

Global Scale

ARCH 6823

Spring 2015

Tuesday 11:00-1:00

300S Buell

Reinhold Martin

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Office hours: Th 3pm-5pm

Buell Center, 3rd fl. Buell Hall

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What is the scale we call “global”? This seminar will reconsider the concept of scale in light of globalization, and vice versa. It has become commonplace to refer to “global” processes without defining the scale of the globe or the planet itself. This is a complex problem, which we will address by combining readings from recent architectural discourse (for example, Rem Koolhaas’s S, M, L, XL) with readings from cultural theory, urban studies, globalization studies, social theory, ecology, and elsewhere.

A quintessentially architectural category, scale is normally measured relative to a fixed referent, as in “human scale” or “urban scale.” The size or dimension of that referent is usually thought to be absolute. In architecture, size and scale meet in measured or “scale” drawings, models, and maps, as well as in buildings. They also meet when we refer offhandedly to specific processes as local, regional, global, or planetary. But in reality, whether we are speaking of ecologies, societies, infrastructures, cities, buildings, machines, furniture, or living beings, scales collide and overlap, dislodging or displacing their referents. This, rather than a smooth, telescopic sequence from microcosm to macrocosm, asks us to reconsider what we mean by global or planetary in every detail.

The focus on questions of scale addresses an assumption that underlies most discussions of globalization: that the “globe” is large and “humans” are small, and that local or human experience is increasingly eclipsed by diffuse processes that encircle the planet, neutralize differences, or exacerbate conflict. This is to confuse size with scale. The same goes for anthropogenic climate change. Setting aside telescopic models to recognize the actual scalar multiplicity of living beings, buildings, cities, countries, and planets, we may also gain better access to another quintessentially architectural question that is also a principle question of our times: How to live on Earth?

Students are expected to participate in class discussion, present material related to one or more of the readings in class, and write a research paper related to at least one set of readings, to be determined in individual meetings during office hours.

Readings

NOTE: All readings are available on Courseworks except as noted.

Week 1: **City, Country, World**

1/20

Reinhold Martin, “City, Country, World,” in Mediators: Aesthetics, Politics, and the City (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014), 11-33. EBOOK

http://www.amazon.com/Mediators-Aesthetics-Politics-Forerunners-Ideas-ebook/dp/B00OZ4MRFS/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1420860458&sr=8-1&keywords=martin+mediators

For reference:

UN HABITAT, State of the World’s Cities 2012/2013 (report)

<http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=3387>

UN HABITAT, State of the World’s Cities 2010/2011 (report)

<http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2917>

UN HABITAT, State of the World’s Cities 2008/2009 (report)

<http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2917>

UN HABITAT, State of the World's Cities 2006/2007 (report)

<http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2101>

UN HABITAT, State of the World's Cities 2004/2005 (report)

<http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=1163>

UN HABITAT, State of the World's Cities 2001 (report)

<http://mirror.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=1487>

Week 2: **Street**

1/27

Walter Benjamin, "One-Way Street" (1923-1926), trans. Edmund Jephcott, in Michael W. Jennings, ed. Walter Benjamin: Selected Writings (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1996), 444-488.

Week 3: **Island**

2/3

Rem Koolhaas, Delirious New York (1978), reprint (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1994), "The Double Life of Utopia: The Skyscraper," 81-159; "Europeans: Biuer! Dali and Le Corbusier Conquer New York," 235-282; and "Postmortem," 283-291.

Pier Vittorio Aureli, The Possibility of an Absolute Architecture (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2011), Chap. 5, "The City within the City: Oswald Mathias Ungers, OMA, and the Project of the City as Archipelago," 177-227.

Week 4: **S,M,L,XL**

2/10

Rem Koolhaas, "Learning Japanese" (poem, 1993), in Koolhaas et al, S, M, L, XL (New York: Monacelli Press, 1995), 88-110.

Rem Koolhaas, "Globalization" (1993), in Koolhaas et al, S, M, L, XL (New York: Monacelli Press, 1995), 362-369.

Rem Koolhaas, "Atlanta" (1987/1994), in Koolhaas et al, S, M, L, XL (New York: Monacelli Press, 1995), 832-858.

Rem Koolhaas, "Bigness, or the problem of the Large" (1994) in Koolhaas et al, S, M, L, XL (New York: Monacelli Press, 1995), 494-516.

Rem Koolhaas, "The Generic City" (1994), in Koolhaas et al, S, M, L, XL (New York: Monacelli Press, 1995), 1238-1264.

Amale Andraos, "Beyond Bigness," Avery Review 01 (September 2014).

<http://www.averyreview.com/issues/1/beyond-bigness>

Week 5: **Junk**

2/17

Rem Koolhaas, "Junkspace," October 100 (Spring 2002): 175-190. JSTOR

Fredric Jameson, "Future City," New Left Review 21 (May-June 2003): 65-79. JSTOR

Anne Kockelkorn and Susanne Schindler, "Editorial: On the Crisis of Large-Scale Housing Production in the 1970s," Candide 7 (October 2013): 4-9; peruse entire issue.

Week 6: **Infrastructural**

2/24

Stephen Graham and Simon Marvin, Splintering Urbanism: Networked Infrastructures, Technological Mobilities and the Urban Condition (London: Routledge, 2001), "Introduction," 1-36.

Keller Easterling, Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space (New York: Verso, 2014), Chap. 1, "Zone," 25-69.

Week 7: **Transnational**

3/3

Neil Brenner, New State Spaces: Urban Governance and the Rescaling of Statehood (New York: Oxford University Press, 2004), "Introduction: Cities, States, and the 'Explosion of Spaces,'" 1-26; Chap. 6, "Alternative Rescaling Strategies and the Future of New State Spaces," 257-304.

Week 8: **Regional**

3/10

Kenneth Frampton, "Toward a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance," in Hal Foster, ed., The Anti-Aesthetic: Essays on Postmodern Culture (Port Townsend, WA: Bay Press, 1983), 16-30.

Ananya Roy, "The 21st-Century Metropolis: New Geographies of Theory," Regional Studies 43, no. 6 (July 2009): 819-830. JSTOR

Week 9: **Global**

3/24

Paul N. Edwards A Vast Machine: Computer Models, Climate Data, and the Politics of Global Warming (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2010), Chap. 1, "Thinking Globally," 1-25; Chap. 7, "The Infinite Forecast," 139-186; Chap. 13, "Parametrics and the Limits of Thought," 337-355. EBOOK

Week 10: **Endless**

3/31

Ricky Burdett and Philipp Rode, "The Urban Age Project," in Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic, eds. The Endless City: The Urban Age Project (London: Phaidon, 2008), selections

Neil Brenner and Christian Schmid, "The 'Urban Age' in Question," in Brenner, ed. Implosions / Explosions: Towards a Study of Planetary Urbanization (Berlin: Jovis, 2014), 310-337.

Week 11: **Planetary**

4/7

Neil Brenner and Christian Schmid, "Planetary Urbanization," in Brenner, ed. Implosions / Explosions: Towards a Study of Planetary Urbanization (Berlin: Jovis, 2014), 160-163.

Neil Brenner, "Theses on Urbanization," in Brenner, ed. Implosions / Explosions: Towards a Study of Planetary Urbanization (Berlin: Jovis, 2014), 181-202.

Elizabeth DeLoughrey, "Satellite Planetaryity and the Ends of the Earth," Public Culture 26, no. 2 (Spring 2014): 257-280.

http://publicculture.dukejournals.org/content/26/2_73/257.full.pdf+html

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, An Aesthetic Education in the Era of Globalization (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2012), Chap. 16, "Imperative to Re-imagine the Planet," 335-350.

Week 12: **Interplanetary**

4/14

R. Buckminster Fuller, Operating Manual for Spaceship Earth (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1969), Chap. 1, "Comprehensive Propensities," 9-20.

Reinhold Martin, "Horizons of Thought," in Mediators: Aesthetics, Politics, and the City (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2014), 99-120, EBOOK

http://www.amazon.com/Mediators-Aesthetics-Politics-Forerunners-Ideas-ebook/dp/B00OZ4MRFS/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1420860458&sr=8-1&keywords=martin+mediators

Kim Stanley Robinson, The Martians (New York: Bantam Spectra, 2000), "The Constitution of Mars," 265-273.

Week 13: **Human?**

4/21

Dipesh Chakrabarty, "The Climate of History: Four Theses," Critical Inquiry 35, no. 2 (Winter 2009): 197-222. JSTOR

Nicholas Mirzoeff, "Visualizing the Anthropocene," Public Culture 26, no. 2 (Spring 2014): 213-232.

http://publicculture.dukejournals.org/content/26/2_73/213.full.pdf+html

"The Anthropocene Project"

Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin

http://www.hkw.de/en/programm/projekte/2014/anthropozaen/anthropozaen_2013_2014.php