Ohio State University  
Knowlton School of Architecture  
ARCH 5798, May 2014  
US Architectural Exhibition, 10:100:1000  
Professor Ashley Schafer

**Description**

The last century of American architecture, as typically presented in museums and history books, is one of singular buildings and singular figures. Yet, a parallel history exists of largely under-examined buildings designed by US architects here and around the world. Under the guise of mass production, standardization and efficiency, this work has played an authoritative role in establishing the fundamentals of architecture today, quietly exporting ideological, social and material forms to every continent and culture. This course will study and participate in the design of the work of American architectural offices over the last 100 years (1914-2014) at 10 different scales and participate in the installation and exhibit of 1000 at the 2014 Venice Biennale. We will respond to Rem Koolhaas’ provocation that the Biennale be “about architecture, not architects,” and to explore his claim that modernism has produced the “erasure of national characteristics in favour of the almost universal adoption of a single modern language in a single repertoire of typologies.”

**Structure**

In preparation for the abroad portion of this course, students should have taken ARCH 5290, or an independent study to familiarize themselves with the content of the installation. Related readings will be posted on the classroom class site. Students in Venice will participate daily with teams of students from MIT, Columbia and Princeton in the design and installation of the exhibition in Venice. This may include, but not be limited to computer modeling, drawing and digital output, constructing large scale structures for hanging and display, participating in workshops on exhibition design and installation on site at the pavilion. One long weekend will be reserved for an independent excursion in Rome or Florence. Students will remain in Venice through the Vernissage events and participate fully in lectures, workshops and seminars.

**Requirements**

Students will complete preparatory reading prior to departure and production of binders. In Venice, students are expected to participate in installing and presenting of work for display in the US Pavilion.

**Grading**

50% project research and output  
50% participation

**Tentative Schedule**

May 9  
Students depart for Venice

May 10  
Students arrive in Venice, transfer via Vaparetto to apartments.

May 11  
Group meeting, Venice orientation, and tour of the Biennale Grounds

May 12-17  
Students meet with Professor Schafer and the full team at the US Pavilion from 10-6 each day to conduct research, design, and installation. Formal meetings at the beginning and end of each day for critique and instruction.

May 18  
Tour of the Venice Churches, with a focus on the Paintings of Titian  
Group dinner

May 19-23  
Research, design, and installation continues. Formal instructional meetings every am and pm.

May 24-26  
Independent Excursion to Rome or Venice

May 27  
Trip to Verona to see Castle Vecchio

June 1  
Research, design, and installation continues. Formal instructional meetings every am and pm.

June 3  
Team Celebration lunch

June 4-6  
Venice Biennale limited VIP opening, opening to the public and announcement of awards June 7