Department of Architecture
Texas A&M University

Course Title, Section Number and Term:
CARC 331.551  Spring 2012
Credit 3. (3-0)

Instructor Information:
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Catalog Description: Themes in Contemporary European Architecture
Design philosophy in international and domestic environments away from the Texas A&M University campus; emphasis on the historical. Philosophical, cultural, social and economic factors that influence design solutions. May be taken up to two times in the same semester.

This course is designed as a series of thematic lectures on some historic and current European architecture that are complemented by site visits in Barcelona and environs to illustrative works.

This class begins by posing the question: If American and European architects now occupy the same intellectual space, in international journals, schools, forums and competitions, then how can we define European architecture today? Issues of urban history and politics, density, center vs. periphery, public space, transportation networks and public housing are some aspects of European architecture that are markedly different from their US counterparts and that will be explored.

At the same time, European architecture now approaches an Americanized urbanism and building with globalized sites, enormous cultural containers, enclaves of consumption and theme parking. The selection of weekly readings assignments will explore these issues.

This seminar offers architecture students in Barcelona the opportunity to combine classroom lectures and activities with on-site itineraries, taking advantage of their semester in Barcelona to visit important works of architecture and urbanism.

Prerequisite:
None.

Course Objectives:
The objectives of this course are to explore aspects of European architecture especially the relation between built works, urban design and regeneration schemes.
The course will provide students with a vocabulary for addressing issues such as the postindustrial city, European peripheries, urban regeneration, adaptive reuse, creative cities, landscape urbanism, urban events and the role of culture in urban transformations. etc.

Course Schedule:
Meeting time: Tuesdays 9:30-1:30. The 10 classes will meet 4 hours weekly during the semester, with lectures alternating with site visits. The last session will be final presentations of projects by the students. Emphasis will be put on field itineraries in order to gain first-hand experience of contemporary architecture and urbanism in the city.
Week 1  Introduction and Old City Visit.
Assignment of topics. Itineraries to important architecture works in the Raval, Gothic and Ribera areas. The aim of this visit is to underscore the public programs that have regenerated the area and the creation of new institutions within historic and new buildings.

Week 2  Visit to Colonia Güell
This well preserved factory town was designed by Antoni Gaudi and his followers for the Güell family corduroy and velvet factory and its workers. It is an example of the 19th century English factory town model implemented in the Barcelona area. The crypt is an experimental work of architecture.

Week 3  Modernisme
The theoretical framework for turn of the century architecture and its manifestation and variations across Europe (Art Nouveau, Arts and Crafts, Secessionism). Special focus will be given to the work of Antoni Gaudi and other exponents of modernisme in Barcelona.

Week 4  Visit to Montjuic and public spaces in Sants
The itinerary will include the grounds of the 1929 Word’s Exposition, Mies van der Rohe’s German Pavilion, Caixa Forum, the Botanical Garden, the Olympic Ring and three of the first public space making projects in Barcelona’s recent past.

Week 5  Spanish Architecture and Midterm Review
Survey of Spanish architecture as seen through important figures and their works. Special attention will be focused on the prewar and post war periods.

Week 6: Lecture on site: Walden 7 and Taller de Arquitectura offices by Peter Hodgkinson.
Talk and visit to two seminal works of the 1970’s.

Week 7  European Urban Peripheries: Vall d’Hebron Olympic Area and Montbau
Lecture on Site: Pavillon of the Spanish Republic with lecture by historian/archivist of the University of Barcelona. M. Lourdes Prades.
This session explores work on the city edge and the notion of the periphery in European cities. We will visit the Olympic area of Vall d’Hebron and the reconstructed Spanish Pavilion originally built by the GATCPAC in Paris in 1937. The historians in charge of the center will discuss the history of the building, its reconstruction, and the collection of civil war posters that it houses.

Week 8-9 The Post Industrial City:
Visit to Forum 2004/ Diagonal Mar Park/ Poble Nou park and 22@
This visit to a large sector of the city addresses issues about contemporary urbanism and architecture in the context of the post industrial city. The sites are in Barcelona’s former industrial area, now being redesigned as a mixed use hybrid programmed area based on the idea of the creative city. Many of the projects are examples of landscape urbanism.

Week 10-11 Urban triggers 1: Containers, Events, Infrastructures
In the last 20 years Paris, Berlin, Barcelona and other European cities have experienced major urban transformations in relation to political programs. An examination of architectural works as generators of redevelopment:
Week 11-12 Session 10: Contemporary themes and figures.
Lecture: Domingo + Ferre arquitectes.
Explores some of the major European practitioners today and the theoretical and constructive basis of their work.

Week 12-14 Student Final Presentations

Week 15 Final written papers due

Required Reading:

Session 1 Reading: Subirats, Joan and Rius, Joachim. From the Xino to the Na Val. Barcelona: Centre of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona. 2006. pp. 1-78. Available online at http://www.cccb.org/ca/edicio_digital-del_xino_al_raval-10527


Midterm Evaluation: Presentations and submittal of hard copy and digital copy


Bigness or the Problem of Large pages 495-516 SMLXL with Bruce Mau
Study Resources

Coac Architecture Library
Arcs, 1-3 3rd Floor check hours on the website
Students must pay a small fee for entry. You cannot borrow books but you can consult them there, make photocopies and scan and send images to your email.

Architecture School Library ETSAB
Av. Diagonal 649 Mon-Friday 9:00-21:00 L3 Metro Green Line to Zona Universitaria.

Centre of Documentation. Center of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona, CCCB
Montalegre, 5
Recommended General Bibliography On Architecture and Urbanism In Barcelona
Busquets, Joan. Barcelona the Old City. Ajuntament de Barcelona.
Fernández-Galiano, Luis. editor Spain Builds. AV Monografías 113. Madrid 2005
Rowe, Peter. Building Barcelona. Barcelona Regional 2006

Instructor Grading Policy (includes grading scale):

Students will work in pairs to create a 20-25 page research paper and presentation on works of architecture in Barcelona in relation to urban projects with broader implications. The instructor will aid the students in finding study sources and developing their projects. Work must be handed in as hard copy as well as a digital copy on a CD.

In the first session, pairs of students will be assigned a project
For the Midterm evaluation students must have visited the works and have begun compiling information and research at architecture libraries and online. Each group will make a short presentation and hand in a page on the concept of the paper. After lectures, the instructor will be meeting with each group, individually to review and direct the work.

Evaluation will be based on:
Attendance and participation in class discussions 10%
Development of the paper by Midterm 20%
Midterm Presentation. Hand in outline and concept
in hard copy and digital format.
The Final Presentations 30%
The final written work will be worth 40%.

A= 100-90; B= 89-80; C=79-70; D=69-60; F=59 and below
Paper and Presentation Topics:

There are two types of topics that will be given in this class.
First, there will be a series of projects that deal with the direct relation between works of architecture and urban design initiatives.

The second type of project deals with the investigation of the works of an important architect from Barcelona that is lesser known in an international context.

Working in pairs, students will be assigned one of the topics listed below. Papers should be 20-25 pages long including images + bibliography.

For each project dealing with architecture works within a larger urban initiative:
1. Study the urban context and history as well as the larger regeneration project
2. Analyze the most significant architecture projects.
3. Visit and document the works photographically
4. Make a critical analysis.

For the topics dealing with the work of a local architect:
1. Study the architect and their professional trajectory and design philosophy.
2. Analyze the significant architecture projects in relation to the architect’s large vision
3. Visit and document works photographically
4. Make a critical analysis.

Attendance Policy:
The University views class attendance as the responsibility of an individual student.
Attendance is essential to complete the course successfully. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located on-line at http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07

Project due dates will be provided in the project statements. Students should contact the instructor if work is turned in late due to an absence that is excused under the University’s attendance policy. In such cases the instructor will either provide the student an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other graded activities or provide a satisfactory alternative to be completed within 30 calendar days from the last day of the absence. There will be no opportunity for students to make up work missed because of an unexcused absence.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA Policy Statement): The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu.

Academic Integrity Statement and Policy:
AGGIE HONOR CODE
“An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal or tolerate those who do.”
Upon accepting admission to Texas A&M University, a student immediately assumes a commitment to uphold the Honor Code, to accept responsibility for learning, and to follow the philosophy and rules of the Honor System. Students will be required to state their
commitment on examinations, research papers, and other academic work. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the TAMU community from the requirements or the processes of the Honor System. For additional information please visit: http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor

Care of Facilities:
The use of spray paint or other surface-altering materials is not permitted in the Langford Complex, except in designated zones. Students who violate this rule will be liable for the expenses associated with repairing damaged building finishes and surfaces. At the end of the semester, your area must be clean of all trash.

Studio Culture:
All students, faculty, administration and staff of the Department of Architecture at Texas A&M University are dedicated to the principle that the Design Studio is the central component of an effective education in architecture.

They are equally dedicated to the belief that students and faculty must lead balanced lives and use time wisely, including time outside the design studio, to gain from all aspects of a university education and world experiences. They also believe that design is the integration of many parts, that process is as important as product, and that the act of design and of professional practice is inherently interdisciplinary, requiring active and respectful collaboration with others.

Students and faculty in every design studio will embody the fundamental values of optimism, respect, sharing, engagement, and innovation. Every design studio will therefore encourage the rigorous exploration of ideas, diverse viewpoints, and the integration of all aspects of architecture (practical, theoretical, scientific, spiritual, and artistic), by providing a safe and supportive environment for thoughtful innovation.

Every design studio will increase skills in professional communication, through drawing, modeling, writing and speaking.

Every design studio will, as part of the syllabus introduced at the start of each class, include a clear statement on time management, and recognition of the critical importance of academic and personal growth, inside and outside the studio environment. As such it will be expected that faculty members and students devote quality time to studio activities, while respecting the need to attend to the broad spectrum of the academic life.

Every design studio will establish opportunities for timely and effective review of both process and products. Studio reviews will include student and faculty peer review. Where external reviewers are introduced, the design studio instructor will ensure that the visitors are aware of the Studio Culture Statement and recognize that the design critique is an integral part of the learning experience.

The design studio will be recognized as place for open communication and movement, while respecting the needs of others, and of the facilities.