This seminar is designed to offer advanced students of architecture an in-depth view into the work of seminal architectural practitioners and theorists. This semester we highlight the work of Preston Scott Cohen. The course aims to reveal design motivations and techniques, understanding buildings as mental constructs rather than static objects. By closely looking at projects and interrogating the development of individual designs, students will decode Cohen’s unique design approach—the rigorous application of a sensibility that prefers the close integration of structure, technology and context through geometric mastery.

The seminar is interested in specifics rather than generalizations. Historically, architects have connected their work to the perennial issues of mass, volume and surface in a variety of ways. Cohen defines his relationship to these issues in highly specific ways. Learning to clearly identify the architectural ambitions and techniques that describe this relationship in each project is paramount. Thus we will look at Cohen’s projects through their many phases, teasing out their similarities and differences, in order to determine how these terms are theorized with precision throughout the work. We will also filter these projects through our understanding of prevalent contemporary leanings and will evaluate the projects in the context of a larger design problem. The course will survey a range of design tactics used for producing contemporary architecture, exploring the nuanced approaches of a single architect and examining their arsenal of tricks.

The seminar will combine lectures, discussion and design exercises to acutely focus on the dynamics of the reviewed work. In addition to weekly readings, each student will interrogate a single work, produce a three-dimensional drawing that accentuates spatial relationships and lead productive discussions that situate the projects in relation to the arc of a career, the creative process and cultural status. Through experimentation with drawing and modeling, students will learn to evaluate, synthesize and critique a body of work.

**Selected Projects:** [2 students per project – 1 Volume, 1 Mass]

House on Longboat Key, Florida. 1985-92
Cornered House, Florida. 1991-92
Patterns for Head Start Facilities. 1994
The Expansion of the Museo del Prado. 1996
Torus House, Columbia County, New York. 1998-2000
Wu House, Burson, California. 2000
Goodman House, Pine Plains, NY 2004
Stockholm Library Competition, 2006
Sanya High-Tech Office Park, Sanya, China 2007-2009
Nanjing Performing Arts Center, Nanjing, China 2007-2009
ORDOS House 100, Inner Mongolia, China. 2008-09
Tel Aviv Art Museum, Tel Aviv, 2007-11 / Light Fall
Taiyuan Art Museum, 2007-13
Datong Library, Datong, China 2009-2013
## BAUMER SEMINAR SCHEDULE

### Week 01
August 28th  
* PRACTICE  
00 INTRODUCTION [balliet]  
_00 THEORY  
00 INTRODUCTION [diles]

### Week 02
September 4th  
* PRACTICE -  
01 PROJECTION

**Readings:**
- Michael Weinstock, “Stereotomic Permutations”, AA Files, No. 31 (Summer 1996), pp. 94-96

**Projects:**
- Patterns for Head Start Facilities. 1994 / The Expansion of the Museo Del Prado. 1996

### Week 03
September 11th  
* PRACTICE -  
02 PREDICAMENTS / ANOMALIES

**Readings:**

**Projects:**
- Torus House, Columbia County, New York. 1998-2000  // ORDOS 100, Inner Mongolia, China. 2008-09

### Week 04
September 18th  
* PRACTICE -  
03 GEOMETRY

**Readings:**

**Projects:**

### Week 05
September 25th  
NO CLASS  
[VENICE]

### Week 06
October 2nd  
* PRACTICE -  
04 VOID / THRESHOLD

**Readings:**

**Projects:**
BAUMER SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Week 09
October 23rd  * PRACTICE - 05 CONSTRAINTS

Readings:
Preston Scott Cohen, “Guggenheim Inversion”, 2012

Projects:
Tel Aviv Art Museum, Tel Aviv, 2007-11 // Taiyuan Art Museum, 2007-13
Nanjing Performing Arts Center, Nanjing, China 2007-2009 // Datong Library, Datong, China 2009-2013

Week 10
October 26th -27th  * PRACTICE - 06 PRESTON SCOTT COHEN VISIT 01
*Sunday + Monday*

Readings:
Preston Scott Cohen, “Successive Architecture”, in progress

Week 11
November 2nd -3rd  * PRACTICE - 07 PRESTON SCOTT COHEN VISIT 02
*Sunday + Monday*

FINAL DRAWING REVIEW

November 6th 03_THEORY -

Week 12
November 13th 04_THEORY -

Week 13
November 20th 05_THEORY -

Week 14
November 27th NO CLASS 06_THEORY - 03_THEORY - [THANKSGIVING]

Week 15
December 4th 06_THEORY -

January 2015 07_THEORY - BENJAMIN BRATTON VISIT
Exact Date- TBD

Location: Knowlton 0177, 1pm – 3pm Thursday
Instruction:
Practice: Assistant Professor – Kristy Balliet – balliet.5@osu.edu
Theory: Assistant Professor – Justin Diles – diles.8@osu.edu

Requirements:
Complete all assigned readings before the associated class. Create and submit 3 highlighted points from the reading selection for discussion. Students will be asked to participate in and sometimes lead discussions.
Design, development and completion of projects is required.
Grading:
50% Class Participation/Attendance, Discussion Points, Project Presentation
50% Project Development / Final Project

*Readings and Tasks should be prepared for the date of the class they are listed under.