

Fall 2016 University of Virginia, School of Architecture

ARCH 3120/7120-SARC8120: Architecture Theory: 20th-21st C History of Ideas

Campbell Hall 158 MWF10:00 -10:50 am

Nana Last: email: ndl5g office 421 Office hours: **T** 11-12:30, **F:** 11:15 – 12:30 and by appointment.

Architecture Theory: 20th-21st C History of Ideas examines theoretical frameworks and methodologies that have formed the groundwork for both the production of architecture and the understanding of architecture's relations to society and cultural production in the twentieth and into the twenty first century. These frameworks include the constructs of history, ideology, production, time, speed and space, in conjunction with the emergence of new notions of subjectivity, language, materiality and representation. Through these the course will approach a series of questions involving the associations constructed between architecture and: autonomy, technology, perception, mass and digital production, morphogenesis, diagramming and performativity.

Requirements: Attendance at 3 lectures and 1 discussion section per week, (sections for undergraduates only) completion of all readings prior to class and participation in the class discussions. Printouts of the day's readings should be brought to each class. There will be a midterm exam, a final exam and a group research project. Note: sections begin meeting in week 2.

Lecture Topics and Readings

PART 1: Theories of HISTORY / PRODUCTION / SUBJECTIVITY

Week 1 Architecture Theory: Challenges and Debates

W August 24: Introduction: Architecture Theory: Challenges and Debates

Paul Virilio, "The Overexposed City", in Neil Leach, ed., *Rethinking Architecture: A Reader in Cultural Theory*, (London: Routledge, 1997) 381-390.

F August 26: Architecture, Production and History

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, "Manifesto of the Communist Party", 1848, Introductory paragraph and Parts I & II, "Bourgeoisie and Proletarians" and "Proletarians and Communists" in *The Portable Karl Marx*, Eugene Kamenka, ed., (New York: Penguin Books, 1983) 203-228.

Mario Carpo, *The Alphabet and the Algorithm*, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2011), Preface, pp. IX-XI.

Week 2 Marx and Freud

M August 29: The Critique of Capital

Karl Marx, "Capital", (1867), Ch. 1: "Commodities", sections I and IV, in *The Portable Karl Marx*, Eugene Kamenka, ed., (New York: Penguin Books, 1983) 437-461.

Ulrich Conrads, ed., "ABC demands the dictatorship of the machine" and "El Lissitzky: Ideological Superstructure" in *Programs and Manifestoes on 20th-Century Architecture*, (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1993) 115-116 and 121-122.

W August 31: The Psychoanalytic Subject

Sigmund Freud, "The Interpretation of Dreams", (1900), (excerpt) and "On Dreams" (1911), (excerpt) in Peter Gay, ed., *The Freud Reader*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1989), pp. 129-142 and 142-172.

Rem Koolhaas, "Introduction", *Delirious New York: A Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan*, (New York: The Monacelli Press, 1994) 9-11.

F September 2: continued

Group Research Project Assigned: Outline due October 28, final due November 21

Week 3 Mass Production and Subjectivity

M September 5: Reification

Georg Lukacs, "The Phenomenon of Reification", in *History and Class Consciousness*, (1922), trans. by Rodney Livingstone, (Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1990), 83-110.

W September 7: Mass Ornament

Sigfried Kracauer, "The Mass Ornament", (1927), trans. by Barbara Correll and Jack Zipes, in *New German Critique* 5, Spring, 1975, 67-76.

F September 9: continued

Week 4 Mass Production and Architecture

M September 12: Mechanical Reproduction

Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction", (1936), in *Illuminations*, trans. Harry Zohn, (New York: Schocken Books, 1969), pp. 217-242.

W September 14: Stanford Anderson, "The Fiction of Function", *Assemblage*, 2, 1987, pp. 19-32.

F September 16: Mass Production and Architecture

K. Michael Hays, "Reproduction and Negation: The Cognitive Project of the Avant-Garde", in Colomina, ed., *Architectureproduction*, (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1988), pp. 153- 179.

Hannes Meyer, "Building " in Ulrich Conrads, ed., *Programs and Manifestoes on 20th-Century Architecture*, (Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1993) 117-120.

Mario Carpo, *The Alphabet and the Algorithm*, "Variable, Identical, Differential", "Architecture and the Identical Copy: Timelines" and "Authorship" (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2011) 1-12, 12-15 and 20-26.

Week 5 Autonomy and Technology

M September 19: Autonomy and The Culture Industry

Theodor Adorno, "Letter to Benjamin, 18 March 1936", in *Aesthetics and Politics*, (London: Verso, 1977) 120- 125.

Theodor Adorno and Max Horkheimer, "The Culture Industry: Enlightenment and Mass Deception", in *Dialectic of Enlightenment*, (1944) trans. by John Cumming, (1972) (New York: Continuum, 1991) 120 -144.

Recommended:

Fredric Jameson, "Postmodernism and the Consumer Society" in *The Anti-Aesthetic*, (Port Townsend, WA: Bay Press, 1983) 111-125.

W September 21: continued

F September 23: Phenomenology and Technology

Martin Heidegger, "The Question Concerning Technology", (1954), trans. by Walter Lovitt, in *Martin Heidegger Basic Writings*, David Farrell Krell ed., (New York: Harper Collins, 1977) 307-341.

Recommended:

Alberto Perez Gomez, *Architecture and the Crisis of Modern Science*, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1983) Introduction and 3-12.

Week 6 Phenomenology: Perception and Speed

M September 26: Phenomenology and Perception

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, "Eye and Mind", (1961) trans. by Carleton Dallery, in *The Primacy of Perception*, (Chicago: Northwestern University Press, 1964) 159-190.

Recommended:

Robert Morris, "Notes on Sculpture" (1966), in Gregory Battcock, ed., *Minimal Art: A Critical Anthology*, (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1968) 222-235.

Allen Weiss, "Vaux-le-Vicomte: Anamorphosis Abscondita", in Weiss, *Mirrors of Infinity: The French Formal Garden and 17th- Century Metaphysics*, (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1995) 32- 51.

W September 28: Speed

Paul Virilio, "The Overexposed City", in Neil Leach, ed., *Rethinking Architecture: A Reader in Cultural Theory*, (London: Routledge, 1997) 381-390.

Paul Virilio, *Speed and Politics*, (1977) , "Dromological Progress": 1. "From Space Right to State Right" and 2. "Practical War", (New York: Semiotext(e), 1986) 37-57.

F September 30: Project Work Day

Week 7 Review/Midterm

M October 3: Reading day: No Class

W October 6: Midterm Review

F October 8: **MIDTERM EXAM**

PART 2: THEORIES OF LIFE/ LANGUAGE/ MATERIALITY / MORPHOGENESIS

Week 8 Dynamic Theories: Life, Growth and Transformation

M October 10: Model 1: Complexity

Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, "Introduction: Rhizome," in *A Thousand Plateaus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*, (1980) trans. By Brian Massumi, (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1987) 3-25.

Recommended:

Mark Garcia, "Introduction: Histories and Theories of the Diagrams of Architecture", in Mark Garcia, ed. *The Diagrams of Architecture*, (Chichester, U.K.: Wiley, 2010) 18-45.

Stan Allen, "Diagrams Matter" and R. E. Somol "The Diagrams of Matter" in *ANY* # 23 1998, 16 -19 and 23-26.

Peter Eisenman, "The Diagram and the Becoming Unmotivated of the Sign", in Mark Garcia, ed., *The Diagrams of Architecture*, (Chichester, U.K.: Wiley, 2010) 204-213.

W October 12: Model 2: Time

Sanford Kwinter, "The Complex and the Singular" in *Architectures of Time*, (Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 2001) 3-31.

Sanford Kwinter, "Landscapes of Change: Bocciono's Stati d'animo as a General Theory of Models", in *Assemblage* 19, Dec. 1992, 50-65.

F October 14: Project Work Day

Week 9 Materialisms and Structuralist Theories

M October 17: Model 3: Materialisms

Manuel De Landa, *A Thousand Years of Nonlinear History*, (New York: Swerve, 2000) "Introduction" and 11- 22

W October 19: Model 4: Biology

D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, "On the Theory of Transformations, or the Comparison of Related Forms", in Achim Menges and Sean Ahlquist, eds., *Computational Design Thinking*, (Chichester, U.K.: Wiley, 2011), pp.32-41.

Erwin Schrodinger, "The Classical Physicist's Approach to the Subject" and "Is Life Based on the Laws of Physics?" (1944) in *What is Life: The Physical Aspects of the Living Cell*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1967) 3-18 and 76-85.

recommended:

D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, "Introductory" and Ch. XVII: "On the Theory of Transformations, or the Comparison of Related Forms" in *On Growth and Form*, (New York: Dover Publications, 1992) 1-21 and 1026-1095.

F October 21: Model 5: Language

Ferdinand de Saussure, "Course in General Linguistics", (1907-11) excerpted in Mark C. Taylor, ed., *Deconstruction in Context*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986), pp. 141-168.

Aldo Rossi, *The Architecture of the City*, (Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1984), "Introduction: Urban Artifacts and a Theory of the City" 21-27.

Week 10 The Index and Structuralism

M October 24: The Index

Rosalind Krauss, "Notes on the Index: Part 1" (1976) in *The Originality of the Avant-Garde and Other Modernist Myths*, (Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1987) 196-209.

Charles Sanders Peirce, "The Icon, Index and Symbol", (1893-1902), in *Collected Papers*, Vol. II, (Cambridge MA: Belknap Press, 1974) 156-173

Recommended:

Mieke Bal and Norman Bryson, "Semiotics and Art History," *Art Bulletin*, June 1991, pp. 174-208

Alejandro Zaera-Polo, "Between Ideas and Matters: Icons, Indexes, Diagrams, Drawings and Graphs" in Mark Garcia, ed., *The Diagrams of Architecture*, (Chichester, U.K.: Wiley, 2010) 236-243.

W October 26: Structuralism

Claude Levi-Strauss, "The Structural Study of Myth", (1955), in *Critical Theory Since 1965*, Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle, eds., (Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University Press, 1986) 809-822.

Rosalind Krauss, "Grids", (1978) in *The Originality of the Avant-Garde and Other Modernist Myths*, (Cambridge, Ma: MIT Press, 1986) 8-22.

F October 28: Research Project – Outlines Due in Class

Week 11 Myth, Ideology and Subjectivity

M October 31: Structuralism and Myth

Roland Barthes, "Myth Today" (1951), trans. by, Annette Lavers, in *Mythologies*, (New York: Hill and Wang, 1972) 109-159.

Ewa Lajer-Burcharth, "Urban Disturbances", *Art in America*, vol. 75, no. 11, Nov. 1987, 146-153.

recommended:

Mario Gandelsonas, "From Structure to Subject: The Formation of an Architectural Language" (1979) in *Oppositions Reader*, (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1998) 200-223.

W November 2: Structuralism: Architecture and Ideology

Manfredo Tafuri, "L'Architecture dans le Boudoir" (*Oppositions* 3 May, 1974) in K. Michael Hays, ed. *Oppositions Reader*, (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1998) pp. 291-216.

recommended:

Peter Eisenman "Real; and English: The Destruction of the Box I" in *Oppositions* 4, October 1974, 5-34

F November 4: Structuralism, Ideology and Subjectivity

Louis Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses" (1970) trans. by B. Brewster, in *Critical Theory Since 1965*, Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle, eds. (Tallahassee: Florida State University Press, 1986), pp. 239-250.

Jacques Lacan, "The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Function of the I" (1949), translated by Alan Sheridan, in *Ecrits*, (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1977) 1-7.

Recommended:

Norman Bryson, "The Gaze in the Expanded Field", in Foster, ed., *Vision and Visuality*, (Seattle: Bay Press, 1988) 87-108.

Nana Last, "Of", in *Assemblage* #39, August 1999, 106-117.

Slavok Zizek, "From Reality to the Real" in *Looking Awry: An Introduction to Jacques Lacan through Popular Culture*, (Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 1992) 3-20.

Week 12 Ideology, Architecture and the Production of Space
M November 7: continued**W November 9: Ideology and Architecture**

Diana Agrest and Mario Gandelsonas, "Semiotics and Architecture: Ideological Consumption or Theoretical Work", in *Oppositions* 1, (New York: 1973) 169-176.

F November 11: The Production of Space

Henri Lefebvre, "The Production of Space", (extracts), in Neil Leach, ed., *Rethinking Architecture: A Reader in Cultural Theory*, (London: Routledge, 1997) 139-146.

Week 13 Power and Performance
M November 14: Space and Power

Michel Foucault, "Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias" and "Panopticism"(extract), in Neil Leach, ed., *Rethinking Architecture: A Reader in Cultural Theory*, (London: Routledge, 1997) 350- 367.

Rem Koolhaas, "Project for the Renovation of a Panopticon Prison", *Artforum*, vol. XX, no. 1, September, 1981, 41-43.

Recommended:

Michel Foucault, "What is an Author" and "The Discourse on Language ", (1971), in *Critical Theory Since 1965*, Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle, eds. (Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University Press, 1986) 138-162.

W November 16: Performativity

Achim Mengis, "Integral Formation and Materialisation: Computational Form and Material Gestalt", in Achim Menges and Sean Ahlquist, eds., *Computational Design Thinking*, (Chichester, U.K.: Wiley, 2011), pp. 198-210.

Michael U. Hensel, "Performance-oriented Architecture: Towards a Biological Paradigm for Architectural Design and the Built Environment", in *FORMakademisk*, Vol. 3, Nr 1, 2010, 36-56.

Recommended:

Jacques Derrida, "Signature Event Context" (1972) in *Glyph 1*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1977), pp.172-197.

Jacques Derrida, "Summary of Reiterating the Differences" and "Limited Inc a b c . . ." Sections d-n in , *Limited Inc*, (1977) (Evanston IL, Northwestern University Press, 1988) 25-50.

Jacques Derrida, "Structure, Sign and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences", in in *Critical Theory Since 1965*, Hazard Adams and Leroy Searle, eds. (Tallahassee, FL: Florida State University Press, 1986), pp. 83-94.

Jacques Derrida, "Point de folie -- Maintenant l'architecture" in AA Files No. 12, Summer, 1986, pp. 65-75.

Mark Wigley, "The Translation of Deconstruction", in Wigley, *The Architecture of Deconstruction: Derrida's Haunt*, (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1993) 1-33.

F November 18: continued

Week 14 21st Century Subjectivity

M November 21: Multitude: The Fluid Subject - RESEARCH PROJECTS DUE in class

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, "Preface: Life in Common" and "Traces of the Multitude" in, Hardt and Negri, *Multitude: War and Democracy in the Age of Empire*, (New York: The Penguin Press, 2004) xi-xviii and 189-227.

W November 23: Thanksgiving Recess: No Class

F November 25: Thanksgiving Recess: No Class

Week 15 Fluidity

M November 28: Fluidity

Nana Last, "New Wave: Fluid Architecture", *Artforum*, March 2015, Vol. 53, No. 7, 256-264.

Recommended:

Manuel Castells, "The Space of Flows" (1996, 2nd. ed. 2000), in Ida Susser, ed. *The Castells Reader on Cities and Social Theory*, (Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2002) 314-361.

W November 30: Exam Review

F December 2:

ARCH 3120: FINAL EXAM in class

ARCH 7120: Take Home Final Exam distributed: due: Friday Dec 16 @ 10:00 am – in my mailbox

Week 16

M December 5: No Class