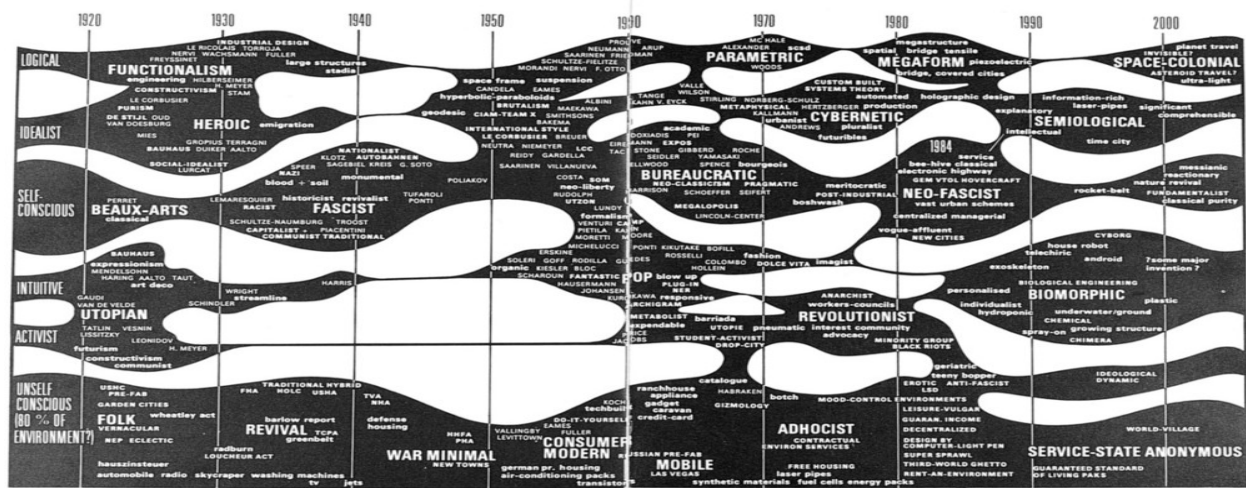


Fall 2021 ARCH 4600-4204-5204

Architectural History and Criticism Methodologies (Tuesdays, 2:30pm - 5:15pm)

Instructor: Lidia Klein/Lidia.klein@uncc.edu



Charles Jencks, *Evolutionary Tree of Modern Architecture*, 1970

Premise & Content:

This course will provide an overview of various methodological approaches to interpreting the built environment. We will analyze a range of approaches, such as formalism, structuralism, poststructuralism, semiotics, Marxism, gender, postcolonialism, and Actor Network Theory, among others. This course is reading and writing intensive.

Course Objectives:

- (a) to acquire knowledge of the concepts, discussions, readings, and authors crucial for different methodological approaches to architecture history as well as to be able to situate them within the broader context of developments in the humanities;
- (b) to be able to critically apply concepts learned in class to one's own analyses of buildings and urban forms;
- (c) to clearly communicate ideas and arguments about architecture and cities orally and in writing using appropriate language and terminology.

Method: This course is organized as a combination of discussions and presentations. A significant part of the course is devoted to in-class group discussions of assigned readings.

Grading: 20% participation, 15% take home tasks, 15% presentation, 50% final project. Final grade assignments for the course conform to the rules and regulations governing all courses offered at UNC Charlotte as stated in the University Undergraduate and Graduate catalogs.

Attendance: Attendance for this course is mandatory. Two unexcused absences automatically lower your final grade one letter grade. More than two unexcused absences will constitute grounds for automatic failure of this course. Documentation of excused absences must be

submitted in writing and show evidence of the medical or family emergency. Notify your instructor as early as possible in advance of a potential absence. Tardiness of 15 minutes or more will be considered as an absence for the day.

Final Assignment: This will be an analysis of a local (preferably Charlotte, but other North Carolina sites are also acceptable) building of your choice, using one or more methodologies learned in class. You need to be able to visit your building several times in the semester. Your work for the project needs to include archival research, and will be split in the following stages: topic proposal, bibliography, outline, abstract, conference-style presentation (20 minutes), and final essay submission (revised after feedback received during the conference session). Final essays (1000–1500 words) should be sent over email as a MS Word file with your last name in the title, following this format: Klein_finalessay.

Participation: Active class participation is required and fundamental for successful completion of the course. Students are expected to be conversant in the assigned readings for each session in which readings are assigned. Every reading listed on the syllabus is required for class and will serve as material for in-class discussions. All texts will be available via Canvas or links to resources online (in the syllabus). Students should arrive to class with a physical copy of the reading and notes, prepared for discussion.

Take home tasks: You will write three short essays (600–900 words) analyzing one building in Charlotte: Harris Teeter grocery store, 8600 University City Blvd. For each essay you will use a different methodology analyzed in class. Details will be given during the first class session. You must visit the building in person. Essays should be sent over email as a MS Word file with your last name in the title, following this format: Klein_task.

Presentation: During the semester students will prepare one presentation introducing the cluster of assigned texts and a containing brief summary of a given method (history, major figures, principles) to the class before the discussion. A presentation should be 20–30 minutes long (depending on the topic), include a brief introduction to the author(s) of the texts discussed, dates when the texts were written, and go through key concepts for each texts. If any assigned texts discusses specific buildings, the presentation should include a Powerpoint (or similar format) presentation with appropriate images. Please email your presentation to the instructor the same day you are presenting – delays might affect your participation grade. Please send your presentations as Power Point or PDF files with your last name in the title, following this format: Klein_presentation

Syllabus:

1. AUG 24: Introduction

2. AUG 31: Archives

Trip to UNC Charlotte's Special Collections and University Archives

Readings:

- Ariella Azoulay, *Archive*.

<http://www.politicalconcept.s.org/issue1/archive/?fbclid=IwAR2tz2aoKrCjXEMj0ukz9CEMsysH053YqbE1kodzejIbkX8wa5gkZvgnJww>

- Andrew Leach, “Evidence” from *What is Architectural History?* (2010)

3. SEPT 7: Formalism

DUE: Topic proposals

Readings:

- Colin Rowe, *The Mathematics of the Ideal Villa* (1976)
- Stylianos Giamarellos, “Calling Rowe: After-lives of Formalism in the Digital Age,” *Footprint* 22 (Spring/Summer 2018), pp. 89–102.
- Herbert Muschamp, “The Miracle in Bilbao” [1997] from *Writing About Architecture* (2012), pp. 45–57.
- Giorgio Vasari, “Giotto” from *Lives of the Most Excellent Painters, Sculptors, and Architects* (1568)

4. SEPT 14: Archives (continuation)

DUE: Take Home Task 1 (formalist analysis of Harris Teeter)

Trip to Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Public Library Robinson-Spangler Carolina Room (Carolina Room)

5. SEPT 21: Semiotics

Readings:

- Ferdinand De Saussure, *Course in General Linguistics* (1916) (peruse pp. 1–33; read carefully pp. 65–100).
- Roland Barthes, “Soap-powders and Detergents,” “Wine and Milk,” “Steak and Chips,” from *Mythologies* (1957), pp. 35–37, and pp. 58–64.
- Aaron Betsky, “Questions Concerning Architecture” from *Out There: Architecture Beyond Building* (2008), pp. 14–21.
- Umberto Eco, fragment of “Function and Sign: The Semiotics of Architecture” [1997] in *Rethinking Architecture* (2010), pp. 182–190.
- Charles Jencks, “A Semantic Analysis of Stirling's Olivetti Centre” [1970] from Geoffrey Broadbent, Richard Bunt and Charles Jencks (eds.) *Signs symbols architecture* (1980), pp. 233–242.

6. SEPT 28: Phenomenology & Neuroscience

DUE: Take Home Task 2 (semiotic analysis of Harris Teeter) and final essay topics approved

Readings:

- Juhani Pallasmaa, “Introduction to the Third Edition” and “Part One” from *Eyes of the Skin* (1996), pp. 11–41.
- Norberg Schultz, “The Message of Louis Kahn,” *Architecture: Meaning and Place, Selected Essays* (1988), pp. 201–206.
- Norberg Schultz, *Genius Loci: Towards a Phenomenology of Architecture* (1979), pp.1–23.
- Bryan E. Norwood, “Disorienting Phenomenology” and Sun Young-Park, “Designing for Disability in 19th-century Paris” from *Log 42: Disorienting Phenomenology* (2018), pp. 10–22 and 80–90.
- Harry Francis Mallgrave, “Introduction,” “The Humanist Brain,” and “Hapticity” from *The Architects Brain* (2010), pp. 1–6, 1–25 and 188–206.
- Juhani Pallasmaa, Harry Francis Mallgrave, *Architecture and Neuroscience* (TBA)

7. OCT 5: Gender and Race

DUE: Take Home Task 3 (phenomenological analysis of Harris Teeter)

Readings:

- Diana Agrest, "Architecture from Without: Body, Logic and Sex" [1988] in *Theorizing a New Agenda for Architecture* (1996), pp. 541–553.
- Annabel Wharton, "Gender, Architecture and Institutional Self-Presentation," *South Atlantic Quarterly* (1991), pp. 175–217.
- Charles Davis II, "Black Spaces Matter" in *Aggregate*, Vol. 2 (March 2015).
<http://www.we-aggregate.org/piece/black-spaces-matter>
- Irene Cheng, "Race and Architectural Geometry: Thomas Jefferson's Octagons," *The Journal of 19th Century Americanists* (3.1: 2015).
- Linda Nochlin, *Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists* (1971).
- Dianne Harris, "Race, Space, and Trayvon Martin" <https://www.sah.org/publications-and-research/sah-blog/sah-blog/2013/07/25/dianne-harris-race-space-and-trayvon-martin>
- Dianne Harris, "Rendered Whiteness: Architectural Drawings and Graphics" from *Little white houses: how the postwar home constructed race in America*

8. OCT 12: Actor Network Theory

Readings:

- Bruno Latour, "From Fabrication to Reality" from *Pandora's Hope* (1999), pp. 113–144.
- Jim Johnson, "Mixing Humans and Nonhumans Together: The Sociology of a Door-Closer," *Social Problems* (vol. 35, no. 3: Jun., 1988), pp. 298-310.
- Bruno Latour, Alben Yaneva, *Give Me a Gun and I Will Make All Buildings Move. An ANT's View of Architecture* (2008), pp. 80–89. <http://www.bruno-latour.fr/sites/default/files/P-138-BUILDING-VENICEpdf.pdf>
- Bella Mackie, Alben Yaneva, *Made by the Office for Metropolitan Architecture: An Ethnography of Design* (2009).
- Annabel Wharton, portion of "Gambling" from *Architectural Agents*, (2015), pp. 119–121 and 143–149.
- Bruno Latour, "Circulating Reference: Sampling the Soil in the Amazon Forest", from *Pandora's Hope* (2001), pp. 24–79. <http://www.bruno-latour.fr/sites/default/files/downloads/53-PANDORA-TOPOFIL-pdf.pdf>

DUE: 1. bibliography (10-15 resources, including books, articles, archival material and other primary sources) and 2. final topic blurb.

9. OCT 19: Power

Readings:

- Jeremy Bentham, *Panopticon; or the Inspection-House, Containing the Idea of a New Principle of Construction Applicable to Any Sort of Establishment* ([1787] 1791)
- Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison* ([1975] 1979), pp. 195-228.
- Timothy Mitchell, *Colonising Egypt* (1988), pp. 1–94.

10. OCT 26: Marxism

DUE: annotated bibliography

Readings:

- Karl Marx, Frederick Engels, *Manifesto of the Communist Party* (1848).
- Fredric Jameson, *Architecture and the Critique of Ideology*.
- Manfredo Tafuri, *Toward a Critique of Architectural Ideology*.

- Karl Marx, “Idealism and Materialism,” and “The Real Basis of Ideology” from *The German Ideology* (1845).
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch01a.htm#a2>
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1845/german-ideology/ch01c.htm>
- David Harvey, Chapter 1 from *Rebel Cities* (2012), pp. 3–25.

11. NOV 2: Postcolonialism

Readings:

- Edward Said, *Orientalism* (1978), pp. 1–9, 31–49, and 284–293.
- Dipesh, Chakrabarty, “Preface,” “Introduction,” “Historicism and the Narration of Modernity,” “Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History” from *Provincializing Europe: Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference* (2000), pp. 1–47.
- William S.W. Lim & Jiat-Hwee Chang, “Introduction”; Anthony D. King, “Modernism: Where we’re at”; Mark Crinson, “Modernism Across Hemispheres”; Fernando Luiz Lara, “East, West, High, Low”; Rahul Mehrotra, “Simultaneous Modernities” and “Brazilian Architecture” from William S.W. Lim & Jiat-Hwee Chang (eds.), *Non West Modernism Past*, pp. 7–24, 27–36, 27–45, 69–78, 91–103, 169–178.

12. NOV 9: Deconstruction

DUE: Outlines

Readings:

- Michael Benedikt, *Deconstructing the Kimbell: An Essay on Meaning and Architecture* (1991).
- Jacques Derrida “Parergon” and “Restitutions” from *The Truth in Painting* (1978).

13. NOV 16: Guest speakers

DUE: Corrected outlines and abstracts

14. NOV 23 and NOV 30: paper presentations (conference)