

文本建筑：专业文献阅读与写作

Building in Texts: Academic Literature Reading and Writing Syllabus & Schedule

Course Code: 02037101

Credits: 4

Total Hours: 64

Instructor: 华霞虹+ 刘刊

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1. Brief Introduction

This course is delivered in full English as a general compulsory course for Bachelor of Engineer in Architecture (4-year Full-English Program) and a Professional Elective Course for Bachelor of Engineering in Architecture (4- year Program) or Bachelor of Architecture (5-year Program).

This course is open for the following two groups of undergraduate students.

1) International Freshmen for Bachelor of Engineer in Architecture (4-year Full-English Program) , as a general compulsory course;

2) Sophomore, Junior and Senior students for Bachelor of Engineering in Architecture (4- year Program) or Bachelor of Architecture (5-year Program , include interior design), Historical Preservation, Urban Planning, Urban Design and Landscape, and also exchange international undergraduates, as a professional elective course.

2. Course Objective

The educate of architects must integrate theory and practice. Architecture is not only about physical built environment, but also about a knowledge system. Good design deeply roots in comprehensive, logical and critical thinking. Good design definitely results from good cognition. In addition to design studio exercises, academic literature reading and writing are effective in building up a comprehensive and critical thinking. This course aims at setting an integrated knowledge framework for undergraduate students through academic reading and writing, mainly all kinds of case studies for real design projects, help the students to build a comprehensive understanding of Architecture as a professional practice as well as discourse knowledge. Critical thinking based on observation, experience, interpretation, analysis, evaluation, reflection and communication is the main concern.

Objective 1: Systematic Knowledge and methodology in Architecture. Building a comprehension in fundamental architectural elements, basic architectural concepts and main problems for architectural design, the value system and evaluation standards, relationship between micro natural, social and cultural context and the built environment.

Objective 2: Academic literature reading and professional analysis. Through data collecting, academic literature reading and case studying, building a comprehension in principles and methodologies in architectural design. Achieve critical thinking and effective professional expression and communication. Integrate the logic of design with that of research.

Objective 3: Case study and thesis writing. Case study through observation, documenting, reading, analyzing, thematic research and thesis writing, understand the social needs, methodology and technologies for architectural design. Grasp the methods and rules for writing properly academic thesis. Build up the value system for observing, understanding and examining the built environment.

Objective 4 : Global vision and International communication. Through full English course, academic reading and thesis writing, building a global vision, enlarging innovation capacity. Strengthen the ability for international communication. Learn from international experiences, enhance the international influences

for Chinese architecture and urbanism.

3. The Double Faces of “Building in Texts”

Architecture as a discipline is based on both “material architecture” (or physical building) and “literature architecture” (or text building). Therefore, the key concept for this course, “Building in Texts” has two faces, on the one hand a product, the building built with texts, and on the other hand an action, applying texts in building. Therefore, this course highlights parallel training in both academic reading and writing in English, in order to help the students develop accurate, clear and convincing academic expression.

Through reading the classic treatises covering different historical periods and geographical regions, the students are expected to understand different catalogs of “building in texts”, their different roles and relationship with “physical buildings” and contribution to architectural evolution, based on which establishing a basic understanding about the core issues of Architecture Discipline, its evolving values as well as technological development.

Understanding the role “building in texts” plays in close reading, analyzing, comparing and evaluating built environment, in winning commission as well as publishing research outputs, different text styles and structures for different purposes. Learning to write different texts for different purposes. Training in both oral and verbal expression, which is seen as the base for further design and academic research.

Instead of teaching professional English, this course applies English as a common language and a practical tool to establish and promote the architectural cognition, or the diverse nature and extensive scope of architecture discipline. To achieve this goal, the course stands on two legs, on the one hand, absorbing nutrition from all possible sources, learning from architectural achievements and thoughts from different regions and eras; on the other hand, highlighting Chinese context, insisting case study real architectural programs built in Shanghai based on field trip, personal experience and systematic analysis. Under the pressure of Covid-19 when international students have to take remote education, they are also encouraged to examine local cases.

1) Reading Course: Building in Texts as Object

Main purpose: Case study of different kinds of “building in texts” (object) through close reading.

Process: Read extensively, experience texts of various purposes and styles excerpted from different media, understand the integrating relationship between building and text in the evolution of architectural design, history and theory.

Methodology: How to conduct close reading in architectural field?

2) Writing Course: Building in Texts as Action

Main purpose: Case study of a concrete local architectural project, rebuild it in texts (action) through your own research.

Process: Conduct a research for a Chinese modern and contemporary building (New building or Renovation programs recently completed recently in Shanghai, or for the international student, your hometown). Pick a suitable topic, finish an essay through observing, literature reviewing, analyzing, evaluating and text crafting.

Methodology: How to conduct a research and write an architectural paper?

4. Fundamental Architectural Elements

Roof, floor, wall, firework, window, stair, courtyard, corridor, elevator etc., all these are fundamental

elements for constructing a building, just like we use words to write and communicate. Although these elements share the similar definition, they vary significantly in form in different historical periods and geographical and cultural regions. Inspired by the 2014 Venice Biennial exhibition curated by Rem Koolhaas, this course will focus on the theme of twelve architectural elements, based on which developing class discussion, reading review and theoretical reflection. Three main arguments include,

- 1) How were an individual building and the whole built environment shaped with these fundamental elements?
- 2) How were these elements evolved in different historical periods and various geographical and cultural context?
- 3) The changing thoughts or theory behind the changing form or definition of these elements.

5. Fundamental Architectural Words and Issues

Why Architecture: Shelter/Gather/Memory

What is Architecture:

The Visible Logic

Site /Form /Space/ Structure/ Tectonic

The Hidden Thread

Type/Program/Context/Scale/Economy

How architecture: Program/Context/ Economy /Technology/Organization

6. Basic Requirement

1) Attendance Policy and Related Grade Penalties

Attendance is mandatory. Arrive to class on time. Because the class is a weekly based seminar, it depends upon students completing reading assignments, attending and participating in weekly sessions. Absence without a valid medical reason (with a doctor's note", or written excuse signed by class instructor in the event of a personal or family emergency, will be taken as a sign of inadequate interest in the course. You are allowed one unexcused absence. I will deduct 10% grade off for two additional unexcused absences. If you accumulate more than five unexcused absences, you may receive a failing grade for the course regardless of the quality of your written work.

2) Reading and Discussion

Careful preparation of readings and consistent, active presence and participation in class discussion is essential. You are expected to complete all assigned reading before each applicable class session and participate actively in class discussion. Each student will be assigned to guide one reading discussion and one writing critic during the semester.

3) Writing and presentation

This is a writing intensive course. Papers and assignments are due on the stated date. Each student is required to finish a final paper divided in four sections in one semester. All papers are to be written with standard formats (provided in digital file). The final paper should provide proper bibliography and notes, otherwise, it will result in a failing grade.

7. Assignments

1) **Our Living World:** 6 slides for 6 cases selected for 6 specific building elements or small spaces

Buildings are our living world, where we have our everyday life. This exercise asks for record and writing practice based on daily experience and observation. Figure out how people use buildings, find your impressive moment, explain how the building elements matter in this scenery. Record this experience and analysis in texts. Make a comparison with similar spatial part you find from online. In this process, understand better how architecture works and how architects design.

2) **Reading/Building in Texts as Object:** 1 group presentation for a selected case study based on article or book chapter with a specific research theme in reading seminar, about 30-min and 15-min Q&A (4 students for each group)

Students are expected to understand firstly the building or project, the design challenge, the design strategy and concrete spatial and material organization, encouraged to express in your own language. Secondly students should also pay attention to the texts, how the paper was organized, the theme, the structure, the research questions and how viewpoints are developed, etc. In order to learn how to write.

3) **Writing/Building in Texts as Action:** 1 Final Paper with 4 phases: Case study of a selected Shanghai/local project

All papers should be send in PDF file with a name in the following format:

Studentnumber_nameintials (order in lastnamefirstname)_paper title,
e.g. 1530180_WJ_Book Review of Toyo Ito;
1530180_WJ_Proposal on Wenyuan Building

1530180_WJ_Final paper on Wenyuan Building etc.

All final paper and selected essays should also be edited into an in-design file based on provided format in order to bind into a course book.

4) 1 individual presentation (selected papers) for the final paper

8. Basic Content

The course alternates between lecture, class discussion, reading session and writing workshop because these activities create a feedback loop. The course will begin with academic reading and writing on concrete architectural works, focusing on description, analysis as well as experiencing, then highlight academic reading and writing related to key issues for the discourse. The goal is to achieve normativity, precision, clarity as well as criticality of professional and academic expression, both orally and verbally.

9. Ability and personality training

Academic reading and writing, Oral and verbal expression, Critical thinking

10. Assessment

Attendance	10%
Reading Review	20%
Class Participation	10% (archive work +discussion)

Final Paper	60% (experience10%/objective description10%/draft10%/final 30%)
Total:	100%

Notes: Evaluation standard for the writing may vary based on different grades.

11. Textbooks and Main Reference Books

1. Rem Koolhaas, *Elements, a series of 15 books accompanying the exhibition elements of architecture at the 2014 Venice architectural Biennale*, Marsilio, 2014.
2. Adrian Forty, *Words and Buildings: a Vocabulary of Modern Architecture*. Thames and Hudson, 2000.
3. Christopher Alexander, Sara Ishikawa, Murray Silverstein, Max Jacobson, Ingrid Fiksdahl-King and Shlomo Angel, *A Pattern Language: Towns, Buildings, Construction*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977
4. Daniel Ostroff ed. *An Eames Anthology*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2015.
5. Jos Rafael Moneo: *Remarks on 21 Works*, Thames & Hudson, 2010
6. Momoyo Kaijima, Junzo Kuroda, Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, *Made in Tokyo*, Tokyo: Kajima Institute Publishing, 2001.
7. David Leatherbarrow: *The Roots of Architectural Invention*, Cambridge University press, 1993.
8. Vitruvius, *Vitruvius: The Ten Books on Architecture*, Trans., Morris Hickey Morgan, Dover Publications, 1960.
9. Le Corbusier, *Towards an Architecture*, trans., John Goodman, Los Angeles: Getty Research Institute, 2007.
10. Robert Venturi, *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*, New York: The Museum of Modern Art, 2002.
11. Rem Koolhaas, *Delirious New York: A Retroactive Manifesto for Manhattan*, New York: The Monacelli Press, 1994 (1st edition, 1978)
12. Peter Zumthor, *Thinking Architecture* (3rd edition), Birkhäuser Architecture, 2010
13. Peter Zumthor, *Atmosphere*, Birkhäuser Architecture, 2006.
14. Nikolaus Pevsner, *Pioneers of Modern Design: From William Morris to Walter Gropius*, Palazzo Editions, 2011.
15. Steen Eiler Rasmussen, *Experiencing Architecture*, Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1964.
16. Aldo Rossi, *The Architecture of the City*, Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1984.
17. Ada Louis Huxtable, *On Architecture: Collected Reflections on a Century of Change*, New York: Walker & Company, 2008.
18. Paul Goldberger, *Why Architecture Matters*, New Heaven: Yale University Press, 2009.
19. Robert Wojtowicz ed., *Sidewalk Critic: Lewis Mumford's Writing on New York*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1998.
20. Gaston Bachelard, *The Poetics of Space*, trans., Maria Jolas, Beacon Press, 1994.
21. Italo Calvino, translated from Italian by William Weaver, *Invisible Cities*, Harcourt Brace & Company, 1974.
22. Carter Wiseman, *Writing on architecture: A Practical Guide to Clear Communication about Built Environment*, San Antonio: Trinity University Press, 2014.
23. Alexandra Lange, *Writing about Architecture: Mastering the Language of Buildings and Cities*, New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2012.
24. Umberto Eco, *How to Write a Thesis*, translated by Caterina Mongiat Farina and Geoff Farina, Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 2015.
25. Mortimer J. Adler & Charles van Doran, *How to Read a Book: The Classic Guide for Intelligent Reading*. New Yorker: Simon & Schuster, 1972.
26. W. C. Booth, G.G. Colomb & J. M. Williams, *The Craft of Research* (2nd Edition), Chicago & London: The University of Chicago Press, 2003 (1st edition 1995).
27. William Strunk Jr. & E.B. White, *The Elements of Style*, first published in 1918 by Strunk, revised by White in 1958. (One of the 100 best and most influential books written in English since 1923 listed by Time magazine)
28. Various Monograph of Architect or architecture, Magazines and Websites