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instructor: Marta Gutman
course title: Twentieth-Century Architecture and Urbanism
institution: City College of New York
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The City College of New York
School of Architecture, Urban Design, and Landscape Architecture

Arch 352.01. Twentieth-Century Architecture and Urbanism

Fall 2007

Instructor: Prof. Marta Gutman

Lectures: Monday, Wednesday, 9:00-10:00 am, 304 Shepard Hall

Section: Monday, 10:30-11:30 am

Credits: 3

Office hours: Wednesday, 10:30 am -12:30 pm, S 301A Shepard Hall

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Course description

This is the third course in the three-semester sequence tracing the history of architecture, landscape, and urban space in Europe, the Mediterranean, and the Americas. This semester focuses on architecture and urbanism in the twentieth century; the course is open to students with junior year standing who have completed AES 232.00 (Fall) and AES 242.00 (Spring). We will meet three times a week (twice in large lectures, once in smaller sections) and discuss canonical (and not so canonical) examples of modern architecture, as we examine the relationship of modernism to modernity and modernization, the use of architecture to effect social change, for the better and the worse, the experience of modernism in a global society, and architecture's relationship to nature and technology. Buildings will also be located in the rich contexts of culture, politics, and history, allowing us to look closely at the intentions of designers and patrons and the reception of buildings and ideas by a variety of audiences. On the one hand, we will explore how modern architecture may be read as a document of political, social, and cultural forces; on the other hand, we will consider how meaning changes over time.

This course will expand your historical knowledge and hone your analytical skills, especially your ability to analyze form for meaning. It will also help you form an idea of the kind of architect you want to be, the kind of practice you wish to engage in, and how you might choose to transform society through the buildings and environments you create.

Course Requirements

- Attendance at all lectures
- Attendance at all section meetings
- Reading, writing, and sketchbook assignments
- In-class midterm examination, Wednesday, October 17, 2007
- Final examination, to be announced

Readings and Resources

Required: William J. R. Curtis Modern Architecture Since 1900, 3rd edition (1996).

Abigail Harrison-Moore and Dorothy C. Rowe, ed., Architecture and Design in Europe and North America, 1750-2000 (2006).

These books are available for purchase at the CCNY bookstore and on reserve at the Architecture Library, 408 Shepard Hall.

Suggested: Reyner Banham, Theory and Design in the First Machine Age (1960).
Alan Colquhoun, Modern Architecture (2002).
Kenneth Frampton, ed., World Architecture 1900-2000: A Critical Mosaic, 10 vol.
(2002).
Diane Ghirardo, Architecture After Modernism (2003).

A “terms and examples” list will be distributed, with information about monuments, terms, locations, designers, dates, and so forth. Each student is responsible for learning the information on this document: names of buildings, dates, periods, location, architects, and patrons. The list may be amended. A review sheet will be distributed before each exam.

Image libraries will be posted on ARTstor at [http:// www.artstor.org/info/](http://www.artstor.org/info/) Class login and password will be provided in section.

Grading

Midterm exam: 30%
Final exam: 40%
Section: 30% (writing assignments, sketchbook assignments, and participation)

Late work will be penalized.

Take heed!

All assignments and examinations must be completed in order to pass the class. Failure to turn in any assignment, including in section, will result in failure of the entire course. Attendance is also required. More than two unexcused absences will result in failure of the entire course.

Incompletes will not be granted except in the case of an extreme medical or family emergency, supported by a doctor’s note or other written proof of the seriousness of the situation at hand. Stomach aches and headaches are not serious illnesses.

All assignments and examinations must be the student’s original work. Any copying, even short excerpts from another book, article, Internet source, published or unpublished, will result in automatic failure of the entire course. Any unauthorized talking during examinations or consultation of unauthorized materials or another person’s work will also result in failure of the course.

Learning Objectives

This course seeks to deepen students’ grasp of the history of built form and the formation of landscape and urban design in the twentieth century, and to hone analytic skills, with respect to the form and meaning of monuments. It seeks to make students alive to the implications of architectural forms within society and the responsibility of those who design them.

NAAB Performance Criteria Fulfilled

1	Verbal and Writing Skills	10	National and Regional Traditions
2	Critical Thinking Skills	11	Use of Precedents
8	Western Traditions	13	Human Diversity
9	Non-Western Traditions	34	Ethics and Professional Judgment

Lecture Outline

Part I. Introduction and Formative Strands

- Mon., Aug. 27. Lecture 1. Introduction to the course: "Drawing on History"
Wed. Aug. 29. Lecture 2. Paris: Capital of the Nineteenth Century
Mon., Sept. 3. No class (Holiday)
Wed., Sept 5. Lecture 3. Art Nouveau and the Search for New Forms in Vienna
Mon., Sept. 10. Lecture 4. Frank Lloyd Wright and the Chicago School
Wed., Sept. 12. No class (Holiday)
Mon., Sept. 17. Lecture 5. The Fascination with Mechanization: The Deutscher Werkbund

Part II, European Avant-Gardes, 1900-1930

- Wed., Sept. 19. Lecture 6. European Avant-Gardes: Holland
Mon., Sept. 24. Lecture 7. European Avant-Gardes: France
Wed., Sept. 26. Lecture 8. European Avant-Gardes: Germany
Mon., Oct. 1. Lecture 9. The European City: Visions and Realities in the Interwar Years
Wed., Oct. 3. Lecture 10. Alvar Aalto and the International Style in Scandinavia
Mon., Oct. 8. No class (Holiday)
Wed., Oct. 10. Lecture 11. Architecture and Revolution in Russia
Mon., Oct. 15. Lecture 12. Totalitarianism in Germany and Italy
Wed., Oct. 17. MIDTERM EXAM

Part III. Modern Architecture in the United States, 1920-1950

- Mon., Oct. 22. Lecture 13. The American City: Visions and Realities in the Interwar Years
Wed., Oct. 24. Lecture 14. Skyscraper Urbanism
Mon., Oct. 29. Lecture 15. Domesticating Modernism

Part IV. Postwar Modernism in Transnational Contexts, 1950-1970

- Wed., Oct. 31. Lecture 16. Rethinking Modernism after World War II
Mon., Nov. 5. Lecture 17. Modernity in North Africa
Wed., Nov. 7. Lecture 18. Modernity in Latin America: Brazil
Mon., Nov. 12. Lecture 19. Modernity on the Subcontinent: Chandigarh and Dacca
Wed., Nov. 14. Lecture 20. Modernity in Asia: Japan

Part V. Continuity and Change, 1970-2000

- Mon., Nov. 19. Lecture 21. Critiques of Modernism: Team 10, Archigram, and Others in the 1960s
Wed., Nov. 21. No class (Friday schedule)
Mon., Nov. 26. Lecture 22. Pluralism and Postmodernism: History and the Past
Wed., Nov. 28. Lecture 23. Pluralism and Postmodernism: Technology, Nature, and Abstraction
Mon., Dec. 3. Lecture 24. Hybrid Modernities: Place, Memory, and Nature
Wed., Dec. 5. Lecture 25. Contemporary Architecture

Review for Final Exam TBA

Final Exam TBA

Section Outline (for undergraduates)

Please note: the weekly discussion sections are an integral component of this course; attendance is required, in-class assignments and participation will be graded, and material discussed in section will be tested on the midterm and final exams.

Your work in section counts for 30 percent of your grade. Attendance will be taken; more than two unexcused absences from section constitute automatic failure in the entire course.

Part I. Introduction and Formative Strands

- Mon., Aug. 27. Introduction to the course
- Mon., Sept. 3. No class (Holiday)
- Friday, Sept. 7. Library sessions (2 groups)
- Mon., Sept. 10. Frank Lloyd Wright and the Robie House
Issue sketchbook assignment #1
- Mon., Sept. 17. The Deutscher Werkbund
1st in-class writing assignment
- Friday, Sept. 21. Library sessions (2 groups)

Part II. European Avant-Gardes, 1900-1930

- Mon., Sept. 24. Le Corbusier and the Villa Savoye
Sketchbook assignment #1 due
2nd in-class writing assignment
- Mon., Oct. 1. Modernism and Politics in Germany in the 1920s
- Mon., Oct. 8. No class (Holiday)
- Mon., Oct. 15. *Review for midterm exam*

Part III. Modernism in the United States, 1920-1950

- Mon., Oct. 22. Architecture in the 1930s
- Mon., Oct. 29. Corporate Modernism
Issue sketchbook assignment #2

Part IV. Postwar Modernism and Transnational Contexts, 1950-1970

- Mon., Nov. 5. Modernism in Transnational Contexts
3rd in-class writing assignment
- Mon., Nov. 12. The High-Modernist City
Sketchbook assignment #2 due
4th in-class writing assignment

Part V. Continuity and Change, 1970-2000

- Mon., Nov. 19. Critiques of Modernism
- Mon., Nov. 26. Architecture and History
Come to class prepared to discuss your studio project
- Mon., Dec. 3. No section, prepare for final design reviews

Review for final exam TBA

Final Exam TBA