

Instructors: Hilary Sample, Associate Professor, hms2155@columbia.edu
Buell 300 South, Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Typologies versus the City

Course Description

In this design seminar, we will examine four distinct building typologies: office headquarters, social housing, cultural, and urban infrastructures all of which have a relationship to the urban, design, and health. The seminar will examine ten buildings in-depth. Housing and office buildings are, by their very nature, examples of generic building types. Some may argue that working within a particular typology produces boring buildings. However, it is precisely the thorough understanding of a type and its multiple typologies that allows one to understand what has motivated the peculiarities of a particular building. The specificities of a particular context, such as New York City, the baseline of this seminar, produce unexpected moments that alter the original type's form.

How does the city intervene in the design of a building? What constraints or alterations are reflected in the design of a project, and in its ultimate form and use? In Aldo Rossi's *The Architecture of the City*, he describes how "American architecture is above all 'the architecture of the city': primary elements, monuments, parts. Specifically, New York is a city of monuments such as I did not believe could exist." (Rossi, pg. 15). If there are monuments, how it differ from type? Does an urban context make the difference between a type and a monument? If type is generic or concerned with the general, and architecture is seen as having the quality of luxury, then how do these two things converge? We will examine the distinction between pure expressions of type, and cases in which a type is altered by the city. Through a series of lectures, reading and discussion, and site visits, this design seminar will focus on select types, looking at works of architecture, both iconic and mundane.

The location of types to be explored will include examples located in New York City, Philadelphia, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, and London among others. Architects to be included SANAA, Venturi Scott Brown, Alison and Peter Smithson, Lina Bo Bardi, Diller Scofidio Renfro, Neil Denari, .

Seminar Project and Requirements

Each student(s) will select one building to examine in detail and produce a series of diagrams and drawings that illustrate how type is changed by its context, with an emphasis on the city. The representation of the building is to be made through a design handbook. The final presentation shall be a hard copy bound book measuring no larger than 8.5" x 11" and ¼" thick, and a PDF. Please see a list of projects for reference, coming soon. Each student is expected to visit and gain as much information about their project as possible. Work in Avery Library may also be required, as well as visiting offices, and building(s). No more than two unexcused absences are permitted. Grades are based on participation (50%) and drawings with statement (50%). A draft of the final drawings will be presented on the last day of class with a guest reviewer(s). Final drawings are due on May 10th by 5pm as a PDF. 2-4 drawings are required and shall be presented on 11"x17" paper. Drawings should be scaled and include observations of the buildings in their site, climate, structure, and diagrams about type, along with a written statement. Models may also be considered as part of the presentation.

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Schedule

Week 1: January 21	Introduction
Week 2: January 28	Housing Types: Social / Alison and Peter Smithson / Robin Hood Gardens London, UK
Week 3: February 4	Housing Types: Aging / Venturi Scott Brown / Guild House Philadelphia, USA
Week 4: February 11	Housing Types: Luxury / Neil Denari / HL-23 Guest Speaker
Week 5: February 18	Housing Types: Social / Affonso Eduardo Reidy / Pedregulo Housing Rio de Janeiro 1958
Week 6: February 25	Housing Types: Social / Sanna / Gifu Kitagata Apartment, Gifu, Japan
Week 7: March 4	Cultural Types: Leisure / Linda Bo Bardi SESC Pompeia Leisure Center, São Paulo, 1977–86
Week 8: March 11	Office Types: Dinkeloo Roche / Ford Foundation New York City (Travel Week) Class to be rescheduled
Week 9: March 18	Spring Break. No Class.
Week 10: March 25	Student Presentations
Week 11: April 1	Office Types: Lever House <i>Field Trip Weather permitting</i> (Make Up Class to be held on April 1 from 1–3pm)
Week 12: April 8	Healthy Urban Infrastructures: Riverbank State Park <i>Field Trip Weather permitting</i>
Week 12: April 15	Healthy Urban Infrastructures: Manhattanville Campus Guest Speaker TBA
Week 13: April 22	Student Presentations Review with Guests TBA