

LARCH 5194 Landscape Ideals: A Seminar

Instructor name: Deborah Georg
Year and term: AU 13
Meeting time: T TH 3:55-5:15
Meeting location: KN Studio

COURSE INFORMATION

DESCRIPTION

Landscape practice is based on systemic readings and operations. It concerns both physical context and time, engaging fluxes of water, vegetation, infrastructure, and humans across site boundaries, and projecting across seasons and decades. Yet, when teaching design we typically rely on the contemporary and immediate past for case studies, as if projects were indelibly stamped with the time of their creation. This seminar examines the notion of landscape ideal as a means to engage both contemporary practice and history. Studying the terrain—physical and professional—of landscape architecture in space and time, we will tease out attitudes toward topography and vegetation and underscore the resilience of landscape ideals. Alternating between visuals and readings, presentations and discussions, we will engage themes such as nature in the city; the wild; landscape and memory; the picturesque; landscape and meaning; morals and hygiene; and landscape in motion

FORMAT

- 1) **DISCUSSIONS / RESEARCH** Students are required to discuss weekly readings. In an effort to identify themes and develop questions for discussions, students should establish a list of relevant keywords and familiarize themselves with the authors and context of assigned readings. Please refer to handout to elaborate questions/comments fostering discussions. Discussions will also cover the research carried out by students on specific designers and projects: this is an ongoing process as research will evolve according to thematic developments and discussions.
- 2) **PROJECT** By mid-semester, students will have identified a theme to be developed and presented to the rest of the class within the final weeks. The product of your research will be delivered as a 20-minute lecture supported by visuals. This presentation will be LANDSCAPE IDEALS_2_AUTUMN 2014 discussed in class and subsequently revised into a final pdf and a printed booklet (8.5x11) with bibliography.