Tzonis, *Architecture of Regionalism in the Age of Globalization* (New York, 2012), 150-176

Jean-Louis Cohen and Monique Eleb, "Architectural History and the Colonial Question: Casablanca, Algiers and Beyond," *Architectural History* (2006): 349-368

Peter Herrle and Erik Wegerhoff, eds., *Architecture and Identity* (Berlin, 2008)

WEEK 8 (March 12): HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND HYBRID SPACES

William S. Logan, ed *The Disappearing "Asian" City: Protecting Asia's Urban Heritage in a Globalizing World* (Shanghai, 2002), esp 21-59 on Shanghai & Phnom Penh,  
Bernard Lubega Bakaye, "Cultural Heritage and Poverty Eradication in Uganda," *CRM Journal* (Winter 2007): 19-29

Recommended:

Nezar AlSayyad, ed., *Hybrid Urbanism: On the Identity Discourse and the Built Environment* (Westport, Ct., 2001)

-----, ed., *Consuming Tradition, Manufacturing Heritage: Global Norms and Urban Forms in the Age of Tourism* (New York and London, 2001)

Ismail Serageldin, Ephim Shluger and Joan Martin-Brown, *Historic Cities and Sacred Sites: Cultural Routes and Urban Futures* (London, 2000)

Brian Shaw and Roy Jones, eds., *Contested Urban Heritage: Voices from the Periphery* (Aldershot, 1997)

WEEK 9 : SPRING VACATION

WEEK 10 (March 26): TROPICALISM AND ENVIRONMENTALISM

Alexander Tzonis, Liane Lefaivre and Bruno Stagno, eds., *Tropical Architecture* (Chichester & New York, 2001), esp. pp. 1-13, 29-49

Alan Colquhoun, "The Concept of Regionalism" in Gülsüm Nalbantoglu and Wong

Chung Thai, eds, *Postcolonial Space(s)* (New York, 1997), 13-23

Stephen Howe, ed., "Introduction", Richard Grove, "The Colonial State and the

Origins of Western Environmentalism," and Nancy Jacobs, "Retrospectives on Socio-Environmental History and Justice," *New Imperial Histories Reader* (London/New York, 2010), pp. 1-20, 209-228

Recommended:

Rhodri Windsor-Liscombe, "Modernism in Late Imperial British West Africa: The Work

of Maxwell Fry and Jane Drew," *Journal of the Society*

*of Architectural Historians* (2006): 188-213

Joseph Kennedy *Building without Borders: Sustainable Construction for the Global Village* (Gabriola Island, BC: 2004)

Robert Powell , *Rethinking the Skyscraper: The Complete Architecture of Ken Yeang* (London, 1999)

WEEK 11 (April 2): DEVELOPMENT AND REFORM IN "INFORMAL CITIES"

Alfredo Brillembourg, Kristin Feireiss and Hubert Klumpner, eds., *Informal City* (Munich and New York, 2005), esp. pp. 38-50, 79-87

Ananya Roy and Nezar Alsayyad, eds., *Urban Informality: Transnational Perspectives from the Middle East, Latin America and South Asia* (Oxford, 2004), esp. 7-30

Recommended:

Favela Chic blog

Marie J. Aquilino, ed., *Beyond Shelter: Architecture and Human Dignity* (New York, 2011)

Hilton Judin and Ivan Vladislavić ed., \_\_\_\_\_ [*Blank*]: *Architecture, Apartheid and After*

(Rotterdam, 1998)

Kanu Agrawal, et.al., *Re\_Urbanism: Transforming Capitals* (*Perspecta* 39: The Yale

Architecture Journal, 2007), esp. "Invisible Urbanism in Africa," 81-91

WEEK 12 (April 9): START STUDENT PRESENTATIONS on 'postcolonial' and

contemporary architecture and urbanism

Jini Kim Watson, *The New Asian City* (Minneapolis, 2011), 27-51

Jyoti Hosagrahar, *Indigenous Modernities: Negotiating Architecture and Urbanism*

(London and New York, 2005), esp. pp. 1-13, 143-191

Recommended:

Stephen Hammett and Dean Forbes, eds., *Planning Asian Cities: Risks and Resilience*

(London and New York, 2011)

Peter G. Rowe, *East Asia Modern: Shaping the Contemporary City* (London, 2005)

Chris Abbel, *Architecture and Identity - Responses to Cultural and Technological Change* (Oxford, 2000)

Andres Lepik, ed., *Small Scale, Big Change: New Architectures of Social Engagement* (New York, 2010)

Jonathan Noble, *African Identity in Post-Apartheid Public Architecture* (Burlington, 2011)

Andreas Huyssen, ed., *Other Cities, Other Worlds: Urban Imaginaries in a Globalizing Age* (Durham, 2008) pp. 1-23, 99-120

WEEK 13 (April 16): CONTINUE PRESENTATIONS

Mark Crinson, *Modern Architecture and the End of Empire* (London, 2003),  
pp. 157-188, 203-6

Donald McNeil, *The Global Architect: Firms, Fame and Urban Form* (New York, 2009),  
114-135

WEEK 14 (April 23): CONTEMPORARY PRACTICES IN A GLOBAL WORLD

Brenda Yeoh, "Postcolonial Cities," *Progress in Human Geography* (2001): 456-68

Anthony D. King, "Spaces of Culture, Spaces of Knowledge" in his *Culture, Globalization and the World System* (Minneapolis, 1997), esp. pp. 1-18

Recommended:

Jane M. Jacobs, *Edge of Empire: Postcolonialism and the City* (London, 1996), esp. 1-37

David Adjaye, *African Metropolitan Architecture* (New York, 2011)

Richard Marshall, *Emerging Urbanity: Global Urban Projects in the Asia Pacific Rim*  
(London, 2002)

Markus Miessen and Shumon Basar, eds., *Did Someone Say Participate: An Atlas of Spatial Practice* (Cambridge, 2006)

Nishat Awan, Tatjana Schneider and Jeremy Till, *Spatial Agency: Other Ways of Doing Architecture* (Abingdon and New York, 2011)

**Instructor Information:**

[Gwendolyn Wright](#)

syllabus