



American Architecture: From Bungalow to Bauhaus Art 1630H
Yeshiva College **Spring 2016**

SYLLABUS

By comparing buildings from different eras and from different cultures, we shall learn about the diverse traditions of American architecture, from its colonial beginnings to post-modern practices. The result will be the basis for an architectural vocabulary and a greater consciousness of the built environment.

We shall examine what the first colonists found, what they created, and what they brought with them from Europe. Thus, observations on numerous references to roots in European design will bring us to an initial definition of the nature of American architecture. We shall develop an understanding of the vigor and innovations of its building arts. We shall examine not only work of the masters of the discipline, but also architecture without architects. This introductory course will include lecture, discussion, critical written analysis, and oral presentations by each class member. Frequent visits to architectural sites will highlight materials, form, ornamentation, and context.

Meeting times

Tuesday, 6:45-9:15 p.m. (May occasionally run until 9:45 p.m.)
Furst Hall

Instructor

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General course requirements

Attendance at *all but one class* is required; each additional absence will lower your grade by 1/3 (e. g., A- to B+). Three absences will result in a reduction by one full letter (e. g., A- to B-). Four absences will result in a failing grade (F). Please notify the instructor via e-mail in advance of the class you will be missing. You are responsible for obtaining from Angel class handouts you missed.

Punctuality—only two late arrivals are allowed. A third instance of tardiness will count as an absence.

Mid-term presentation: comparative analysis of two buildings, one in New York and the other its European antecedent, with slides and accompanying ten-minute oral presentation, March 4 or 11, 2014

Final project: historical, architectural, and critical analysis of and annotated bibliography on one building, April 29, 2014

Free Help with Your Writing! The Writing Center, in Furst 202, offers individualized tutoring that can support your writing for this course. All writers need feedback, even strong ones. Make an appointment and find out about drop-in hours at www.yu.edu/wilf/writingcenter.

Mid-term examination: comparative analyses and essays, March 18, 2014
Final examination: comparative analyses and essays, TBD
Submission of sketchbook with notes and drawings from site visits (ungraded)

Grade

Mid-term presentation, 25%; final project, 25%; mid-term examination, 25%; final examination, 25%. Tardiness and cell phone use during class will affect your final grade.

Required texts and supplies

Rasmussen, Steen Eiler. *Experiencing Architecture* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1978).

Roth, Leland M. *American Architecture: A History* (Boulder, Colo.: Westview Press, 2001.)

Small unlined sketchbook (~9" x 12") and soft pencils (#1 or HB)

Supplemental texts

Whiffen, Marcus. *American Architecture since 1780: A Guide to the Styles* (Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1979).

Willensky, Elliot, Norval White, and Fran Leadon. *AIA Guide to New York City*, 5th edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2010).

Conceptual and stylistic outline

- Experiencing architecture
- Colonial or pre-revolutionary styles
- 1780-1820
 - The adaptations of classicism--the Adam style & Jeffersonian
- 1820-1860
 - Ancient revivals--Greek & Egyptian
 - Medieval revivals--Romanesque & Gothic
 - Renaissance revivals
- 1860-1890
 - High Victorian styles
 - Expressive styles--stick & Queen Anne
 - Richardsonian Romanesque
 - Châteauesque
- 1890-1915
 - Period revivals--classicism, Georgian or colonial, Gothic
 - Commercial style & the tall office building
 - Art nouveau & proto-modernism
 - Bungalows
- 1915-1945
 - Modernistic, the vertical style, & streamline modern
 - The international style
- 1945-present
 - Miesian
 - Brutalism
 - New classicism
 - Post-modernism
 - Deconstructivism
 -

Schedule (subject to revision)

January	26	Introduction--experiencing architecture
February	2	Colonial or pre-revolutionary Reading due: Roth, chapters 2 & 3, pp. 39-105; "All He Surveyed," "A House Undivided" On site: Morris-Jumel Mansion
	9	Federal or Adam Style; American neo-classicism, traditional phase Reading due: Roth, chapter 4, pp. 107-149; "Searching for Palladio," <i>Fort Washington Presbyterian Church</i> On site: Schottenstein Hall, Wadsworth Avenue Baptist Church, Fort Washington Presbyterian Church
	16	American neo-classicism: idealistic & Greek revival phases Reading due: Roth, chapter 5, pp. 150-170; Rasmussen On site: Low Library, Columbia University Due: mid-term presentation proposal
	23	Medieval styles Reading due: Roth, chapter 5, pp. 170-209 On site: Ft. George Presbyterian Church, St. Elizabeth's Church & Zysman Hall Due: essay on elements of architecture
March	1	Period revivals Reading due: Roth, chapter 6, pp. 210-252; "Cleansing 'Triumphant Portal' Ceiling," "Restoration Liberates Grand Vistas, and Ideas," "The 23-Story Beaux-Arts 1913 Tower That Wasn't" On site: Grand Central Terminal & The New York Public Library
	8	H. H. Richardson Reading due: Roth, chapter 6, pp. 252-263; "Stairway to the Stars" Bibliographic instruction
	15	Mid-term presentations Review & practice test
	22	Mid-term examination
	27	Sunday--Visit to Metropolitan Museum of Art, American Wing
	29	Evolution of the skyscraper Reading due: Roth, chapter 7, pp. 264-300 Due: final project proposal On site: American Museum of Natural History
April	5	Frank Lloyd Wright Reading due: Roth, chapter 7, pp. 301-337, 381-391; "Spiralling Upward," "Fifth Avenue Shocker" On site: Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, Whitney Museum Due: essay on American Museum of Natural History
	12	No class—Thursday schedule
	19	Mies & the moderns; international style Reading due: Roth, chapter 8, pp. 391-402, 410-473; "A 30- Something Tower Tries Hard for a 90's Look" On site: Rockefeller Guest House, Lescaze House
May	3	New classicism, post-modernism, deconstructivism

Reading due: Roth, chapter 9, pp. 474-556; "Articulated Library,"
"New Stadiums for the Yankees and Mets"

On site: Pollack Library

Review

Due: Final project

10	Reading day (review)
TBA	Final examination
