

Arch 7220

Spring Semester 2014
Fifth Year Seminar

Graf

OBJECTION

The Modern Object/Project

Objectives:

This seminar will look at the evolution of 20th century criticism as evidenced, on the one hand, by a series of canonic texts, and on the other, by the close inspection of a series of buildings and projects that can be used to either reveal or dispel the textual arguments. We will also look at the relationship between what might be thought of as passive critical activities and the active production of designs, and the distinctions or absence of distinctions between these two activities and the role of influence and the history of a few canonic projects, comparing early 20th C buildings with mid-century and more recent examples. The seminar will also investigate the role of influence on critical arguments and critical design over the course of the century and the sometimes surprising role of history and antecedent in framing contemporary arguments. The seminar will also look at the affinities and some of the connections that link architectural criticism with modern criticism in general, and with literary criticism in particular, with especial regard to the readings from Arch 801 and 802 with regard to sources, influences, tendencies, affinities, etc.

Prerequisites:

Required of all 5th year students in the program in architecture, open to other graduate students only by permission of instructor.

Reading List:

Theory and Design in the First Machine Age, Reyner Banham, MIT Press, 1980 or later
ISBN-10: 0262520583
ISBN-13: 978-0262520584

Essays in Architectural Criticism, Alan Colquhoun, MIT Press, 1981 or later
IBSN 0-262-53063-5

Modernity and the Classical Tradition, Alan Colquhoun, MIT Press, 1989 or later
IBSN 0-262-03138-8 or paperback

Seven Types of Ambiguity, William Empson, New Directions, 1966,
ISBN-13: 978-0811200370

The Anatomy of Criticism, Northrup Frye, Princeton University Press, 2000
ISBN-10: 0691069999

Architecture in the Age of Reason, Emil Kaufmann, Dover, 1979 or other
ISBN-10: 0486219283
ISBN-13: 978-0486219288

Pioneers of Modern Design, Nicholas Pevsner, Yale University Press, 2005 or earlier
ISBN-10: 0300105711
ISBN-13: 978-0300105711

Mathematics of the Ideal Villa and Other Essays, Colin Rowe, MIT Press, 1982 or later. ISBN 0-262-68037-8

Collage City, Colin Rowe and Fred Koetter, MIT Press, 1984 or later
ISBN-10: 0262680424
ISBN-13: 978-0262680424

Complexity and Contradiction, Robert Venturi, Museum of Modern Art, 2002
ISBN-10: 0870702823
ISBN-13: 978-0870702822

Histories of the Immediate Present, Anthony Vidler, MIT Press, 2008
ISBN-10: 0262720515
ISBN-13: 978-0262720519

The Other Tradition of Modern Architecture, Colin St. John Wilson, Academy Editions, 1995
IBSN 1-85490-412-4

ANALYSIS PROBLEMS:

Seminar participants should sign up for one of the buildings we will be looking at closely during the class. The building should be analyzed in terms of meaning systems, references, motifs, themes, and devices. Although each student is responsible for writing a paper about one of the buildings, he or she should be familiar with all the others and be able to make significant relationships between them. Presentations will be staggered throughout the quarter, so that earlier versions of the house analyses will be followed by later ones, which should be expected to be more sophisticated. Connections should also be made between the houses and the theory readings we will be discussing during the quarter. Presentations during the class will be power point or the equivalent and be made available on the homework drive. Hard copies and discs will be handed in at the end of the quarter. Papers will be due by 5pm of the Tuesday of exam week.

The buildings and their architects-

1. The Second Wagner Villa, Otto Wagner
2. Villa Vaucresson, Le Corbusier
3. Villa Snellman, Gunnar Asplund
4. The Vanna Venturi House, Robert Venturi
5. The Smith House, Richard Meier
6. The Aalto Studio, Alvar Aalto
7. The Gwathmey House, Charles Gwathmey
8. The Miller House, Jose Oubrerie

GRADING: EVERY WEEK WILL HAVE ASSIGNED READINGS AND ANALYSIS PROBLEMS WHICH ARE TO BE COMPLETED BY THE BEGINNING OF SEMINAR. THERE MAY ALSO BE A QUIZ EVERY WEEK, AS WELL AS TWO EXTENDED PERIODS OF CLASS DISCUSSION- ONE TO DISCUSS THE READING, ONE TO DISCUSS THE HOMEWORK ANALYSES. DURING THE COURSE OF THE QUARTER, VARIOUS INDIVIDUALS WILL BE ASKED TO SHARE THEIR ANALYSES WITH THE CLASS WITH MATERIAL ORGANIZED FOR A POWERPOINT PRESENTATION. EVERY WEEK, ALL ANALYSES WILL BE TURNED INTO THE INSTRUCTOR AT THE END OF THE CLASS PERIOD. EACH PARTICIPANT WILL RECEIVE A GRADE BASED ON WEEKLY QUIZZES (25%), WEEKLY ANALYSES (25%), OCCASIONAL PRESENTATIONS (10%), THE FINAL PAPER (30%), AND THE QUALITY OF CLASS PARTICIPATION (10%).

CLASS FORMAT: THE SEMINAR WILL MEET ONCE A WEEK TO REVIEW THE READINGS, LISTEN TO THE PRESENTATIONS, AND DISCUSS THE RELEVANT ISSUES RAISED BY EACH. EACH STUDENT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR A CAREFUL ANALYSIS OF A PARTICULAR BUILDING. A REPORT WILL BE MADE DURING THE QUARTER ON THE ANALYSIS IN ITS CURRENT STATE. AS THE COURSE PROGRESSES THE ANALYSES SHOULD ALSO ADVANCE, INCORPORATING NEW DISCOVERIES, COMPARISONS, ANALOGIES, NARRATIVES, PRECEDENTS, INFLUENCES, STRATEGIES, ETC., AND DEVELOPING CLOSE COMPARISONS WITH THE OTHER BUILDINGS THE CLASS IS LOOKING AT.

SEMINAR REQUIREMENTS: SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE READING, PARTICIPATING IN CLASS DISCUSSIONS, AND PREPARATION A PAPER THAT LOOKS CLOSELY AT THE FORMAL STRUCTURES PRESENT IN THE BUILDINGS THEY ARE ASSIGNED TO ANALYZE. READING IS TO BE COMPLETED BY THE TIME THE MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCUSSED IN SEMINAR. THE PAPER WILL BE PRESENTED ORALLY AT SOME TIME DURING THE COURSE AND WILL BE DUE AT THE COMPLETION OF THE COURSE AS A PAPER VERSION AND DISC, TO BE PLACED IN THE INSTRUCTOR'S MAILBOX BY THE END OF EXAM WEEK.

EVALUATION: THE WORK OF THE SEMINAR IS BOTH INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE. EVALUATION WILL INCLUDE NOT ONLY THE SEMINAR PAPER, BUT THE STUDENT'S QUALITY OF PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSION OF THE READINGS AND THE OTHER TOPICS THAT EVOLVE OVER THE COURSE OF THE QUARTER. GRADING IS BASED ON COMPARISON WITH OTHER STUDENTS IN THE COURSE, WITH STUDENTS WHO HAVE TAKEN THE COURSE PREVIOUSLY, AND WITH THE INSTRUCTOR'S EXPECTATIONS RELATIVE TO THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE. FOR AN "A", THE STUDENT MUST SATISFY THE SEMINAR OBJECTIVES EXCELLENTLY; FOR A "B", IN AN ABOVE AVERAGE MANNER; FOR A "C", IN AN AVERAGE MANNER; FOR A "D", IN THE LOWEST ACCEPTABLE MANNER; AND AN "F" DENOTES THAT A STUDENT HAS NOT SATISFIED THE COURSE OBJECTIVES.

DEADLINES: STUDENTS WHO MISS SEMINAR MEETING OR PAPER DEADLINES DUE TO VALID EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES MAY SUBMIT THE REQUIRED PAPER AT A DATE AGREED UPON WITH THE INSTRUCTOR. UNIVERSITY REGULATIONS LIMIT SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES TO SERIOUS PERSONAL ILLNESS AND DEATH OF AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER, AND BOTH CASES REQUIRE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION: A DOCTOR'S NOTE OR A NEWSPAPER OBITUARY. UNEXCUSED LATE PAPERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. AN ABSENCE FROM A SEMINAR MEETING WILL ALSO REQUIRE WRITTEN DOCUMENTATION SIMILAR TO THAT FOR A LATE PAPER.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT: THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY, WHICH APPLIES TO ALL FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND STAFF, INCLUDES LEWD REMARKS AND INAPPROPRIATE COMMENTS MADE IN THE CLASSROOM, AS WELL AS THE "DISPLAY OF INAPPROPRIATE SEXUALLY ORIENTED MATERIALS IN A LOCATION WHERE OTHERS CAN SEE IT." STUDENTS CAN FILE A COMPLAINT BY CONTACTING STUDENT JUDICIAL AFFAIRS AT 292-0748. SANCTIONS INCLUDE REPRIMAND, SUSPENSION, AND DISMISSAL FROM THE UNIVERSITY.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: IF A STUDENT REQUIRES ACCOMMODATION FOR A DISABILITY, HE OR SHE SHOULD IMMEDIATELY ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT WITH HIS OR HER PROFESSOR AND THE OFFICE FOR

DISABILITY SERVICES. AT THE APPOINTMENT, THE PROFESSORS, DISABILITY COUNSELORS, AND STUDENT CAN DISCUSS THE COURSE FORMAT, ANTICIPATE NEEDS, AND DECIDE UPON ACCOMMODATIONS. PROFESSORS RELY ON THE OFFICE FOR DISABILITY SERVICES FOR ASSISTANCE IN VERIFYING THE NEED FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND DEVELOPING ACCOMMODATION STRATEGIES.