

## Architecture After 1945

CourseNo: ARCHA4705\_001\_2014\_3

Meeting Time: M 11:00A-01:00P Meeting Location: [AVERY HALL 113](#)

Instructor Information: [Felicity Dale Scott](#)

How do the contemporary stakes of architectural practice and discourse transform? To what degree are these transformations impacted by larger historical forces—social, technological, economic, aesthetic, environmental, political, geopolitical? What makes some works and protagonists relevant to the disciplines' key narratives, concerns, and histories while others fail to gain similar traction? How do architects engage with their present? These are the sorts of questions raised by a historical revisiting of architecture's recent past. This course will address key developments in architecture during the period from the end of World War II until the early 1990s. It will cover both the continuation and transformation of modern architecture after the war—including New Brutalism, corporate modernism, regionalism, the variegated work of Team 10, the AA's Department of Tropical Architecture, and certain trajectories of late modern formalism and Good Design—as well as the emergence of diverse practices that in different ways challenged the modernist legacy or even set out to proclaim its end. These include: the turn to systems theory and cybernetics of the 1950s; the experimental and “Pop” architecture of the 1960s such as Megastructure, Metabolism and the turn to environment; the engagement with linguistic theory and notions of “meaning,” and the rise of a semantic and historicist post-modernism during the late '60s and 1970s; the post-post-modern turn, from the architecture of deconstruction to the architecture of “event” and their legacy in contemporary experimentations with new programs, sites, materials, and media. The course will pay particular attention to the manner in which architects and architectural institutions (schools, museums, publications) have engaged historical transformations, including the impact upon the discipline of globalization and the emergence of the information age. It will not be able to cover every aspect of work from this period, but through focusing on specific examples in their historical context will provide a detailed map of important buildings, projects, movements, events, publications, and recent transformations in the discipline, as well as outlining their stakes, strategies, and ongoing impact on the profession. The legacy of this period remains in many ways central to contemporary architectural practice and this course will provide students with both historical knowledge and critical tools vital to positioning their own work within the ever-shifting field of contemporary architecture.

**Requirements and Grades:** Students are expected to attend all sessions and to keep up with required readings. There is a short mid-term assignment and a final paper. All work submitted should be original and written for this course. Students should familiarize themselves with Columbia University's Statement on Academic Honesty, found at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/gsas/rules/chapter-9/pages/honesty/index.html>

The grade for this class will be determined as follows:

Mid-term assignment	15%
Attendance	25%
Final Paper	60%

**Readings:** Readings for this class are not intended to be as comprehensive as the lectures but, rather, to provide focused readings of specific works, movements, and historical questions that are important to understanding this field and the status of current literature on it. Students are only expected to read the required readings.

Required readings are available either (1) as pdf files on Courseworks for this class (listed on syllabus as “C”); and 2) through E-Journals at <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/eresources/ejournals/> (listed on syllabus as “EJ”). The Courseworks readings are found under “Files & Resources,” then the sub-file “Shared Files,” and are organized by week. Further readings have not been put on reserve.