

TOPICS IN MODERN ARCHITECTURE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

ARCH 404: 3 units, Spring 2012

Watt 212: M-W 10-11:50

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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 also be two class Saturday field trips TBA

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Reyner Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, 1971, reprint ed., Berkeley; University of California Press, 2001.

Esther McCoy, *Five California Architects*, 1960, reprint ed., New York: Praeger, 1975.

Barbara Lamprecht, *Richard Neutra*, Cologne: Taschen, 2004 1999.

Elizabeth A. T. Smith. *Case Study Houses: 1945-1966*. Cologne: Taschen, 2007.

Readings on Blackboard

OPTIONAL READING:

Barbara Goldstein, ed., *Arts and Architecture: The Entenza Years*, with an essay by Esther McCoy, 1990, reprint ed., Santa Monica, Hennessey and Ingalls, 1998.

Campbell-Lange, Barbara Ann, *John Lautner*, Cologne: Taschen, 1999.

James Steele, *R. M. Schindler: 1887-1953; An Exploration of Space*, Cologne: Taschen, 1999.

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.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

EXHIBITION REVIEW I

Write a 5-7 page typed, double-spaced review of the exhibition *Sympathetic Seeing: Esther McCoy and the Heart of American Modernist Architecture and Design*, which is currently on view at the Schindler House and Studio in West Hollywood. **THIS PAPER WILL BE DUE FEBRUARY 8.**

For sample exhibition reviews see Blackboard Reading 28. Ken Breisch, Review of the Exhibition, "Between Earth and Heaven

The Schindler House is open Wed–Sun 11 a.m.–6 p.m, & **the exhibition will close on January 29**. See: http://www.makcenter.org/MAK_General_Info.php

EXHIBITION REVIEW II

Write a 5-7 page typed, double-spaced review of the exhibition "Living in a Modern Way: California Design, 1930–1965," which is currently on view at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. THIS PAPER WILL BE DUE MARCH 7.

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 **FEBRUARY 29** (you only get to do this once every 4 years!).

A ten-page typed, double-spaced paper with **appropriate citations** and an expanded bibliography will be due **APRIL 25**

FINAL TAKE-HOME EXAM

A take-home exam will be distributed on the last day of class (April 25). It will be due **in class at 8 AM, May 7**. It will consist of a 5 page, typed- essay and two-short 1-2 page essays.

GRADING:

Exhibition Review I: **15%**

Exhibition Review II: **15%**

Final Research Paper, including preliminary bibliography: **35%**

Final Exam: **35%**

ATTENDANCE:

Following the approved school policy, 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. For each unexcused absence beyond **two**, students' final grades will be lowered by one-half letter grade.

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/>. 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/>.

CLASS SCHEDULE

JAN 9 Reyner Banham Loves LA

BEGIN READING Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*. The BBC TV Show "Reyner Banham Loves LA," can be viewed at: <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=1524953392810656786#>

JAN 11 Defining Place

BLKBRD 1. Robert Judson Clark, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930"

JAN 16 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY-NO CLASS

BLKBRD 2. Thomas S. Hines, "Los Angeles Architecture: The Issue of Tradition in a Twentieth-Century City;" BLKBRD 3, Roberto Lint-Sagarena, "Building California's Past: Mission Revival Architecture and Regional Identity"

JAN 18 American Regionalism and the Mission Revival

BLKBRD 4. George Wharton James, "The Influence of the "Mission Style upon the Civic and Domestic Architecture of Modern California"

JAN 23-25 The Arts and Crafts Movement in Southern California

McCoy, "Greene and Greene," *Five California Architects*, pp. 103-147; BLKBRD 5. Robert Winter, ed., "Introduction," *Toward a Simpler Way of Life*; BLKBRD 6, California's Contribution to a National Architecture: Its Significance and Beauty as Shown in the Work of Greene and Greene;" and BLKBRD 7. John Mack Faragher "Bungalow and Ranch House: The Architectural Backwash of California"

JAN 30 Irving Gill

McCoy, "Irving Gill," *Five California Architects*, pp. 59-100; and BLKBRD 8, Irving Gill, "The Home of the Future: The New Architecture of the West: Small Homes for a Great Country"

FEB 1 Irving Gill, cont, and Frank Lloyd Wright in LA

BLKBRD 9. Roger Hatheway and John Chase, "Irving Gill and the Aiken System," in Kathryn Smith, et al., *Concrete in California*, pp. 21-28; and BLKBRD 10. Kathryn Smith, "Frank Lloyd Wright, Hollyhock House, and Olive Hill, 1914-1924"

FEB 6 R. M. Schindler in the early 20s

McCoy, "R. M. Schindler," *Five California Architects*, pp. 149-67; BLKBRD 11, R, M, Rudolf M. Schindler, "Shelter and Playground" (scroll down in the pdf to find this); BLKBRD 12. Reyner Banham, "The Master Builders;" and BLKBRD 13. Stephanos Poyzoides, "The Schindler-Chase Duplex and Architecture"

**FEB 8 Frank Lloyd Wright: Textile Block Houses
ESTHER MCCOY EXHIBITION REVIEW DUE**

BLKBRD 14. Kathryn Smith, "Chicago-Los Angeles: The Concrete Connection; BLKBRD 14. Robert Sweeney, Chapter 3, "Improvements and Changes in Block Technique;" and BLKBRD 15. Jeffrey M. Chusid, "Frank Lloyd Wright's Textile Block System: The Freeman House"

**FEB 13 Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue and the Spanish Colonial Revival
BUILDING REVIEW PAPER DUE**

BLKBRD 17. David Gebhard, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California (1895-1930)"

FEB 15 The Persistence of Historicism and its Alternatives in the 1920s

FEB 20 PRESIDENT'S DAY-NO CLASS

**FEB 22-27 City Planning: The Intersection of the City Beautiful and the
Automobile in Los Angeles and Santa Barbara**

BLKBRD 18. Richard Longstreth, "Fabulous Boulevard"

**Feb 29 Austria and LA: Richard Neutra in the later 20s/
PAPER TOPIC AND BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE**

Barbara Lamprecht, *Richard Neutra*, pp. 7-27; and BLKBRD 19. Thomas S. Hines, "Rationalism and Reintegration: 1920-1980;" and BLKBRD 20. Philip M. Lovell, "The Home Built for Health"

MAR 5 Building During the Great Depression

McCoy, "R. M. Schindler," *Five California Architects*, pp. 168-78; Lamprecht, *Richard Neutra*, pp. 29-45; and BLKBRD 21. Esther McCoy, "Gregory Ain"

**MAR 7 World War II and the Dream of Mass-produced Housing
LACMA EXHIBITION REVIEW DUE**

BLKBRD 22. Dolores Hayden, *Model Houses for the Millions: Architects' Dreams, Builders' Boasts, Residents' Dilemmas*

MAR 12-14 SPRING BREAK

MAR 19 The Case Study Program I

Elizabeth A. T. Smith. *Case Study Houses: 1945-1966*, pp. 1- 57; BLKBRD 23-23e. *Arts and Architecture*, January, 1945, December 1945, November 1947, December 1948, May 1949, and December 1949,

MAR 21-26 Post-War Housing

BLKBRD 24. Cory Buckner, *A. Quincy Jones*; Review BLKBRD 7. John Mack Faragher "Bungalow and Ranch House: The Architectural Backwash of California;" and BLKBRD 25. "What is a Ranch House?" and "History of the Ranch House;" and BLKBRD 26. Excerpt from D J. Waldie, *Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir*

MAR 28 Post-War Modernism and the Organic Tradition

McCoy, "R. M. Schindler," *Five California Architects*, pp. 149-193; and Barbara Lamprecht, *Richard Neutra*, pp. 47-96; BLKBRD 27. Excerpts from Barbara Ann Campbell-Lange, *John Lautner, 1911-1994*; and BLKBRD 28. Ken Breisch, Review of the Exhibition, "Between Earth and Heaven (scroll down in the pdf to find this)"

APR 2 The USC School of Architecture

BLKBRD 29. Ken Breisch, "Architectural Education in Los Angeles, 1940-1990;" and BLKBRD 30. USC School of Architecture. *The Villageaire Home*, Los Angeles, 1948

APR 4 The Case Study Program II

Elizabeth A. T. Smith. *Case Study Houses: 1945-1966*, pp. 57-95

APR 9 Corporate Modernism and Urban Renewal in the 50s and 60s

APR 11 "Post Modernism"

REVIEW Banham, *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies* AGAIN!; and BLKBRD. 31. Reyner Banham, "Building Inside Out"

APR 16 TBA

APR 16-18 NO CLASS

APR 23 Frank Gehry and the "LA School?"

BLKBRD 32. Leon Whiteson, "Young Architects in Los Angeles. Social, Political and Cultural Context," and John Chase, "Modernism and the Los Angeles Vernacular;" and BLKBRD 33. Matt Tyrnauer, "Architecture in the Age of Gehry"

APR 25 Conclusion and Review
SEMESTER RESEARCH PAPER DUE

MAY 7 FINAL EXAM: 8-10 AM

BLACKBOARD READING SOURCES

1. Robert Judson Clark, "Romanticism and Integration: 1880-1930" *Los Angeles Transfer: Architecture in Southern California 1880-1980*, Los Angeles, 1983, pp. 3-55
2. Thomas S. Hines, "Los Angeles Architecture: The Issue of Tradition in a Twentieth-Century City," from David G. De Long, et al., eds., *American Architecture: Innovation and Tradition*, New York, 1986, 112-129
3. Roberto Lint-Sagarena, "Building California's Past: Mission Revival Architecture and Regional Identity," *Journal of Urban History* 28:4 (2002) 429-44
4. George Wharton James, "The Influence of the "Mission Style upon the Civic and Domestic Architecture of Modern California," *The Craftsman* 5 (October 1903-March 1904) 458-469
5. Robert Winter, ed., "Introduction," *Toward a Simpler Way of Life: The Arts & Crafts Architects of California*, Berkeley, 1997, pp. 1-6

6. "California's Contribution to a National Architecture: Its Significance and Beauty as Shown in the Work of Greene and Greene," *The Craftsman* Vol. 22, (August 1912) pp. 532-547
7. John Mack Faragher "Bungalow and Ranch House: The Architectural Backwash of California," *The Western Historical Quarterly* vol. 32 (summer, 2001), pp. 149-173
8. Irving Gill, "The Home of the Future: The New Architecture of the West: Small Homes for a Great Country," *The Craftsman* 30 (May 1916) 141-152
9. Roger Hatheway and John Chase, "Irving Gill and the Aiken System," in Kathryn Smith, et al., *Concrete in California*, pp. 21-28
10. Kathryn Smith, "Frank Lloyd Wright, Hollyhock House, and Olive Hill, 1914-1924," *The Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 38, No. 1 (March 1979) 15-33
11. R. M. Rudolf M. Schindler, "Shelter and Playground," in Philip M. Lovell, "Care of The Body," *Los Angeles Times* (2 May 1926) 27-28 (scroll down in the pdf to find this)
12. Reyner Banham, "The Master Builders," *A Critic Writes : Essays by Reyner Banham*, selected by Mary Banham, et al., Berkeley, c1996.
13. Stephanos Polyzoides, "The Schindler-Chase Duplex and Architecture," in Kathryn Smith, et al., *Concrete in California*, pp. 31-32
14. Kathryn Smith, "Chicago—Los Angeles: The Concrete Connection," and Jeffrey M. Chusid, "Frank Lloyd Wright's Textile Block System: The Freeman House," in Kathryn Smith, et al., *Concrete in California*, pp. 5-11
15. Robert Sweeney, chapter 3, "Improvements and Changes in Block Technique," in *Wright in Hollywood: Visions of a New Architecture*, Cambridge, MA, 1994, pp. 43-101
16. Jeffrey M. Chusid, "Frank Lloyd Wright's Textile Block System: The Freeman House" in Kathryn Smith, et al., *Concrete in California*, Los Angeles, 1990, pp. 13-19
17. David Gebhard, "The Spanish Colonial Revival in Southern California (1895-1930)," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 26 (May 1967) 131-147
18. Richard Longstreth, "Fabulous Boulevard," from *City Center to Regional Mall*, Cambridge, MA, 1997, pp. 104-141
19. Thomas S. Hines, "Rationalism and Reintegration: 1920-1980," *Los Angeles Transfer: Architecture in Southern California 1880-1980*, Los Angeles, 1983, pp. 59-120
20. Philip M. Lovell, "The Home Built for Health," in "Care of The Body," *Los Angeles Times* (15 December 1929) 26
21. Esther McCoy, "Gregory Ain," *The Second Generation*, Salt Lake City, 1984, . 83-141
22. Dolores Hayden, Model Houses for the Millions: Architects' Dreams, Builders' Boasts, Residents' Dilemmas," in *Blueprints for Modern Living*, Cambridge, MA, 1989, pp. 197-211
23. *Arts and Architecture*, January, 1945
- 23a. *Arts and Architecture*, December 1945
- 23b. *Arts and Architecture*, November 1947
- 23c. *Arts and Architecture*, December 1948
- 23d. *Arts and Architecture*, May 1949
- 23e. *Arts and Architecture*, December 1949

24. Cory Buckner, *A. Quincy Jones*, London:, 2004, pp. 8-25 and 88-95
25. What is a Ranch House?" and "History of the Ranch House," *Sunset Western Ranch Houses*, 1946, reprinted Santa Monica, 1999, pp. 1x-23
26. Excerpt from D J. Waldie, *Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir*, New York, 1997
27. Excerpts from Barbara Ann Campbell-Lange, *John Lautner, 1911-1994: Disappearing Space*, Cologne, 1999
28. Ken Breisch, Review of the Exhibition, "Between Earth and Heaven: The Architecture of John Lautner," Hammer Museum, Los Angeles, 13 July–12 October 2008, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 68 (September 2009) 407-409 (scroll down in the pdf to find this)
29. Ken Breisch, "Architectural Education in Los Angeles, 1940-1990." unedited draft for the 2013 Getty Catalogue, *Los Angeles Architecture: 1940-1990*
30. USC School of Architecture. *The Villageaire Home*, Los Angeles, 1948
31. Reyner Banham , ""Building Inside Out," *A Critic Writes : Essays by Reyner Banham*, selected by Mary Banham, et al., Berkeley, c. 1996
32. Leon Whiteson, "Young Architects in Los Angeles. Social, Political and Cultural Contexts" and John Chase, "Modernism and the Los Angeles Vernacular," from Aaron Betsky, et. al., *Experimental Architecture in Los Angeles*, New York, 1990
33. Matt Tyrnauer, "Architecture in the Age of Gehry," *Vanity Fair*, (August, 2008))
<http://www.vanityfair.com/culture/features/2010/08/architecture-survey-201008>

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