

The Ohio State University  
Program in Architecture

# Arch 5210

Autumn Semester 2014

Graf

## "Forms of Architectural Theory"

### Course Description:

This course focuses on the philosophical, ideological, and formal bases of architectural theory and criticism. The structure of the course is thematic and pluralistic. A synoptic review of western architectural history is used as a springboard for discussions on the nature of history, historicism, perception, idealism, the dual aspects of configurational continuity and change, formal systems of logic, interpretation, analytical strategies, and the nature of criticism and its methodologies. At the same time, case studies are presented which require course participants to search for various aspects of 'meaning' posed by architectural works and which demand increasing sophistication and incorporation of the issues developed in the readings, lecture, and class discussions.

### Course Objectives:

1. To re-open discussion of architectural theory while reviewing the history of architecture.
2. To pursue the history of philosophical arguments concerning the meaning of buildings as artifacts and their interpretation.
3. To construct critical techniques to provide tools for the analysis and reinterpretation of buildings.
4. To provide strategies for the discrimination between elements and relationships for the categorization of formal configurations and for illuminating systems of logic which develop meaning between elements categories and figures.
5. To develop familiarity with systems of organization and relationships within and between systems.
6. To explore the simultaneous existence of alternative interpretations of buildings and the consequences of reading, re-reading, and misreading the significant arguments made within systems of interpretation.

### Course Structure:

The class will meet for two discussions per week. One discussion will focus on issues which relate to the historical sequence established by the reading. One discussion will extend these arguments outside of chronology to larger areas of concern. The third discussion will involve a foray into more interpretive and more uncharted territory. Homework analyses will be assigned every other week and be due on Fridays of odd-numbered weeks. **No** late homeworks will be accepted. Reading assignments are to be completed by the date which accompanies their listing. Quizzes based on the readings, discussions, and homeworks will occur every Wednesday. A missed quiz **cannot** be made up except for the most extraordinary of emergencies. The lowest score for a quiz will be dropped from the final tally. There will be no midterm and no final. Grades will be based on homeworks, quizzes, and class performance. Midterm grades will be posted on Monday of the sixth week of class. Attendance at lectures is mandatory. Voluntary recitation periods will be scheduled and are available to those who might want them. Attendance must be arranged with the instructors for a particular recitation period during the first week of class.

Required Texts. Additional readings may be assigned:

Arnheim, Rudolf, **The Dynamics of Architectural Form**, University of California Press, Berkeley CA., 1977.

Honour, Hugh, and Fleming, John, **The Visual Arts: A History**, Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs NJ,

1986 et alia.

Rowe, Colin, **The Mathematics of the Ideal Villa**, MIT Press, Cambridge MA., 1974.