

Columbia University
Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation
Architecture 4460y **Spring 2015**
Tokyo & Japanese Urbanism **Lynne Breslin**
Seminar: Wednesday 11- 1
Room: Avery 408

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/subjective 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 and experiential character of the city in his theories (the city as a “social production” and “everyday life”) 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 comprehensive 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. The course will focus on the modern city and concentrate 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 (earthquakes), the formal and the economic in exploring the remarkable and rapid transformation of the city. In addressing diverse topics such as Hiroshima, the advent of the art polis (Kumamoto), Tscuba and Teleport City, metabolism and nomadism we will discover dramatic solutions to the complexity of the modern city. We will also situate the city and architecture during the Bubble Economy and aftermath. Several industries from tourism, art, 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.

The class will be conducted as a forum soliciting the active participation of all members. Both the form and the content of the seminar are critical. The reading list is substantial and part of each class will be spent in a close reading of one or several texts. Films will be shown before each class Wednesday morning or Tuesday evening and must be viewed since these films are primary source materials. The ideas, forms and formulations studied will direct the presentation and research. All reading is assigned in English, though the authors represent scholars from all over the world. Visual analysis of artifacts such as maps, advertisements, photographs and art will also be used. Work sessions will be incorporated into class formats.

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 and dissect 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.

Schedule of Seminars: Situating the City

Class 1: Introductory Remarks: Scanning Tokyo
Film Shorts & Japanese aesthetic

Class 2: Japanese Cities: Typologies Kyoto, Edo, Sapporo, Sendai, Osaka &
Inventing Japan: re-use of history

Readings: Buruma, Ian: Inventing Japan (purchase or reserve)*
Sorensen, Andre: The Making of Urban Japan: Pg. 1-44.*

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.

Class 3: The City as Situation: Discussion of Henri Lefebvre, Michel De Certeau and the Tradition of Urban Wandering.

Readings: Sacchi, Livio: Tokyo: City & Architecture -
City of Situations pp. 102-123 (reader and reserve)
Harris, Steve, ed. Architecture of Everyday, also
Mary McLeod; *Henri Lefebvre's Critique of Everyday Life: An Introduction*. reader

De Certeau, Michel: The Practice of Everyday Life. *
pp. 91-131 reader

Film: Ozu: *Tokyo Story*

Class 4: Grids and Spatial Anthropologies: From Edo to Tokyo
Readings: Hidenobu, Jinnai: Tokyo: A Spatial Anthropology reader *
Sacchi, Livio: Tokyo: City and Architecture pp. 39 – 99.

Film: Wenders, Wim: *Tokyo-ga*

Assignment # 2: Bring to Class an analysis of festival or memorial to a disaster. You will focus on the performative aspects in the city. How does memory and annual celebrations foster community identities?

Class 5: Tokyo: Wrestling with Modernity, Earthquake, Pan-Pacific War,
American Occupation: Architecture and Politics.
What was the War: Monuments to Pan Pacific War

Readings: Harootunian, Harry: Overcome by Modernity - Fantasy of Modern Life (reader) *
Oshima, Ken: International Architecture in Interwar Japan
Koolhaas, Rem: Project Japan

Film: Renais, Alain: *Hiroshima Mon Amour*

Class 6: The influence of Kenzo Tange's Vision of the Polis & Modernism and
Metabolism, Olympics and Tokyo and the Vision of the Future's Future

Reading: Coaldrake, William: Architecture & Authority in Japan, pp. 251 –277 (reader) *
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)*

Film: Shohei, Imamura, *Black Rain*

- Class 7: Contemporary and Global Tokyo: The City Decentralized
Multiple centers, Satellite cities and Tschuba
- Readings: Maki, Fumihiko: Nurturing Dreams: (reader) *
Ockman, Joan: Architourism : *Bestride the World Like a Colossus: The Architect as Tourist* pg. 158 – 185.
(reader)
Waswo, Ann: Housing in Postwar Japan: (reader)*
Isozaki, Arata: “of City, Nation and Style” pg. 47-62 *.
- Film: Hirokazu, Koreedo: Nobody Knows
- Class 8: Presentations
Bubble Economy and Development
- Readings: Bogner, Botand: Beyond the Bubble, Phaidon, 2008
1 – 109 (reader)*
Daniell, Thomas: After the Crash: Architecture in Post-Bubble Japan, Princeton Architectural Press. 2008
(reader)*
- Film: Tran Anh Hug: Norwegian Woods
- Class 9: Presentations
Art Spaces and Economic Development: Yokohama: BankArt, Echigo-Tsumari, Setouchi regional museums.
- Readings: Barthes, Roland: The Empire of Sign
Murakami, H: Wind-up Bird Chronicles*
begin reading. It will take several weeks to complete.
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: Presentations
 History and Memory: Memorialization in the Japanese City.
 Reading: Vlastos, Stephen : Mirror of Modernity: Invented Traditions
 of Modern Japan. (reader)
 Film: Yokura, Tajita: Departures
- Class 11: Presentations
 Film: Still Walking: Kirokazu Koreeda
- Class 13: Presentations
- Class 14: Presentations

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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
Airports (Narita, Osaka),
Maekawa
Hillside Terrace (Daikanayama) by Maki
Omotesando
Yokohama: (Landmark Towers & Ferry terminal)
Roppongi: Mori Center
Itsuku Hasegawa
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
Yasakuni Shrine
Harajuku
Gifu Housing
Sapporo City Plan
Occupation Architecture
Nexus Housing, Fuokoka
Wild Blue, Sky Dome
Ito: Grin Grin, Fuokoka
Cultural Centers: Hasegawa
Vertical malls: Ando shop
Housing Kumamoto
Hiroshima
Sea Life
Teleport City
Architectural Publications

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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 & Strohmayr, 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, Neignbor, 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.

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Books on Order

Barthes, Roland. Empire of Sign.

Buruma, Ian Inventing Japan Modern Library 2004

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

Murakami, Harumi: Wind-up Bird Chronicles

Koolhaas, Rem, Project Japan, 2012.