

Faculty of Environmental Design
University of Calgary

EVDArchitecture 523.01/ARchitectural Studies 457.01

History of Architecture and Human Settlements I: Premodern Traditions of the World

Fall 2013, Tuesday and Thursday 0930-1050, PF 2160

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Rationale

This is the first of two courses examining the history of built environments from the prehistoric world to the present. This introductory survey will address the premodern (or non-modern) traditions of the major world cultures.

Course Objectives

- To develop knowledge of the history and significance of built environments in different eras and places in the world, in relation to cultural values and practices.
- To learn the basic characteristics and examples that define some of the major architectural traditions of the world.
- To develop and refine skills in research; critical thinking, reading and discussion; synthesis of ideas; visual analysis; and oral and written communication.

Course Deliverables

Each student will produce four short papers (typically 3-5 pages) during the semester. The papers are based on the current subject matter in the course, and are designed to be building blocks toward effective written communication about architecture and urbanism. They focus on the analysis of representations, objects, experiences, texts, and the synthesis of information. There will also be in-class writing, large- and small-group discussion, and other assignments, all of which will be reflected in the portion of the grade for participation.

Course Requirements and Grading

- (20 percent) Participation/discussion/in-class assignments/group work/peer review.
- (80 percent) Papers 1-4 (20 percent each).

NOTE: you *must* complete all 4 papers in order to pass this course.

Grades: A = 85 and above, A- = 80-84, B+ = 76-79, B = 73-75, B- = 70-72, C+ = 66-69, C = 63-65, C- = 60-62, D = 59 and below, F = 49 and below.

Note: Participation grade reflects engagement in large and small group discussions in class, and in group work when assigned, as well as the completion of short in-class assignments, including the peer review process for Paper 2. Although attendance is not taken daily, absent students cannot participate in the above in-class activities, and this will be noted.

Course Expectations

- Attendance, preparation, and participation in discussions is expected.
- Complete daily readings by the time of the appropriate class meeting each week.
- Hand in assignments on time; grades will be reduced for each day assignments are late.
- **Academic honesty.** Plagiarism will result in an automatic F. Plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:(a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),(b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,(c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,(d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course(although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved. While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted. Plagiarism is an extremely serious academic offence. It is recognized that clause (d) does not prevent a graduate student incorporating work previously done by him or her in a thesis. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean, and dealt with as per the regulations in the University of Calgary Graduate Calendar. If you are unsure what plagiarism is, see the description in the *University Calendar*:
www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

Student Accessibility Services

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodation and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact their office at 220-8237. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodation. You are also required to discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of this course.

SAFEWALK

Call 220-5333 for escorted walking around campus, day or night.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Point for Professional Faculties Building: Primary: Education Block Food Court; Secondary: Scurfield Hall Atrium

To help deal with the issues and problems of being a graduate student at U of C, please refer to the **Graduate Students Association:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/> or the **Graduate Students' ombudsperson:** <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/services/ombudsperson.html>

Readings

- Readings will be available on Blackboard (BB), or on reserve (RSV) with Melanie at the front desk of EVDS. Some readings are provided in both formats to allow to access the higher quality images in the books (versus the pdfs). Other readings are available online with links in the syllabus below (live links in the syllabus on Blackboard).

- You may wish to purchase an architectural history survey textbook to help navigate this course, but it is optional. The following two books are on reserve and we will have several readings from each during the course. Typically, there are cheap used copies of these available online. I use the first edition of each, so if you have a later edition there will be differences in page numbers of assigned readings.

Moffat, Fazio, and Wodehouse, *A World History of Architecture*.

A decent narrative history, it treats world architecture by sandwiching chapters on China, Mesoamerica, etc., between chapters on Western architecture. Excellent photos and good drawings.

Kostof, *A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals*. (recently updated as Richard Ingersoll and Spiro Kostof, *World Architecture* (Oxford, 2013)

This is a brilliant book, and the only one I'd sit down and read for pleasure. It has the most engaging narrative of the lot, but Kostof has a particular story to tell. First published in 1985, so it's a little dated too (but see update, above). It is rather thin on non-Western architecture, which receives brief mentions. Excellent drawings, and more recent editions have had good photos.

Schedule of Readings and Themes

Readings should be done by the time of the lecture on the day they are listed below.

Week 1

Tues. Sept. 10: Introduction

Thurs. Sept. 12: Caves and Stones

Reading

- On the Daedalus myth, <http://www.pantheon.org/articles/d/daedalus.html>, or for a more detailed analysis of it, <http://www.mythindex.com/greek-mythology/D/Daedalus.html>
- Vitruvius, *The Ten Books on Architecture*, (Book I, Preface and Chapters I-III; and Book II, Chapter I). This is available free on the web at: <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/cgi-bin/ptext?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.02.0073&query=doctitle%3D%231> OR AT <http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Vitruvius/home.html>

Week 2

Tues. Sept. 17: Shelter/Culture Discussion

Reading

- Nabokov and Easton, *Native American Architecture*, 11-50 (BB, RSV)
- Dora Crouch and June Johnson, *Traditions in Architecture* (Oxford, 2001), 29-33 (BB)

Thurs. Sept. 19: City I: Elements

Reading

- Kostof, *A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals*, 43-50 (BB, RSV)
- Dora Crouch and June Johnson, *Traditions in Architecture* (Oxford, 2001), 209-222. (BB)
- Moffat, Fazio, and Wodehouse, *A World History of Architecture*, 60-65 (BB, RSV)

Week 3—Paper 1 due in class on Thursday.

Tues. Sept. 24: System Building

Reading

- Vitruvius, *The Ten Books on Architecture*, Book IV, Intro and Chapters I-V (see links, above)
- Kostof, *A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals*, 120-132 (BB, RSV)

Thurs. Sept. 26: City II: City as a Place of Ritual

Reading

- Vitruvius, *The Ten Books on Architecture*, Book I, Chaps. IV, V, VII (see links, above).

Week 4

Tues. Oct. 1: Building Type I

Reading

- Vitruvius, *The Ten Books on Architecture*, Book VI, Chaps. I-V (see links, above).
- William Macdonald, *The Architecture of the Roman Empire I: An Introductory Study*, 20-21, 25-31, 41-46, 75-76, 90-93, 118-121, and 167-183 (BB)
- Kostof, *A History of Architecture: Settings and Rituals*, 191-207. (BB, RSV)

Thurs. Oct. 3: Religious Architecture: Islamic (Guest: HASAN LALJI)

Reading

- Hourani, Albert Habib, “The Making of a World,” in *A History of the Arab Peoples*. (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard UP, 1991), 1–17. (BB)
- Kuban, Dogan. “Symbolism in its Regional and Contemporary Context,” in *Architecture as Symbol and Self-Identity*. Jonathan G. Katz, ed. Pp. 1–11. (Philadelphia: Aga Khan Award for Architecture, 1980), 12–17. http://archnet.org/library/documents/one-document.jsp?document_id=2620
- Robert Hillenbrand, “The Mosque in the Medieval Islamic World,” in *Architecture in Continuity*. Sherban Cantacuzino, ed. (New York: Aperture, 1985), 33-51. Available at http://archnet.org/library/documents/one-document.jsp?document_id=6123

Week 5Tues. Oct. 8: Religious Architecture: Early Christian**Reading**

- Procopius and Paul the Silentiary, excerpts from their writings on the Hagia Sofia, at: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/paulsilent-hagsoph1.asp>
- Roger Stalley, *Early Medieval Architecture*, p. 17-35. (BB, RSV)

Thurs. Oct. 10: Dissemination: Romanesque, Moor, Buddhist**Reading**

- Dora Crouch and June Johnson, *Traditions in Architecture* (Oxford, 2001), 5-24. (BB)

—OCTOBER 15 AND 17 —NO CLASSES DUE TO BLOCK WEEK—

Week 6—Draft (full) of Paper 2 due to your peer review group and to me by 11:59 PM, Tuesday Oct. 22ndTues. Oct. 22: Early Gothic Glory**Reading**

- Abbot Suger, excerpts from *De Consecratione* and *On What was Done During his Administration* (a PDF on Blackboard includes both). For the latter, a modern English translation is also available on the web at: <http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/sugar.html>.
- Moffat, Fazio, and Wodehouse, *A World History of Architecture*, 229-236. (BB, RSV)

Thurs. Oct. 24: PEER REVIEW SESSION FOR PAPER 2**Reading**

- Other students' drafts of Paper 2, as assigned

Week 7—Paper 2 due in class on Thursday.Tues. Oct. 29: Medievalism**Reading**

- Gies and Gies, *Life in a Medieval City*, selections

Thurs. Oct. 31: Architecture of the Indian Subcontinent (Guest: PUNYA MARAHATTA)**Reading**

- TBA

Week 8Tues. Nov. 5: Chartres cathedral discussion

Otto von Simson, *The Gothic Cathedral*, sections of Chapters 6 & 7 to be determined in class (BB, RSV)

Thurs. Nov. 7: NO CLASS DUE TO TRAVEL

Week 9Tues. Nov. 12: NO CLASS DUE TO READING DAYSThurs. Nov. 14: Chinese & Japanese Architecture (Guest: DAVID DOWN)**Reading**

- Liang Ssu-Ch'eng, Chinese Architecture, 8-10, 14-21 (BB)
- Moffat, Fazio, and Wodehouse, *A World History of Architecture*, 99-109 (BB, RSV)

Week 10—Paper 3 due in class on ThursdayTues. Nov. 19: Renaissance/ Global Culture**Reading**

- Richard Ingersoll and Spiro Kostof, *World Architecture*, 437-449 (BB)

Thurs. Nov. 21: Geometry**Reading**

- selections of Alberti's *On Painting* and *On Building* from Lefavre and Tzonis, eds. *The Emergence of Modern Architecture: A Documentary History from 1000 to 1810* (London: Routledge, 2004). (BB)
- Rudolph Wittkower, *Architectural Principles in the Age of Humanism* (1949; Chichester, UK: Academy, 1998), 15-29. (BB)

Week 11Tues. Nov. 26: The Architect**Reading**

- James Ackerman, "Architectural Practice in the Italian Renaissance" (1954), in his *Distance Points* (Cambridge: MIT, 1991), 361-384. (BB)
- selections of Filarete's "Treatise" and Serlio's *Complete Works on Architecture and Perspective* from H.F. Mallgrave, *Architectural Theory* (Oxford: Blackwell, 2006), 36-43. (BB)

Thurs. Nov. 28: The Picturesque (Guest: NANCY POLLOCK-ELLWAND)**Reading**

- Selections from Edmund Burke, *The Sublime and the Beautiful* (1757), available at: <http://www.bartleby.com/24/2>
Part III, Section 4, "Proportion not the Cause of Beauty..."
Part I, Section 7, "Of the Sublime"
Part II, Sections 8-16, "Vastness" through "Light in Building"
- William Gilpin, selection from *Observations on the River Wye* (1782), at http://www.wvnorton.com/college/english/nael/romantic/topic_1/riverwye.htm
- Uvedale Price, selection from *Essay On The Picturesque* (1794), at <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/depts/philosophy/awaymave/onlineresources/price3.htm>

Week 12—Paper 4 due in class on ThursdayTues. Dec. 3: Enlightenment I

Reading

- Selections of Laugier, Boullée, Durand, or Ledoux from Lefavre and Tzonis, eds. *The Emergence of Modern Architecture*, var. pag. (BB)
- Selection from Edmund Burke, *The Sublime and the Beautiful*, revisit this from Nov. 21st, above.
- Dell Upton, *Architecture in the United States* (Oxford, 1998), 17-37; 71-75. (BB, RSV)

Thurs. Dec. 5: Enlightenment II**Reading**

- Barry Bergdoll, *European Architecture, 1750-1890* (Oxford, 2000), 73-102. (BB, RSV)

Description of Papers

General: Paper topics will be *limited to buildings and spaces discussed in the course*, and papers will reflect the subject matter we are currently covering in the course. It will be required that you *draw on course readings* and discussions in your analyses in the different papers. You are welcome to draw on outside readings as well, but these must be properly cited. The papers should be seen as an opportunity to apply—in your own work, and for your own buildings of interest—the ways of thinking and modes of analysis encountered in the class readings and meetings. The papers should be *both descriptive and explanatory*. **I will give out more detailed handouts and/or talk about the papers in class before they are due.**

Paper 1: Formal Analysis: Much of design education and communication is based on the viewing of images. This paper requires you to analyze a photograph of a building studied in the course, both describing and interpreting what you see, as limited by the frame. What does the building or space seem to represent? How? What details suggest your interpretation? What can and cannot be learned about the building or space from that particular representation?

Paper 2: Material Analysis: This paper gets you out of EVDS to analyze a building or space or object of your choice. You will describe your choice in three dimensions, and compare and contrast it with similar objects or spaces already studied in your textbook and in the lectures. You will be able to choose your topic from a range of suggestions, including everything from artefacts exhibited at the Glenbow to subtle evidences of human alterations of the environment. *We will do a peer review process for this paper.*

Paper 3: Experiential Analysis: This paper allows you to write speculatively on the lived experience of a historic building or space. While remaining grounded in historical knowledge from your readings, you will write us into a place or walk us through it. What would it have been like to sense and function within that place? You will need to choose a building for which plans and sections are available in our readings, in the library, or on the web.

Paper 4: Textual Analysis: This assignment aims at synthesizing some of the approaches to analyzing architecture and urbanism developed in the previous papers, while adding a critical appraisal of the different ways of writing about the built environment. Again choosing a building or space from the course, you will describe and explain it through visual, experiential, and textual analysis, based on course readings and some of your own outside research. Then, you will go to the library to research multiple scholarly approaches to your building or space, and compare/contrast the descriptions, foci, and interpretations.