TOPICS IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

PLEASE NOTE THAT I WILL BE MAKING SOME MINOR CHANGES TO THIS OVER BREAK, BUT THERE WILL NOT BE CHANGES TO ASSIGNMENTS OR DUE DATES

ARCH 404: 3 units, Spring 2011
Watt 212: M-W 10-11:50
Ken Breisch: breisch@usc.edu
Office Hours:  Watt 326, Monday: 12-1; or to be arranged

Architecture 404 examines the impact of the environment, culture and politics on the evolution of architecture and urban planning in Southern California in the 20th century. It explores the interchange between European modernism and local vernacular influences as they came together to create new regional architectural and urban forms. Lectures examine a series of case studies in order to more closely explore the complexity of these developments.

There will be class field trips on Saturday February 12 and Saturday April 23 in order to examine first hand Los Angeles's rich architectural heritage.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

REQUIRED TEXTS:


Blackboard Readings

OPTIONAL READING:


READING ASSIGNMENTS:

Weekly reading assignments are listed in the lecture schedule in this syllabus. These readings should be completed before the lecture under which they are listed.
BUILDING REVIEW:

Choose a building on the USC Campus, from a list of which will be distributed in class, and write a 5-7 page paper on it. This can include your own observations on its form and style and their historical sources, as well as research in the University Archives and other historical sources. Be sure to cite all sources appropriately with footnotes or endnotes and bibliography. **DUE FEBRUARY 7**

REYNER BANHAM BOOK REVIEW:


SEMESTER RESEARCH PAPER:

During the course of the semester you will be responsible for researching and documenting a specific local building, building type, or urban space. Possible topics, methods for developing bibliographies, documenting buildings, and evolving an appropriate research model will be discussed as the semester evolves. The instructor must approve topics in advance.

Each student will be required to submit a one-page description of the paper topic and preliminary bibliography on **March 2**. A ten-page typed, double-spaced paper, with appropriate footnotes and an expanded bibliography. **DUE APRIL 27**

GRADING:

- Building Review: 15%
- Book Review: 15%
- Final Research Paper: 25%
- Final Exam: 35%

ATTENDANCE:

Medical or family emergencies and religious holidays are the only acceptable excuses for make-up exams, acceptance of late assignments and the granting of incomplete grades. More than two unexcused absences will result in a failing grade for the class.

STATEMENT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained from DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me (or to TA) as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.
STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one’s own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another’s work as one’s own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles. *Scampus*, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: [http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/](http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/). Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: [http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/](http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/).

CLASS SCHEDULE

JAN 10  Reyner Banham Loves LA


JAN 12  Defining Place

JAN 17  MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY—NO CLASS

JAN 19  American Regionalism and the Mission Revival


JAN 24-26  The Arts and Crafts Movement and Japan


JAN 31  Irving Gill

McCoy, “Irving Gill,” *Five California Architects*, pp. 59-100

FEB 2  NO CLASS

FEB 7  Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue and the Spanish Colonial Revival

BUILDING REVIEW PAPER DUE

Reading 6. David Gebhard, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California (1895-1930)"
FEB 9  Frank Lloyd Wright in LA


SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 12: CLASS FIELD TRIP

FEB 14  R. M. Schindler in the early 20s


FEB 16  The Persistence of Historicism and its Alternatives in the 1920s

FEB 21  PRESIDENT’S DAY-NO CLASS

FEB 23-28  City Planning: The Intersection of the City Beautiful and the Automobile in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara

Reading 14. Richard Longstreth, “Fabulous Boulevard”

MAR 2  Austria and LA: Richard Neutra in the later 20s/
PAPER TOPIC AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE


MAR 7  Building During the Great Depression


MAR 9  The Garden City

Reading 17. Cory Buckner, A. Quincy Jones

MAR 14-16  SPRING BREAK

MAR 21  World War II and the Dream of Mass-produced Housing
BUILDING REVIEW DUE

MAR 23  The Case Study Program I

MAR 28  Schindler and Neutra after the War

MAR 30-APR 4  The Post-War House

APR 6  Corporate Modernism and Urban Renewal in the 50s and 60s

APR 11-13  NO CLASS

APR 18  Building on the Fringe: Lloyd Wright and John Lautner

APR 20  “Post Modernism”

SATURDAY, APRIL 23: CLASS FIELD TRIP

APR 25  Frank Gehry and the “LA School?”

APR 27  Conclusion and Review
SEMMESTER RESEARCH PAPER DUE

MAY 9  FINAL EXAM: 8-10 AM
BIBLIOGRAPHY

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SPECIFIC ARCHITECTS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND THEIR WORK

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California has always been linked with the idea of American possibility. It’s the sun-drenched place where you go to leave the stuffy, decaying old world for a new life. But not everything here is shiny, new and full of potential. Drive deep into the deserted corners of Southern California and you’ll find dreams that flickered to life briefly and then faded away. Places once destined for greatness that have disintegrated into modern ruins. These aren’t Wild West ghost towns but more recent vestiges of the 20th century. These long-forgotten places are being discovered anew by artists and curios