

**(Some) Americans in Paris**

ARCH 580  
4 Units  
Architecture: Travel  
Summer 2017  
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*Paris, City of light.*

**DRAFT 2017-02-22**

**DISCUSSION: PLACE - PERCEPTION - MATERIAL**

Architecture has always been a physical materialization of history and culture, as well as technology. Any architectural work, from a cathedral to a museum or an airport terminal, tells us much about the culture and history of a place at that time. A train station in Paris tells us about the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Empire, the technology of transportation, the history of iron and steel technologies, and the development of political centralism.

Paris, like few other European capitals, tells us about its history through its architecture. The palette is very wide from Roman times (even pre-Roman) to today's technology. The city has been layering its urban planning, its arts, its architectural materialization. All that is in front of us is ready to tell us stories, from peace to war, occupations, exterior influences, and the like.

Paradoxically, Paris is well known as the City of Light: a cultural and economic capital of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it still manages to be alive and constantly renew itself. It is a capital of modernity and new technologies. The city is a complex being with many interactions. We live in it, use it and see it everyday day, but do we know about it? Do we understand it in its complexity?

**THE COURSE:**

This course will require a multifaceted understanding of a designer's relationship with history and space. It is almost a police investigation: discovering the city and understanding it as well. This is of course a personal investigation, so each interpretation will be somewhat personal too.

One focus of the studio will be a new consideration of the Seine river banks. The city, at a climactic point in the 1970's, disconnected itself from the river. You can use it with boats, pass over it, but it is almost impossible to experience it at the fringe of the banks. The success of the city summer program "Paris Plage" is an obvious example: the freeway is closed in summer and replaced by a beach-like atmosphere for tourists and "Parisiens" stuck in the city.

**Travel**

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Saturday June 3   | Departure from LAX or wherever you are  |
| Sunday June 4     | Arrive Paris (at latest), check in at apartment. Jetlag adjustment.   |
| Monday June 5     | Le Marais, Les Halles, Centre Pompidou: a promenade. Meet at 10am on the right side of the Plaza while facing the Pompidou Centre, just nearby the Cafe Beaubourg.          |
| Tuesday June 6    | La Villette: the park, les folies, Science museum, Philharmonie (Nouvel), Cité de la Musique. Walk along the canals. PCF Headquarters. La Rotonde (Ledoux).                 |
| Wednesday June 7  | Le Louvre, Les Tuilleries. The river banks from Orsay to the Eiffel Tower. Quai Branly, Palais de Tokyo.  |
| Thursday June 8   | Pavillon Suisse, University, Pathé – or – out-of town to Louvre Lens (TBD)  |
| Friday June 9     | La Defense. Fondation Louis Vuitton. Class stops at 2pm.  |
| Saturday June 10  | Villa Savoye in Poissy. Les Batignoles: new public park and development. Flower Tower, Palais de Justice.   |
| Sunday June 11    | FREE DAY: Versailles, Eiffel Tower etc...   |
| Monday June 12    | The river banks: from Bercy to Park Citroën by boat. Fondation Le Corbusier, Guimard, Mallet-Stevens.   |
| Tuesday June 13   | Bibliothèque Nationale (Labrouste), the Arcades, "Les Grands Boulevards," the Opera.  |
| Wednesday June 14 | The river banks: Île St. Louis and Île de la Cité. Institut du Monde Arabe, Pavillon de l'Arsenal.  |
| Thursday June 15  | St. Germain and Le Luxembourg, Bibliothèque Ste. Geneviève, Maison de Verre. Lèche vitrine, Paris a shopping experience: Les Grands Magasins. Rue Vavin, Fondation Cartier. |
| Friday June 16    | Bercy and the F. Mitterand library district. Cité de Refuge de l'Armée du Salut. Maison Planeix, Ivry (TBD)   |
| Saturday June 17  | Departure for Copenhagen. Old city: Tivoli, SAS, Black Diamond, Circle Bridge.  |
| Sunday June 18    | Copenhagen north: Louisiana & Maritime museums, Superkilen, Ordrupgaard.  |
| Monday June 19    | Copenhagen south: Bicycle Snake, Gemini, Concert Hall, Ørestads housing (BIG etc); Maritime Youth House   |
| Tuesday June 20   | Copenhagen: office visits; back to Paris.   |

- official end of ARCH 580 -

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| travel           | Saturday June 3 - Tuesday June 20 [18 days]    |
| companion studio | Wednesday June 21 – Saturday July 29 [39 days] |

## **SITE VISITS WILL INCLUDE:**

Jean Nouvel's office  
Lacaton Vassal's office  
La Villette park by Bernard Tschumi  
Citroën park by Gilles Clement and Patrick Berger  
Pompidou Center by Piano Rogers  
Institut du Monde Arabe by Jean Nouvel  
Fondation Cartier by Jean Nouvel  
Villa Savoye by Le Corbusier (in Poissy, Paris suburb)  
Fondation Le Corbusier  
F. Mitterand Library and its surroundings  
Tracking Ledoux and Le Corbusier

## **SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

### **Paris architecture**

Philippe Simmon                      Paris Visite guide. (Picard, Paris 2007)  
Walter Benjamin                      The Arcades Project. (Harvard University, Boston 1999)  
Collectif                                  Dehors Paris. (Pyramid, Paris 2010)

### **Philosophy**

Roland Barthes                        Mythologies. (Hill and Wang, New York 1972)  
Gaston Bachelard                      The Poetics of Space. (Beacon Press, Boston 1964)

### **Landscapes and parks**

Gilles Clement, Philippe Rahm Environ(ne)ment. (CCA Skira, Montreal 2006)  
Gilles Clement                        Manifeste du tiers paysage. (Sujet Objet, Paris 2004) in English anytime soon

### **Urbanism**

Marcel Poete                            Introduction a l'urbanisme (Sens&Tonka, Paris 2000) only in French

### **Architecture**

Le Corbusier                            Towards an Architecture. (Cres et Cie, Paris 1923)  
Jean-Louis Cohen                      Le Corbusier. (Taschen, Cologne 2004)  
Jean-Louis Cohen                      Modern Architectures in History: France. (Reaktion, London 2015)  
Collectif                                  Robert Mallet-Stevens. (EAA Moderne AMC, Paris 1980)  
Farshid Moussavi                      The Function of Ornament. (Actar, Barcelona 2008)  
Praxis 9                                  Expanding Surface. (Praxis, Columbus OH 2007)  
Gail Borden, Michael Meredith Matter: Material Processes in Material Production. (Routledge 2011)

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Analytical Maps + Time**

During travel, students will be expected to do analytical maps of the sites and experiences we accumulate. Done on, and between sites, they attempt a digestion of the visceral experiences of the visits.

**Promenade mapping**

As a responsive mechanism, students will do temporary promenade mapping. These will culminate in a map, an element containing the sites and experiences of the travel.

**Portfolio**

The portfolio will consist of the journal, [visual and textual] of the travel and will serve as an associated two-dimensional documentary and analysis complimenting the portable landscape.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Grading** Final grade evaluations for this course will be based on the following breakdown:

|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Attendance and participation         | 20% |
| Sketches, drawings, photos, diagrams | 40% |
| Final Assignment                     | 40% |

Attendance: Because essential course materials and concepts are discussed during class time, attendance at all preparatory meetings, class lectures and reviews is essential and required. Due to the short nature of the schedule, more than one absence during the course of the semester will jeopardize successful completion of the course and will reflect negatively in the student's final course grade.

**Statement for Students with Disabilities:** Any student requesting academic accommodations based on a disability is required to register with the Disability Services 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 as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open from 8:30 – 5:00, 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/>

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/>