

Columbia University  
A4337 GSAPP  
Spring 2014  
Mary McLeod

Friday: 11-1  
Buell Hall 300S

### Politics of Space: Cities, Institutions, Events

This seminar explores the relation between space, power, and politics in the urban environment from the Enlightenment period to the present. In contrast to some Marxist approaches that see architecture primarily as an ideological reflection of dominant economic forces, this seminar investigates how power is actually produced and embodied in the physical environment. In other words, space and architecture are seen as active participants in the structuring of our daily lives and relations, not merely as passive reflections of political and economic institutions. Two theorists will be critical to this exploration: the philosopher and sociologist Henri Lefebvre and the philosopher/historian Michel Foucault. Lefebvre's work, which draws heavily on both Marxism (especially Marx's early writings on alienation) and existentialism, introduced the notion of daily life as a critical political construct. Lefebvre saw the city and architecture as integrally contributing to power relations, and viewed the urban festival as an important strategy in overcoming the monotony of what he called "the bureaucratic society of controlled consumption." Foucault, on the other hand, rejects Lefebvre's humanism and emphasis on subjectivity in his analysis of the relation between space, power, and social institutions. Both theorists, however, share a skepticism towards Enlightenment rationality, and both attempt to counter the traditional Marxist/Hegelian emphasis on historical time by placing a new importance on space. The writings of more recent theorists (such as Michel de Certeau, Teresa Caldeira, Mike Davis, Guy Debord, Andreas Huyssen, Elizabeth Wilson, Marshall Berman) will also be examined with regard to issues concerning the politics of space.

### Course Structure

The first three sessions of the class will be devoted to a general theoretical introduction. The following ten classes will examine specific aspects of the urban environment—institutions, public/private dichotomies, urban monuments, events—to consider the relation between space and power in actual situations. These case studies will be roughly chronological, moving from those institutions that gained identity in the eighteenth century—prisons, asylums, clinics—to contemporary situations of spectacle and consumption, such as Disneyland or Times Square. The final class will be devoted to the World Trade Center site and contemporary debates about redevelopment.

### Course Requirements

The class will be organized somewhat like a reading/study group. All assigned readings are to be completed before class. In addition each student will be asked to lead the discussion of approximately three or four readings in the course of the term (these can be very short, 5-10 minute, presentations). The written requirements include two short essays approximately 3 typed pages, on themes raised by the readings, as well as one longer essay/paper, approximately 10–12

typed pages. This essay can either be an extended book review (critical rather than descriptive—comparative reviews are generally easier in this regard) or else a research essay exploring a theme, space, or institution suggested by the readings. A version of this paper is to be given to the instructor by April 1 or ideally before a related class presentation. A final version of this paper incorporating revisions is due at the end of the semester.

#### Class Enrollment

Limited to 15 students. .

#### Class Meeting

Friday, 11-1, Buell 300S

#### Office Hours

Friday 2–3:30, 306 Buell Hall or by appointment (854-8262).

#### Seminars

1. Space/Power: Introduction
2. The Politics of Everyday Life: Lefebvre
3. The Production of Space
4. The Clinic/the Asylum/the Enlightenment City of Control
5. Prisons
6. The Public and Private Spheres: "The Fall of Public Man"
7. Monument and Memory
8. Spectacle and Its Critique: the Situationists and Cedric Price
9. Massculture, Women, and the City of Everyday Life
10. Fortress Cities: Los Angeles and Sao Paolo
11. Spectacle and Entertainment: Las Vegas and Times Square
12. Case Study: Rem Koolhaas's Urbanism: Delirium, Sobriety, Cynicism

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Note: \* indicates that the book may be purchased at Book Culture on 112th St.  
For a general background on French philosophy (especially with regard to developments related to Foucault's work), see \*Luc Ferry and Alain Renaut, French Philosophy of the Sixties: An Essay on Antihumanism (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press, 1990) and \*Vincent Descombes, Modern French Philosophy (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1980).

1. Space/Power: An Introduction

\*Michel Foucault, "The Eye of Power," in Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-77, ed. Colin Gordon (New York: Pantheon, 1980), pp. 146-65.

\*\_\_\_\_\_, "Space, Knowledge, and Power," Foucault Reader, ed. Paul Rabinow (New York: Pantheon, 1984), pp. 239-56.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Of Other Spaces," Diacritics (Spring 1986), vol. 16, no. 1; rpt. in Architecture Culture, ed. Joan Ockman with Edward Eigen (New York: Rizzoli, 1994?).

Recommended:

Daniel Defert, "Foucault, Space, and the Architects," in Politics, documenta X-the book, Cantz, 1997, pp. 274-283.

\*Edward W. Soja, Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory (London and New York: Verso, 1989), pp. 1-42.

Foucault, "Questions of Geography," in Power/Knowledge, pp. 63-77.

2. Politics of Everyday Life: Lefebvre and de Certeau

\*Henri Lefebvre, Everyday Life in the Modern World, trans. S. Robinovitch (New Brunswick and London: Transaction, 1990), pp. 1-109, 194-206, optional pp. 143-93.

\*Michel de Certeau, The Practice of Everyday Life (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984), pp. xi-xxiv, 90-130.

Recommended:

\*Henri Lefebvre, "The Everyday and Everydayness," in Architecture of the Everyday, eds. Steven Harris and Deborah Berke (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1997), pp. 32-37; also in Yale French Studies, no. 73, pp. 7-11. (This provides a very concise synopsis of some of the themes in his book.)

\*Mary McLeod, "Henri Lefebvre's Critique of Everyday Life: An Introduction," in Architecture of the Everyday, pp. 9-29.

Henri Lefebvre, Critique of Everyday Life, vol. 1, trans. John Moore (London and New York: Verso, 1991). The preface by Michel Trebitsch is an especially useful introduction of Lefebvre. Henri Lefebvre, Writings on Cities, trans. and ed. Eleonore Kofman and Elizabeth Lebas (Oxford: Blackwell, 1996).

Mark Poster, Existential Marxism in Postwar France (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1975), pp. 209-22, 238-63.

Martin Jay, "Henri Lefebvre, the Surrealists and the Reception of Hegelian Marxism in France," in Marxism and Totality: The Adventures of a Concept from Lukács to Habermas (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1984), pp. 276-99.

Jeremy Ahearne, Michel de Certeau: Interpretation and its Other (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1995).

Rob Shields, Lefebvre, Love and Struggle: Spatial Dialectics (London and New York: Routledge, 1999).

### 3. The Production of Space

\*Henri Lefebvre, The Production of Space, trans. Donald Nicholson-Smith (Oxford: Blackwell, 1991), pp. 31-46, 229-423. If you run out of time, be sure you jump to pp. 360-363. Henri Lefebvre, "Space: Social Product and Use Value," in Critical Sociology: European Perspectives (New York, Irving (Wiley), 1979), pp. 285-95.

Recommended:

Christian Schmid, "Henri Lefebvre's Theory of the Production of Space: Towards a Three-Dimensional Dialectic," and Lukasz Stanek, "Space As Concrete Abstraction: Hegel, Marx, and Modern Urbanism in Henri Lefebvre," in Space, Difference, Everyday Life (New York and London: Routledge, 2008), pp. 27-45; 62-79.

\*Lukasz Stanek, Henri Lefebvre on Space (Minneapolis and London: University of Minnesota Press, 2011). Note: a critical review of Stanek's book might be a topic for the third assignment.

### 4. The Clinic/ the Asylum/the Enlightenment City of Control

\*Michel Foucault, Madness and Civilization: A History of Insanity in the Age of Reason, trans. Richard Howard (New York: Vintage Books, Random House, 1965), pp. 3-64, 241-89. Robin Middleton, "Sickness, Madness, and Crime as the Grounds of Form," AA Files, no. 24, pp. 16-30.

Anthony Vidler, "Confinement and Cure: Reforming the Hospital, 1770-1789," in The Writing of the Wall (Princeton: Princeton Architectural Press, 1987). pp. 51-72.

Anthony Vidler, "Architecture, Management and Mores," Lotus, no. 14 (March 1977).

or Anthony Vidler, "The Theater of Industry: Claude-Nicolas LeDoux and the Factory-Village of Chaux," in The Writing of the Wall (Princeton: Princeton Architectural Press, 1987).

Recommended:

\*Michel Foucault, The Birth of a Clinic (New York: Vintage Books, 1994, c. Travistock, 1973), pp. ix-123, 195-99.

Jan Goldstein, Console and Classify: The French Psychiatric Profession in the Nineteenth Century (Cambridge, Eng.: Cambridge University Press, 1987).

Erving Goffman, Asylums: Essays on the Social Situation of Mental Patients and Other Inmates (New York: Doubleday, 1961).

Bruno Fortier et al, Les Machines ... guerir (Brussels, 1979).

B. Barret-Kriegel, "Instances et s,quences de la m,dicalisation de l'espace urbain," in Bruno Fortier et al, La Politique de l'espace parisien ... la fin de l'Ancien R,gime (Paris: CORDA, 1975).

\*Luc Ferry and Alain Renaut, French Philosophy of the Sixties: An Essay on Antihumanism (Amherst: University of Massachusetts Press), pp. 68-121.

David Couzens Hoy, Foucault: A Critical Reader (Oxford: Basil Blackwood, 1986).

Nancy Fraser, Unruly Practices: Power, Discourse and Gender in Contemporary Social Theory (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989).

## 5. Prisons

\*Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punishment: The Birth of the Prison, translated by Alan Sheridan (New York: Vintage Books, 1995, c. 1977).

Robin Evans, "Bentham's Panopticon: An Incident in the Social History of Architecture," Architectural Association Quarterly (1971), pp. 21-37.

\_\_\_\_\_, "The Rights of Retreat and the Rites of Exclusion: Notes towards the Definition of Wall," Architectural Design, vol. 41 (June 1971) pp. 335-39.

\*Michel de Certeau, "Micro-techniques and Panoptic Discourse: A Quid pro Quo," and "The Laugh of Michel Foucault," in Heterologies: Discourse on the Other (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1985-98).

### Recommended:

Robin Evans, The Fabrication of Virtue: English Prison Architecture 1750-1840 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1982).

Patricia A. O'Brien, The Promise of Punishment: Prisons in Nineteenth-Century France (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1982).

\_\_\_\_\_, "Crime and Punishment as a Historical Problem," Journal of Social History (1978), pp. 508-20.

Michael Ignatieff, A Just Measure of Pain: The Penitentiary in the Industrial Revolution: 1750-1850 (New York: Columbia University Press, 1978).

## 6. Public and Private Spheres: "The Fall of Public Man"

Jürgen Habermas, The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society, trans. Thomas Burger (Cambridge, Mass. MIT Press, 1991), pp. 1-57, 89-180.

Janet Wolff, Feminine Sentences: Essays on Women and Culture (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1990), chap. 2.

\*Elizabeth Wilson, The Sphinx and the City (Berkeley: University of California Press, pp. 45-64, recommended 135-59, esp. 156-59).

Esther da Costa Meyer, "La Donna e Mobile," in The Sex of Architecture (New York: Abrams, 1996), pp. 141-56. A longer version of this article appeared in Assemblage 28 (1996).

Recommended:

Leila Whittemore, "Women and the Architecture of Fashion in 19th-Century Paris," a/r/c, Public Space, no. 5 (1994-95), 14-25.

## 7. Monument and Memory

Henri Lefebvre, "The Monument," Production of Space, pp. 220-23.

Georges Bataille, "The Obelisk," in Visions of Excess: Selected Writings 1927-1939 (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press), pp. 213-22.

Sigfried Giedion, "The Need for a New Monumentality," Sigfried Giedion, Fernand Léger, Jose-Luis Sert, "Nine Points on Monumentality," in Monumentality and the City, Harvard Architecture Review, no. 4 (Spring 1984), pp. 52-63, 107-121; also recommended pp. 15-35.

Mary McLeod, "The Battle for the Monument: The Vietnam Veterans Memorial," in The Experimental Tradition, ed. Hélène Lipstadt (New York: The Architectural League and Princeton Architectural Press, 1989), pp. 115-37.

\*Andreas Huyssen, "Monuments and Holocaust Memory in a Media Age," in Twilight Memories: Marking Time in a Culture of Amnesia (New York and London: Routledge, 1995), pp. 249-60, notes 277.

Recommended:

Andreas Huyssen, "Monumental Seduction," New German Critique, no. 69 (Fall 1996), pp. 181-200.

"In Search of a New Monumentality: a Symposium by Gregor Paulsson, Henry-Russell Hitchcock, William Holford, et al, Architectural Review 54 (September 1948):117-128.

Denis Hollier, Against Architecture: The Writings of Georges Bataille, trans. Betsy Wing (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1989), pp. 13-56.

\*David Harvey, "Monument and Myth: The Building of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart," in The Urban Experience (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989), pp. 200-228.

## 8. Spectacle and Its Critique: the Situationists and Cedric Price/Joan Littlewood

\*Debord, Guy. Society of the Spectacle. (New York: Zone Books, 1995), chaps. I, II, VII.

\*Peter Wollen et al, On the Passage of a Few People Through a Rather Brief Moment in Time:

The Situationist International 1957-1972 (Boston: The Institute of Contemporary Art and Cambridge: MIT Press, 1989), pp. 20-61, 135-39, 143-47, 161-62, 174-75, 198-99.

Joan Littlewood, Joan Littlewood's Peculiar History as She Tells It (London: Methuen, 1994), section on the Fun Palace.

Mary Louise Lobsinger, "Cybernetic Theory and the Architecture of Performance," in Anxious Modernisms, ed. Sarah Williams Goldhagen and Réjean Legault (Montreal: Candian Centre for Architecture and Cambridge: Mass.: MIT Press, 2000), pp. 119-40.

\*Jean Baudrillard, "The Beaubourg-effect: Implosion and Deterrance," in Rethinking Architecture: A Reader in Cultural Theory, ed. Neil Leach (London and New York: Routledge, 1997), pp. 210-18.

Recommended:

Ken Knabb, ed. and trans., Situationist International Anthology (Berkeley: Bureau of Public Secrets, 1981).

Constant [Nieuwenhuys], New Babylon (Den Haag: Gemeente Museum, 1974).  
Internationale situationniste (Paris: Editions Gérard Lebovici, 1989). (Rare book room.)  
Libero Andreotti and Xavier Costa, eds. situationists: art, politics, urbanism (Barcelona: Musu d'Art Contemporani, Actar, 1996).  
Simon Sadler, The Situationist City (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1998).

9. Mass Culture, Women, and the City of Everyday Life: Alison and Peter Smithson, Denise Scott Brown, Jane Jacobs

Andreas Huyssen, "Mass Culture as Woman: Modernism's Other," in After the Great Divide: Modernism, Mass Culture, Postmodernism (Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 1986), pp. 44-62.

David Robbins, ed., The Independent Group: Postwar Britain and the Aesthetics of Plenty (Cambridge: Mass. MIT Press, 1990), pp. 109-112, 185-86, 201-206.

Denise Scott Brown, "Learning from Pop," "Pop Off: Reply to Kenneth Frampton," in Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, A View from the Campidoglio (Cambridge: Icon Editions, Harper and Row, 1984), pp. 26-37.

Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown, Steven Izenour, Learning from Las Vegas (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1997, c.1977), passim.

\*Jane Jacobs, The Death and Life of Great American Cities (New York: Vintage Books., 1961), pp. 1-54, recommended 3-25, 55-111, 372-91, 428-48.

Recommended:

\*Andreas Huyssen, "Escape from Amnesia: The Museum as Mass Medium," in Twilight Memories, pp. 13-35.

Denise Scott Brown, "Between Three Stools: A Personal View of Urban Design Pedagogy," Architectural Design 60, nos. 1-2 (1990), pp. 9-20.

\*Mary McLeod, "Everyday and 'Other' Spaces," in Architecture and Feminism, eds. Debra Coleman, Elizabeth Danze, and Carol Henderson (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1996).

\*Deborah Fausch, "Ugly and Ordinary: The Representation of the Everyday," in Architecture of the Everyday, pp. 75-106.

Marshall Berman, "It Happens Everyday," in The Pragmatist Imagination: Thinking About "Things in the Making" in Joan Ockman, ed. (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2000), pp. 208-18.

Elisa Rosenberg, "Public and Private: Rereading Jane Jacobs," Landscape Journal 13, no. 2 (Fall 1994): 139-44.

10. Case Study: Los Angeles and Sao Paulo

\*Mike Davis, City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles (New York: Vintage, Random House, c. Verso, 1990), prologue, chapters 1, 4, 7; other chapters are recommended.  
Teresa Caldeira, City of Walls: Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in Sao Paulo (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2000), pages to be announced.

Recommended:

\*Edward W. Soja, Postmodern Geographies: The Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory (London: Verso, 1989), pp. 190-248.

Mike Davis, Ecology of Fear: Los Angeles and the Imagination of Disaster (New York: Metropolitan Books, Henry Holt and Co., 1998).

Reyner Banham, Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies (London: Allen Lane, Penguin Press, 1971).

## 11. Case Study: Disneyland/Disneyworld and Times Square

Mike Wallace, "Mickey Mouse History: Portraying the Past at Disney World," Radical History Review, no. 32 (1985), pp. 33-57.

Charles Moore, "You Have To Pay For the Public Life," Perspecta, no. 9/10 (1965), pp. 57-97.

Joan Ockman and Nicholas Adams, "Beyond the Spectacle," and "The Redevelopment of Times Square," in Architecture USA: Forms of Spectacle, Casabella, nos. 673/674 (December 1999-January 2000), pp. 4-5; 24-31/

\*Marshall Berman, On the Town: One Hundred Years of Spectacle in Times Square (New York: Random House, 2006), pages to be announced.

Recommended:

Karel Ann Marling, The Architecture of Reassurance: Designing the Disney Theme Parks (Montreal: Centre Canadien d'Architecture, 1997).

Andreas Huyssen, "Fear of Mice: The Times Square Redevelopment," in Present Pasts: Urban Palimpsests and the Politics of Memory (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003), pp. 85-93.

Sharon Zukin, Landscapes of Power: From Detroit to Disney World (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991), pp. 217-75.

or

\_\_\_\_\_, "Socio-Spatial Prototypes of a New Organization of Consumption: The Role of Real Cultural Capital," Sociology 24, no. 1 (February 1990):27-56.

Louis Marin, "Disneyland: A Degenerate Utopia," Glyph, no. 1 (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1977).

Michael Sorkin, "See You in Disneyland," in Variations in a Theme Park, ed. Michael Sorkin (New York: Hill and Wang, 1992).

Margaret King, "The Theme Park: Aspects of Experience in a Four-Dimensional Landscape," Material Culture 34, no. 2 (Fall 2002).

Scott Bukatman, "There's Always Tomorrowland: Disney and the Hypercinematic Experience," October, no. 57 (Summer 1991).

Richard E. Fogelson, Married to the Mouse: Walt Disney World and Orlando (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2001).

## 12. Case Study: Rem Koolhaas's Urbanism: Delirium, Sobriety, Cynicism

\*Rem Koolhaas, Delirious New York (New York: Monacelli, 1994).

\*Jacques Lucan, Oma-Rem Koolhaas, Architecture 1970-1990 (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1991), pp. 153-65.

Albert Pope, "Tokyo Storm Warning," Design Book Review (Fall 1992), pp. 17-22.



\*Rem Koolhaas, "Bigness," and "Whatever Happened to Urbanism," in S,M,L,XL (New York: Monacelli, 1995), pp. 494-516, 959-71.

Rem Koolhaas, "Junk Architecture," Harvard Guide to Shopping (New York: Monacelli, 2002).

Recommended:

Rem Koolhaas: Conversations with Students, Architecture at Rice 1991 (Houston: Rice University, 1991).