Seminar Five Architects

Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00 – 5:20
Room: 278 Lawrence Hall
Credits: 3
Prerequisites: Arch 314/315 or equal

Introduction
This course will examine 20th Century Architecture, focusing on significant built and theoretical work from the period of approximately 1890 to 1990. Key buildings by well known architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Greene and Greene, Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, Rudolph Schindler, Giuseppe Terragni, Alvar Aalto, Louis Kahn, Carlo Scarpa, Aldo Rossi, Robert Venturi, James Stirling, Jorn Utzon, Mario Botta, Fumihiko Maki, Tadao Ando, Alvaro Siza and Luis Barragan will be studied. Also the “other” tradition of “non-conforming” modernists such as Paul Cret, McKim, Mead and White, Julia Morgan, Shreve, Lamb and Harmon, Cass Gilbert, Raymond Hood and Howe and Lescaze and Plater Zyber and Leon and Rob Krier will also be incorporated into the class discussion for critical analysis and comparison. Ultimately we will try to answer the question: what does it mean to be “Modern”? 
Analysis
The approach will be to attempt an understanding of the work through the artifact itself. This will involve the analysis of key buildings through the careful examination of architectural documentation (plans, sections, etc.) including diagrams which will attempt to distill the principles and elements that animate each one as creative works of art and architecture. From this perspective, visual literacy and familiarity with modes of architectural representation will be critical.

Readings
In addition the course will require readings by key critics of Modernism which include Colin Rowe, Christian Norberg Schulz, Kenneth Frampton, Reyner Banham, Vincent Scully, Robert Venturi and others who have provided important insights into the underpinnings of this body of work. Movements within the larger context of Modernism will be explored such as “Cubism, Futurism, Neo-Plasticism, “Organic” Architecture, New Brutalism, Post Modernism and the Beaux Arts, as they have influenced key buildings and defined the work of master architects.

Requirements
The format of the class will be weekly lectures that will incorporate at least one detailed analysis from the masterworks explored for that period. Students will be required to keep a notebook that will incorporate sketches as well as texts that document the lectures. The final project for the course will be conducted in groups of two or three that will select a key 20th century work, document in drawings and analyze that work and present the results to the class in Leporello format (8 ½ x 11 inch accordion style) and PowerPoint.

Provisional Topics and Schedule

1. Introduction: Modern Architecture vs. 20th Century Architecture: are they identical?
2. American Architecture and FLW

3. European Modernism: DeStijl, Furturism, Expressionism, Rationalism
4. Le Corbusier and Towards and New Architecture

5. The Bauhaus, Gropius and Mies
6. The “other” moderns: Edwin Lutyens, Julia Morgan, McKim, Mead and White, Bertram Goodhue

7. Italian Rationalism
8. Urbanism

9. Alvar Aalto
10. FLW: Fallingwater, Guggenheim Museum

11. Postwar Le Corbusier
12. Carlo Scarpa and “Nuanced” Modernism
13. Louis Kahn
14. Robert Venturi, Michael Graves and Post Modernism

15. James Stirling, Ticinese Architects: Mario Campi, Aurelio Galfetti
16. The New Architecture of Japan

17. Beyond Post Modernism: Alvaro Siza and Luis Barragan
18. Deconstruction and its Critics: Peter Eisenman, Frank Gehry vs. Leon Krier, Colin Rowe and Peterson and Littenberg

Required Text:
A New History of Modern Architecture by Colin Davies,

Reading:
(Note: There will be required and recommended readings posted weekly on Canvas).

General Bibliography:
Banham, Reyner, Theory and Design in the First Machine Age
Colquhoun, Allan, Typology and the Design Method
Curtis, William J. R., Modern Architecture Since 1900
Eisenman, Peter and Jeffrey Kipnis, Written into the Void: Selected Writings
Frampton, Kenneth, Modern Architecture: A Critical History
Giedion, Sigfried, Space, Time and Architecture
Hegemann, Werner and Peets, Elbert, The American Vitruvius
Hitchcock, Henry-Russell, Frank Lloyd Wright: In the Nature of Materials
Le Corbusier, Towards a New Architecture
Norberg-Schulz, Christian, Meaning in Western Architecture
Pevsner, Nikolaus, Pioneers of Modern Design
Rossi, Aldo, Architecture of the City
Rowe, Colin, Mathematics of the Ideal Villa and Other Essays
Scully, Vincent, American Architecture and Urbanism
Venturi, Robert, Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture
Wright, Frank Lloyd Wright, ed. by E. Kaufmann and B. Raeburn, Writings and Buildings