

(Version 2: 22 June 2010)

Overview

Architecture is built not only on physical foundations, but on conceptual ones too. The intellectual landscape in which contemporary architecture takes shape is diverse, complex, and rapidly changing. The LLLABO Reading Seminar in Spring 2010 is an introduction to a number of strands of contemporary thought with relevance to architecture and the built environment. The seminar is structured around a series of readings, taking in the topics of dwelling and privacy, phenomenology and bodily experience, the linguistic analogy, critical theory, space and power, urban performativity, and notions of place under a networked geography. This list makes no attempt at comprehensiveness, it merely constitutes a set of openings into a number of relevant contemporary debates within Western architectural discourse. The intention in reading these texts together in the seminar is to familiarize students with these references and issues, and to seek out points of connection to contemporary discussions within the architectural field in Japan.

Instructor

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Contact Hours + Locations

(NB: This seminar is not for credit)

Two contiguous 90-minute periods allocated each week, in seminar format. The length of the seminar may vary in response to need.

Seminar Thursdays, Period 4+5 (14:45-18:00); Room 60-213B

Format

The seminar has a flexible format, and may include elements such as lectures, presentations, workshop sessions, design studio work, field trips, critiques, and discussion. Participation in the activities of the seminar is important to its success.

The primary activity of the seminar will be reading and discussing written texts. Participants may also be asked to make presentations to the seminar about aspects of the material under discussion.

Prerequisites

The seminar is an open space, with no particular prerequisites. However the readings are in English and are of an advanced level, so confidence in English is essential.

Participation in the seminar is open to anyone interested and capable of handling the material, not only students formally affiliated to LLLABO.

Schedule

The seminar begins in the second half of the Spring Semester, at the beginning of June, and runs for 8 weeks, to mid July. This schedule sets out the topic areas and readings for each week. Readings will be made available in class and/or via the LLLABO website. Please note that both the schedule and readings are potentially subject to change if necessary as the seminar progresses.

Week 8	26–30 May 29-May	0. Introduction - Critical, Postcritical in Contemporary Architecture Introduction to the seminar. Lecture: "Critical, Post-critical".
Week 9	31 May – 4 Jun 3-Jun	1. Dwelling: the Private and the Unprivate READING: Riley, Terence. "The Unprivate House." Catalogue essay from exhibition <i>The Unprivate House</i> , Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1999, 9-38.
Week 10	7–11 Jun 10-Jun	2. Phenomenology and Embodied Experience READINGS: 1. Pallasmaa, Juhani. <i>The Eyes of the Skin</i> . London: Wiley-Academy, 2005. 2. Pallasmaa, Juhani. "The Architecture of the Seven Senses". In Perez-Gomez, Alberto, Steven Holl, and Juhani Pallasmaa; <i>Questions of Perceptions. Phenomenology of Architecture</i> . A+U Special 94:07. Tokyo: A+U, 1994, 27-37.
Week 11	14–18 Jun 18-Jun	3. The Analogy of Language READINGS: 1. Forty, Adrian. "Language Metaphors." In <i>Words and Buildings: A Vocabulary of Modern Architecture</i> . London: Thames&Hudson, 2004, 62-85. 2. Barthes, Roland. "Style and its Image." In <i>The Rustle of Language</i> . Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989, 84-99.
Week 12	21–25 Jun 24-Jun	4. Critical Theory: Culture under Capitalism READING: Adorno, Theodor W. and Max Horkheimer. "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception." In <i>Dialectic of Enlightenment</i> . English translation first published 1972. London: Verso, 1997, 120-167.
Week 13	28 Jun–2 Jul 1-Jul	5. Space and Power READING: Foucault, Michel. "Space, Knowledge, and Power." In Paul Rabinow (Ed.) <i>The Foucault Reader: An Introduction to Foucault's Thought</i> . London: Penguin, 1984. 239–256.
Week 14	5–9 Jul 8-Jul	6. Urban Performance READING: Borden, Iain. "Performing the City." In <i>Skateboarding, Space and the City</i> . London: Berg, 2001. 229-260.
Week 15	12–16 Jul 15-Jul	7. Place and Networked Geographies READING: Varnelis, Kazys and Anne Friedberg. "Place: The Networking of Public Space." In Kazys Varnelis (Ed.) <i>Networked Publics</i> . Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2008. 15-39.

Selected Bibliography

The following is an preliminary bibliography covering a range of subfields in architectural theory. This should be viewed as a starting point for research, not a comprehensive list.

Anthologies and Edited Collections

Braham, William, and Jonathan Hale, eds. *Rethinking Technology: A Reader in Architectural Theory*. London: Routledge, 2007.

Burns, Carol, and Andrea Kahn, eds. *Site Matters*. London: MIT Press, 2005.

Colomina, Beatriz, and Jennifer Bloomer, eds. *Sexuality and Space*. NY: Princeton Architectural Press, 1992.

Hays, K. Michael, ed. *Architecture Theory since 1968*. NY: MIT Press, 1998.

Jencks, Charles, and Karl Kropf, eds. *Theories and Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture*. London Academy Press, 2006.

Readings in Contemporary Architectural Theory

Nesbitt, Kate, ed. *Theorizing a New Agenda for Architecture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996.

Ockman, Joan, ed. *Architecture Culture 1943-1968: A Documentary Anthology*. NY: Rizzoli Press, 1993.

Ulrich, Conrads, ed. *Programs and Manifestoes on 20th-Century Architecture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1975.

Selected Writings by Theorists and Architects

Allen, Stan. "From Object to Field." *Architectural Design* 67, no. 5-6 (1997): 24-32.

———. *Practice: Architecture, Technique and Representation, Critical Voices in Art, Theory & Culture*. London: Routledge, 2000.

Barthes, Roland. "The Eiffel Tower." *VIA* 2 (1973): 160-68.

Brown, G. Z. . *Sun, Wind and Light: Architectural Design Strategies*. NY: Wiley, 2000.

Calvino, Italo. *Invisible Cities*. NY: Harvest Books, 1978.

Cook, Peter, and Neil Spiller, eds. *The Paradox of Contemporary Architecture*. London: Academy Press, 2001.

Eisenstein, Sergei M., and Yve-Alain Bois. "Montage and Architecture." *Assemblage* 10(1989): 111-31.

Frascardi, Marco. "The Tell-the-Tale Detail." *Via* 7 (1984): 22-37.

Gregotti, Vittorio. *Inside Architecture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1996.

Harries, Karsten. *The Ethical Function of Architecture*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1997.

Holl, Steven, Juhani Pallasmaa, and Alberto Perez-Gomez. *Questions of Perception*. San Francisco: William Stout, 2006.

Jackson, J.B. *A Sense of Place, a Sense of Time*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1994.

Koolhaas, Rem. *Delirious New York*. London: Monacelli, 1997 (1978).

Leatherbarrow, David. *Surface Architecture*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2002.

———. *The Roots of Architectural Invention: Site, Enclosure, Materials*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

———. *Topographical Stories*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004.

McDonough, William. *Cradle to Cradle: Remaking the Way We Make Things*. NY: North Point Press, 2002.

Mitchell, William. *E-Topia: "Urban Life, Jim - but Not as We Know It"*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1999.

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Rowe, Colin, and Fred Koetter. *Collage City*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1978.

Rowe, Colin, and Robert Slutzky. "Transparency: Literal and Phenomenal." In *The Mathematics of the Ideal Villa*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1976.

Rykwert, Joseph. *The Idea of a Town: The Anthropology of Urban Form in Rome, Italy and the Ancient World*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press, 1988.

Sennett, Richard. *The Conscience of the Eye: The Design and Social Life of Cities*. NY: Knopf, 1990.

Tschumi, Bernard. *Architecture and Disjunction*. Cambridge Mass: MIT Press, 1996.

Venturi, Robert. *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*. 2nd ed. NY: Museum of Modern Art, 2002.

———. *Learning from Las Vegas - Revised Edition: The Forgotten Symbolism of Architectural Form*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1977.

Whyte, William Hollingsworth. *The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces*. L.A.: Direct Cinema Ltd., 1988.

Yeang, Kenneth. *The Green Skyscraper*. NY: Prestel, 1999.

Zumthor, Peter. *Thinking Architecture*. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2006.