

## TOPICS IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**PLEASE NOTE THAT I WILL BE MAKING SOME MINOR CHANGES TO THIS OVER BREAK, BUT THERE WILL NOT BE CHANGES TO ASSIGNMENTS OR DUE DATES**

ARCH 404: 3 units, Spring 2011

Watt 212: M-W 10-11:50

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Office Hours: Watt 326, Monday: 12-1; or to be arranged

Architecture 404 examines the impact of the environment, culture and politics on the evolution of architecture and urban planning in Southern California in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It explores the interchange between European modernism and local vernacular influences as they came together to create new regional architectural and urban forms. Lectures examine a series of case studies in order to more closely explore the complexity of these developments.

There will be class field trips on Saturday February 12 and Saturday April 23 in order to examine first hand Los Angeles's rich architectural heritage.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS

#### REQUIRED TEXTS:

Reyner Banham, Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies, 1971, reprint ed., Berkeley; University of California Press, 2001.

Esther McCoy, Five California Architects, 1960, reprint ed., New York: Praeger, 1975.

Barbara Lamprecht, Richard Neutra, Cologne: Taschen, 2004 1999.

Elizabeth A. T. Smith. Case Study Houses: 1945-1966. Cologne: Taschen, 2007.

Blackboard Readjngs

#### OPTIONAL READING:

Barbara Goldstein, ed., Arts and Architecture: The Entenza Years, with an essay by Esther McCoy, 1990, reprint ed., Santa Monica, Hennessey and Ingalls, 1998.

Campbell-Lange, Barbara Ann, John Lautner, Cologne: Taschen, 1999.

James Steele, R. M. Schindler: 1887-1953; An Exploration of Space, Cologne: Taschen, 1999.

#### READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Weekly reading assignments are listed in the lecture schedule in this syllabus. These readings should be completed before the lecture under which they are listed.

## **BUILDING REVIEW:**

Choose a building on the USC Campus, from a list of which will be distributed in class, and write a 5-7 page paper on it. This can include your own observations on its form and style and their historical sources, as well as research in the University Archives and other historical sources. Be sure to cite all sources appropriately with footnotes or endnotes and bibliography. **DUE FEBRUARY 7**

## **REYNER BANHAM BOOK REVIEW:**

Write a 5-7 page book review of Reyner Banham, Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies. **DUE MARCH 21**

## **SEMESTER RESEARCH PAPER:**

During the course of the semester you will be responsible for researching and documenting a specific local building, building type, or urban space. Possible topics, methods for developing bibliographies, documenting buildings, and evolving an appropriate research model will be discussed as the semester evolves. The instructor must approve topics in advance.

Each student will be required to submit a one-page description of the paper topic and preliminary bibliography on **March 2**. A ten-page typed, double-spaced paper, with **appropriate footnotes** and an expanded bibliography. **DUE APRIL 27**

## **GRADING:**

Building Review: **15%**  
Book Review: 15%  
Final Research Paper: 25 %  
Final Exam: 35%

## **ATTENDANCE:**

Medical or family emergencies and religious holidays are the only acceptable excuses for make-up exams, acceptance of late assignments and the granting of incomplete grades. More than **two** unexcused absences will result in **a failing grade** for the class.

## **STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

## STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>. Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>.

## CLASS SCHEDULE

### JAN 10      **Reyner Banham Loves LA**

BEGIN READING Banham, Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies; and "Reyner Banham Loves LA," can be viewed at <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1524953392810656786#>

### JAN 12      **Defining Place**

### JAN 17      **MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY-NO CLASS**

### JAN 19      **American Regionalism and the Mission Revival**

Reading 1. Thomas S. Hines, "Los Angeles Architecture: The Issue of Tradition in a Twentieth-Century City;"; Reading 2. Robert Judson Clark, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930;"; and Reading 3. Roberto Lint-Sagarena, "Building California's Past: Mission Revival Architecture and Regional Identity"

### JAN 24-26   **The Arts and Crafts Movement and Japan**

McCoy, "Greene and Greene," Five California Architects, pp. 103-147; Reading 4. Robert Winter, ed., "Introduction," Toward a Simpler Way of Life; and Reading 5. John Mack Faragher "Bungalow and Ranch House: The Architectural Backwash of California"

### JAN 31      **Irving Gill**

McCoy, "Irving Gill," Five California Architects, pp. 59-100

### FEB 2        **NO CLASS**

### FEB 7        **Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue and the Spanish Colonial Revival BUILDING REVIEW PAPER DUE**

Reading 6. David Gebhard, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California (1895-1930)"

**FEB 9 Frank Lloyd Wright in LA**

Reading 7. Kathryn Smith, "Frank Lloyd Wright, Hollyhock House, and Olive Hill, 1914-1924;" Reading 8. Robert Sweeney, chapter 3, "Improvements and Changes in Block Technique;" and Reading 9. Jeffrey M. Chusid, "Frank Lloyd Wright's Textile Block System: The Freeman House"

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12: CLASS FIELD TRIP**

**FEB 14 R. M. Schindler in the early 20s**

McCoy, "R. M. Schindler," Five California Architects, pp. 149-67; Reading 10. Reyner Banham, "The Master Builders;" and Reading 11. Stephanos Polyzoides, "The Schindler-Chase Duplex and Architecture;" Reading 12. Kathryn Smith, "Chicago—Los Angeles: The Concrete Connection;" and Reading 13. Roger Hatheway and John Chase, "Irving Gill and the Aiken System," in Kathryn Smith, et al., Concrete in California, pp. 21-28

**FEB 16 The Persistence of Historicism and its Alternatives in the 1920s**

**FEB 21 PRESIDENT'S DAY-NO CLASS**

**FEB 23-28 City Planning: The Intersection of the City Beautiful and the Automobile in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara**

Reading 14. Richard Longstreth, "Fabulous Boulevard"

**MAR 2 Austria and LA: Richard Neutra in the later 20s/  
PAPER TOPIC AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

Barbara Lamprecht, Richard Neutra, pp. 7-27; and Reading 15. Thomas S. Hines, "Rationalism and Reintegration: 1920-1980"

**MAR 7 Building During the Great Depression**

McCoy, "R. M. Schindler," Five California Architects, pp. 168-78; Lamprecht, Richard Neutra, pp. 29-45; and Reading 16. Esther McCoy, "Gregory Ain"

**MAR 9 The Garden City**

Reading 17. Cory Buckner, A. Quincy Jones

**MAR 14-16 SPRING BREAK**

**MAR 21 World War II and the Dream of Mass-produced Housing  
BUILDING REVIEW DUE**

18. Dolores Hayden, Model Houses for the Millions: Architects' Dreams, Builders' Boasts, Residents' Dilemmas; and Reading 19. Excerpt from D J. Waldie, Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir

**MAR 23      The Case Study Program I**

Elizabeth A. T. Smith. Case Study Houses: 1945-1966, pp.-1- 57

**MAR 28      Schindler and Neutra after the War**

McCoy, "R. M. Schindler," Five California Architects, pp. 149-193; and Barbara Lamprecht, Richard Neutra, pp. 47-96

**MAR 30-APR 4      The Post-War House**

Elizabeth A. T. Smith. Case Study Houses: 1945-1966, pp. 57-95; and review Reading 5. John Mack Faragher "Bungalow and Ranch House: The Architectural Backwash of California;" and Reading 20. What is a Ranch House?" and 'History of the Ranch House,"

**APR 6          Corporate Modernism and Urban Renewal in the 50s and 60s**

**APR 11-13      NO CLASS**

**APR 18          Building on the Fringe: Lloyd Wright and John Lautner**

Reading 21. Excerpts from Barbara Ann Campbell-Lange, John Lautner, 1911-1994: Disappearing Space

**APR 20          "Post Modernism"**

**LOOK AT** Banham, Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies AGAIN!; and Reading. 22. Reyner Banham, "Building Inside Out"

**SATURDAY, APRIL 23: CLASS FIELD TRIP**

**APR 25          Frank Gehry and the "LA School?"**

Reading 23. Leon Whiteson, "Young Architects in Los Angeles. Social, Political and Cultural Context," and John Chase, "Modernism and the Los Angeles Vernacular"

**APR 27          Conclusion and Review**  
**SEMESTER RESEARCH PAPER DUE**

**MAY 9          FINAL EXAM: 8-10 AM**

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Became Southern California's pre-eminent architectural style in the wake of the Panama-California Exposition of 1915-1917. To house the San Diego exposition, architects Bertram Goodhue and Carleton Winslow designed a campus of buildings that blended elements of Mission Revival, Mexican, Spanish Baroque/Churrigueresque, and Islamic styles. 15. Midcentury Modern. After World War II, Los Angeles faced a housing shortage the likes of which it had never before seen. In response, architects of the day, many of them trained at USC, developed and championed a style of home that could be built relatively quickly using inexpensive, mass-produced materials. Modern home architecture officially kicked off in southern California with the introduction of the Case Study House Program in 1945 in "Arts and Architecture" magazine. That program featured new designs of post-war homes designed by architects who embraced modern materials and broke away from traditional home styles. Each of the homes in the program was intended to be reproduced by builders all over the country to fill the post-war housing shortage for returning soldiers. Legacy of Frank Lloyd Wright. Although the Case Study House Program is considered by many to be the official start of moder...

## MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN CALIFORNIA

FOREWORD Modern architecture in California is conspicuous for two reasons: the number and variety of the influences which have shaped its expression, and the opportunities for actual construction which it has enjoyed. The peculiar ebullience of the state which has produced the EPIC movement, the Vigilantes, Hollywood, the Four Square Gospel, the Red Menace and the Yellow Peril, has resulted in the encouragement of experimental and reactionary ideas in architecture, as well as in politics, religion and entertainment. A state whose only architectural tradition is one sympha