

Columbia University
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
Architecture 4460y
Tokyo & Japanese Urbanism
Seminar: Wednesday 11- 1
Room: Avery 408

Spring 2015
Lynne Breslin

Using an interdisciplinary approach, this seminar will explore Japanese urbanism and Tokyo. Urban theories, history, geography, fictions, films, sociology and anthropology along with cultural critiques will help situate the more personal experiences of the metropolis and the new “global city.” In considering the formation of urban/geographical entities, its infrastructure and underlying ideologies, we will also attempt to uncover the mechanisms of the development of collective identities and individual reconciliations. Theoretical readings, traditional strategies for penetrating cities will be juxtaposed to literature, film and personal testimonies.

Henri Lefebvre’s critiques of the city and everyday life will provide us with the means of situating our comprehension of the city. The fundamental social character of the city in his theories (the city as a “social production”) offers a method differing from the more traditional formal/bricks and mortar snap-shots that privilege the physical/architectural. We will attempt to address in Lefebvre’s terms the conceptual, the perceptual and the experience of the city. Throughout the course theoretical writings (De Certeau, Oe, Barthes,) will equip the student to develop a more penetrating understanding.

Tokyo will be studied and situated in the seeming contradiction of universalizing technologies and romantically preserved particularities. We will begin with Edo and demonstrate its basis and difference from other Japanese cities in the early 17th century. From the cities of the shogun, the course will explore the Imperial city, the occupied (colonial city), the capitalist city and the post-growth city. The course will focus on the tension of western influence and modernism, the twin spears and legacy of Meiji Japan (late 19th century and early 20th). In addition, we will analyze the importance of politics, the physical (natural disaster and man-made war), the formal and the economic in exploring the remarkable and rapid transformation of the city. In addressing diverse topics such as Hiroshima, the aftermath of occupation, the 1964 Olympics, the advent of the art polis (Kumamoto), Tsuba and Teleport City, the impact of art festivals, metabolism and nomadism we will discover dramatic innovations in the complex and evolving contemporary cities. We will also situate the city and architecture during the Bubble Economy and aftermath. Several industries from technology, tourism, cinema, advertising and comics will be related. Crime, safety, density, commodification, the informal and the illegal, growth/speed will be explored. We will analyze the repressed and the exploited quality of the city and explore how the subway, shopping and entertainment related to the desires and fears of the society. The subway station, for example, is the most universally used public space, providing shopping and advertising as world of commodities. It also represents the vast intersection of commercial organizations that owns transportation lines, hotels, department stores and banks. Private meets public, the economic becomes political. We will attempt to isolate the factors that give rise to such different uses and production of social space in the Japanese city.

Students will be responsible for 2 small assignments and one major class presentation. For the second class students are asked to locate a map of a Japanese city from any period and read the map for the class. Student presentations topics will be listed. Students are asked to choose a topic by the third class. These topics will be scheduled. My goal is to help you read a different culture, through its most complex form – a city.

Class 1: Introductory Remarks: Scanning Tokyo, Scale of change.
Film Shorts

Buruma, Ian: Inventing Japan (purchase or reserve)*
 Sacchi, Livio: Tokyo: City & Architecture -
City of Situations pp. 39-123 (reader and reserve)
 Film: Kurosawa, Akira: *Rashomon* 1950

Assignment #1: Find a Map of a Japanese city: Edo, Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto, etc. and bring it to class. Be prepared to discuss what the map represents. What hierarchy of spaces or activity does it describe. What information or spatial properties are privileged. What the politics of the map? Use diagrams or re-mappings to explain.

2

Film: Ozu: *Tokyo Story*

Class 4: Imperial Tokyo Tokyo: Wrestling with Modernity, Earthquake, Pan-Pacific War,
Grids and Spatial Anthropologies: From Edo to Tokyo
Readings: Hidenobu, Jinnai: *Tokyo: A Spatial Anthropology* reader
Sorensen, Andre: *The Making of Urban Japan*: Pg. 1-44.*

Film: Wenders, Wim: *Tokyo-ga*

Class 5: American Occupation: Architecture and Politics.
What was the War: Monuments to Pan Pacific War

Readings: Isozaki, Arata: *Japaness in Architecture* (reader)*
Harootunian, Harry: *Overcome by Modernity - Fantasy of Modern Life* (reader) *
Oshima, K: *International Architecture in Interwar Japan*

Film: Renais, Alain: *Hiroshima Mon Amour*

Assignment # 2: Bring to Class an analysis of a crime or festival. You will focus on the city/space as back-drop or accomplice.

Class 6: Hiroshima and the influence of Kenzo Tange's Vision of the Polis
Reading: Oe, Kenzaburo: *Notes on Hiroshima* (reader)
Coaldrake, William: *Architecture & Authority in Japan*, pp. 251 –277 (reader) *

Film: Renais, Alain, *Hiroshima Mon Amour*

Class 7: Metabolism, Olympics and Tokyo and the Vision of the Future's Future.
Reading: Wendelken, Cherie: *Putting Metabolism Back in Place*
Igarashi, Yoshikuni: *Bodies of Memory: From the Anti-Security Treat Movement to the Tokyo Olympics: Transforming the Body, the Metropolis, and Memory* pp. 130 – 163. (reader)*
Massao, Miyoshi & Harootunian, HD. Ed.
Kolhaas, Rem, *Project Japan*

- Film: Tokyo Olimpiad
- Class 8: Contemporary and Global Tokyo: The City Decentralized
Multiple centers, Satellite cities and Tama, Tschuba
- Readings: Maki, Fumihiko: Nurturing Dreams: (reader) *
Isozaki, Arata: "of City, Nation and Style" pg. 47-62 *.
Waswo, Ann: Housing in Postwar Japan: (reader)*
- Film: Hirokazu, Koreedo: Nobody Knows
- Class 9: Empire of Signs, Culture of Money: Shopping, Advertising & Public
The New Developments and the Role of Art in Development
- Readings: Barthes, Roland: The Empire of Sign
Murakami, H: The Colorless Tskuru Tazaki
Favell, Adrian, Before and After Superflat 2012
begin reading. It will take several weeks to complete.
Ockman, Joan: Architourism :The Architect as Tourist
pg. 158 – 185. (reader)
Shields, Ron: Lifestyle Shopping . pp.1-20; □99-113.
Clammer, John: "Aesthetics of the Self: Shopping and
Social Being in Contemporary Urban Japan" pp.195-215
reader*
McCreery, John: Japanese Consumer Behavior reader *
- Film: Ikira (anime)
- Class 10: Disasters and Economy of Rebuilding
- Readings: Bognar, Botand: Beyond the Bubble, Phaidon, 2008
1 – 109 (reader)*
Daniell, Thomas: After the Crash: Architecture in Post-
Bubble Japan, Princeton Architectural Press. 2008
(reader)*
Kobe
- Film: Takashi, Miike: Audition
- Class 11: Past Reconsidered and Preserved in the Present
- Reading: Vlastos, Stephen : Mirror of Modernity: Invented
Traditions of Modern Japan. (reader)
- Film: Yokura, Tajita: Departures
- Class 12: Presentations

Film: Still Walking: Kirokazu Koreeda

Class 13: Presentations

Class 14: Presentations

Tokyo & Japanese Urbanism
Architecture A4460y
Seminar: Wednesdays 11 – 1
Room: Avery 408

Spring 2015
Lynne Breslin

Presentation Topics : *Select a topic by the second class and presentation will be scheduled and coordinated with class topics: suggestions only*

City Halls of Tokyo by Kenzo Tange
Ashihara
Tokyo Bay plans (metabolist)
Noguchi Sculpture Park, Sendi
BankArt Yokohama, Joban Line
Maekawa & Tange: Competitions
Hillside Terrace (Daikayama) by Maki
Omotesando
Yokohama: (Landmark Towers & Ferry terminal
Roppongi: Mori Center
Echigo Tsumari
Itsuku Hasegawa
Abandoned schools projects
Toyo Ito
Tokyo Teleport City
Kobe earthquake/Tokyo earthquake of 1923
War memorial
Art Polis, Kumamoto
Homelessness
Midtown, Tokyo
Dojunkai (public housing)
Ueno Park
Urban Farming

New Art Museums Tokyo
Green buildings (Fuokoka)
Tscuba – new town
Railroad Station/Kyoto
Art Spaces, Tokyo
Olympics 1940, 2020
Yasakuni Shrine, Showakan
Hara
Gifu Housing
Kobe Reconstruction after
earthquake
Occupation Architecture &
Tama City
Nexus Housing, Fuokoka

Ito: Grin Grin, Fuokoka
Cultural Centers: Hasegawa
Vertical malls: Ando shop
Housing Kumamoto
Hiroshima
Seto Islands development
Teleport City
Architectural Publications

Architecture A4460

Tokyo & Japanese Urbanism

Seminar: Wednesdays 11 – 1

Room: Avery 408

Spring 2015

Lynne Breslin

Reading List

RS: Reserve RD: Reader P: Purchase

- RS Ai, Maeda Text and the City: essays on Japanese Modernity
- RS All-Japan: the catalogue of everything Japanese. introduction by Oliver Statler. New York: Morrow, 1984
- RS P Barthes, Roland. Empire of Signs. New York: Hill and Wang, 1982
- RD Benko, George & Strohmayer, Oli: Space & Social Theory MA Blackwell Pub., 1997.
Introduction: Berque: 'Postmodern Space & Japanese Tradition. Pp 336-345.
- RD Bogner, Botand: Beyond the Bubble, Phaidon, 2008 1 – 109.
- RS Bogner, Botand: The New Japanese Architecture, Rizzoli, 1990.
- RS P Buruma, Ian: Inventing Japan, Modern Library 2004
- RS Chang, Ching-Yu: Japanese Spatial Conception, Japan Architect, 1985
- RD Coaldrake, William: Architecture & Authority in Japan 1996
- RD De Certeau, Michel. The Practice of Everyday Life. University of California, 1984.
Introduction; pp. 91-131
- RD Daniell, Thomas. After the Crash: Architecture in Post-Bubble Japan, Princeton Arch. Press, 2008. Pg 12 – 43, 117 – 121, 143 -147; 163- 170.
- RD Harris, Steve Ed. Architecture of Everyday. Princeton Arch. Press, 1997
Mary McLeod "Henri Lefebvre's Critique of Everyday Life: An Introduction"
Henri Lefebvre "The Everyday & Everydayness"
- RD Hartoonian, Harry, Overcome by Modernity, Princeton University Press 1999.
- RS Hendry, Joy. Wrapping culture: politeness, presentation, and power in Japan and other societies. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993.

- RD Hidenobu, Jinnai. Tokyo: A Spatial Anthropology. translated by Kimiko Nishimura. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1995
- RD Igarashi, Yoshikuni: Bodies of Memory, Princeton University Press 2000
- RS Lefebvre, Henri. The Production of Space. Oxford, OX, UK; Cambridge, Mass, USA: Blackwell, 1991. pp. 1-228.
- RS McClain, J, Merriman, J & Kaoru, U.ed.: Edo & Paris Cornell University Press 1994
- RD McCreery, John: Japanese Consumer Behavior, ConsumAsia 2000
- RD Miyoshi, Masao and Harootunian, H. D., ed. Postmodernism & Japan. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1989.
 Najita, Tetsuo: "On Culture and Technology in Postmodern Japan, pp.3-20.
 Ivy, Marilyn: "Critical Texts, Mass Artifacts: The Consumption of Knowledge in Postmodern Japan" pp. 21-47.
 Arata, Isozaki: "Of City, Nation, and Style" pp. 47-62.
 Akira, Asada: "Infantile Capitalism an Japan's Postmodernism: A Fairy Tale" pp. 273-278.
- RS Murakami, Harumi: Wind-Up Bird Chronicle, 1997
Kafka on the Beach ,2005
- RD Ockman, Joan, ed: Architourism
- RD: Oe, Kenzaburo, Notes on Hiroshima
- RD: Oshima, Ken Tadashi, International Architecture in Interwar Japan, pp 12 – 71.
- RS Re-made in Japan: everyday life and consumer taste in a changing society. edited and with an introduction by Joseph J. Tobin. New Haven, Conn.: Yale Univ. Press, c.1992.
- RS Richie, Donald. Geisha, Gangster, Neighbor, Nun. Scenes from Japanese Life. Kodansha, 1991.
- RS P Sacchi, Livo: Tokyo: City and Architecture, Universe, 2004
- RD Sassen, Saskia. The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1991.
- RS P Seidensticker, Edward. Low city, high city: Tokyo from Edo to the earthquake. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard Univ. Press, 1991.

Tokyo Rising

- RD Shields, Rob, ed. Lifestyle Shopping: The Subject of Consumption. New York: Routledge, 1992. pp.1-20; 99-113.
Clammer, John: "Aesthetics of the Self: Shopping and Social Being in Contemporary Urban Japan" pp.195-215.
- RD Vlastos, Stephen, ed.; Mirrors of Modernity, University of California Press, CA 1998.
- RS White, Merry I. The material child: coming of age in Japan and America. New York Free Press; Toronto: Maxwell Macmillan Canada; New York: Maxwell Macmillan International, c.1993.
- RD Zukin, Sharon. The Cultures of Cities. Cambridge, Mass: Blackwell, 1995.

Architecture A 4460y
Tokyo & Japanese Urbanism
Seminar: Wednesdays 11 - 1
Room: Avery 408

Spring 2015
Lynne Breslin

Books on Order

Buruma, Ian Inventing Japan Modern Library 2004

Daniell, Thomas After the Crash: Architecture in Post-Bubble Japan

Murakami, Harumi: The Colorless Tsukuru Tazaki

Koolhaas, Rem, Project Japan, 2012.