**Gender, Sexuality, and the Built Environment**

School of Architecture

University of Virginia

Fall 2016

PLAN3811/6811

Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-10:45

Campbell Hall 135

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When I tell people that I work on gender and architecture, I often get one of two responses: “you mean like phallic male skyscrapers?” or “what do you study, bathrooms?” This class aims to make sense of these answers and go beyond them by exploring the complex relationships between body, sex, gender, and the built environment. Architecture has been argued by some to be an expression of the body, a shell we build ourselves, but whose body does it express and shelter and how? Others see buildings and settlements as expressions of a culture’s gender structures that can shape gendered identities by enabling or controlling behavior. But how are these structures, both cultural and physical, reworked and resisted in practice? And what is the role of gender in the profession and practice of design? We will discuss analyses by scholars of gender and sexuality, queer theorists, architectural and urban theorists and historians, architects, planners, landscape architects, anthropologists, sociologists, and geographers that address how architecture, landscape, and urban space can express and shape sex, gender, and sexuality.

**Course Requirements**

You must attend class regularly and keep up with reading assignments, which we will often discuss in class. A mid-semester test (Oct 25) will cover material from readings and lectures and test your ability to synthesize information. In a short (3-5 page) assignment due Sept 13, each student will analyze a single-gender, single-sex, or single-sexuality place. In a longer paper (8-10 pages for undergraduates, 10-15 pages for graduate students) due December 1, you will analyze a site of your choice using themes covered in the class. In the last two class sessions, you will all share a 5-minute presentation on this research with your colleagues.

Participation 10%

Test 25%

Short assignment 20%

Paper 45%

I fully trust every student in the class to fully comply with all the provisions of the University’s Honor Code.

**Readings**

Many readings come from Jane Rendell, Barbara Penner, and Iain Borden, eds, *Gender Space Architecture: An Interdisciplinary Introduction,* which has been ordered as a required book and is also available as an ebook through the library. All other readings are available on Collab. Many of the collections they come from and other important books on gender, sexuality, and the built environment are on reserve in the Fine Arts Library.

**Class Meetings**

Week 1

Aug 23: Introductions

Aug 25: Bathrooms, Bodies, and Power 1

Clara Greed, “Creating a Non-Sexist Restroom,” in Harvey Molotch and Laura Nolan, eds. *Toilet: Public Restrooms and the Politics of Sharing* (NYU Press, 2010).

Week 2

Aug 30: Bathrooms, Bodies, and Power 2

Introduction to Sheila L. Cavanagh, *Queering Bathrooms: Gender, Sexuality, and the Hygienic Imagination* (University of Toronto Press, 2010)

Sept 1: Body/Sex

Irigaray, “This Sex Which is Not One” (GSA); Iris Marion Young, “Breasted Experience: The Look and the Feeling,” in *Throwing Like a Girl and Other Essays in Feminist Philosophy and Social Theory* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990)

Week 3

Sept 6: Gender

Joan Scott, “Gender, A Useful Category of Historical Analysis” (GSA); de Beauvoir, excerpt from “The Second Sex” (GSA); Butler, “Subversive Bodily Acts” (GSA)

Sept 8: Sexuality/Intersectionality

Kate Bornstein, “Sex! Sex! Sex! Sex! Sex! Sex! Sex! Sex!” in *My New Gender Workbook* (Routledge 2013)

Week 4

Sept 13: Discussion of short assignment: segregated space

**Short Assignment Due**

Sept 15: Building as Sexed Body

Agrest, “Architecture from Without” (GSA); Bloomer, “Big Jugs” (GSA); Phyllis Birkby, “Herspace” in *Heresies 11:Making* *Room: Women and Architecture*, 1981

Week 5

Sept 20 Building as Clothing

McLeod, “Undressing Architecture: Fashion, Gender, and Modernity”

Sept. 22 Bodies, Sex, and Space

Lauren Berlant and Michael Warner, “Sex in Public” *Critical Inquiry* 24:2 (Winter 1998)

Week 6

Sept. 27: The Male Gaze

Kaplan, “Is the Gaze Male?” in *Women and Film: Both Sides of the Camera* (New York: Methuen, 1983); Colomina, “The Split Wall: Domestic Voyeurism” (GSA)

Sept 29: The Female Gaze

Friedman, “Architecture, Authority and the Female Gaze,” (GSA); Sally Munt, “The Lesbian Flaneur” in *Mapping Desire*, David Bell and Gill Valentine, eds. (London and New York: Routledge, 1995)

Week 7

Oct 4: no class; reading day

Oct 6: Visibility and Concealment

Urbach, “Closets, Clothes, DisClosure (GSA).

Week 8

Oct 11: Gender in the Design Professions

Denise Scott Brown, “Room at the Top? Sexism and the Star System in Architecture” (GSA); Stratigakos, “The Sad State of Gender Equity in the Design Profession” in Where are the Women Architects? (Princeton University Press: 2016)

Oct 13: Gender of the Designer

Franck, “A Feminist Approach to Architecture” (GSA); Kennedy, “Seven Hypotheses on Male and Female Principles in Architecture” in *Heresies 11:Making* *Room: Women and Architecture*, 1981

Week 9

Oct 18: Sexuality of the Designer

Betsky, “Queering Modernism” in *Queer Space*

Oct 20: Gender of the Client

Alice Friedman, “Family Matters: The Schroeder House” in *Women and the Making of the Modern House*

Week 10

Oct 25 **Midterm**

Oct 27: Gender and Style

Adrian Forty, “Masculine, Feminine or Neuter?” in Ruedi, Wigglesworth, and McCorquodale, eds, *Desiring Practices: Architecture, Gender, and the Interdisciplinary* (Black Dog Press, 1996)

Week 11

Nov 1: Gender, Power, and Built Environment

Jane Rendell, “Introduction: Gender, Space” (GSA); Leslie Kanes Weisman, “The Spatial Caste System” in *Discrimination by Design* (University of Illinois Press: 1992)

Nov 3: Gender, Sexuality, and Power in the City

Susana Torre, “Claiming Public Space: The Mothers of the Plaza de Mayo” (GSA); Elizabeth Wilson, “Into the Labyrinth” (GSA)

Week 12

Nov 8: Gender Structures: Gender Segregation

Shirley Ardener, “The Partition of Space” (GSA); Pollock, “Women on the Inside: Divisions of Space in Imperial China” in *Heresies 11:Making* *Room: Women and Architecture*, 1981.

Nov 10 : Guest Lecture: Daphne Spain on Constructive Feminism

Week 13

Nov 15: Gender Structures: Suburbia vs. the City

Friedan, “The Problem that Has No Name” (GSA); Hayden, “What Would a Non-Sexist City Be Like?” (GSA)

Nov 17 : Domestic Space

Diller, ‘Bad Press” (GSA); Jo Roberts, “House Designs and Women’s Roles”

Week 14

Nov 22: Kitchen

Greenbaum, “Kitchen Culture/Kitchen Dialectic”; Barkin, “Electricity is Her Servant”; Maglin, “Kitchen Dramas”

Nov 24: Turkey, no class

Week 15

Nov. 29: Masculinity

Sanders, “Cadet Quarters, US Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs” (GSA); Wagner, “The Lair of the Bachelor”

Dec 1: Presentations

**Long Paper Due**

Week 16

Dec 6: Presentations