

ARCH 3522

A HISTORY OF NEW YORK CITY ARCHITECTURE (W)

3 Classroom hours, 3 credits

Course Description: A historical analysis of the city's infrastructure, real estate development, municipal planning, ordinances and key buildings using the comparative method. The class will trace the course of architectural history from the village to the present role of the city as the commercial and cultural hub of the nation. This course will stress the dynamic socio-economic determinants emerging as a result of improvements and growth in technology, transportation, infrastructure, real estate, commerce, housing and recreation.

Course context: This course is the final course in the three-part history sequence. This is a writing intensive course.

Prerequisites: ENG 1101; and one of the following: ARCH 1121, ARTH 1101, ARTH 1102, ARTH 1103, or ARTH 1104

Suggested Text:

Caro, Robert A., *The Power Broker, Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*, Random House, 1975.

Eisner, Simon and Arthur Gallion, Stanley Eisner, *The Urban Pattern*, John Wiley and Sons, 1993.

Attendance Policy: No more than 10% absences are permitted during the semester. For purposes of record, two late arrivals are considered as one absence. Exceeding this limit will expose the student to grade penalties at the discretion of the instructor due to lack of class participation and mastery of class material.

Academic Integrity: Students and all others who work with information, ideas, texts, images, music, inventions and other intellectual property owe their audience and sources accuracy and honesty in using, crediting and citation of sources. As a community of intellectual and professional workers, the college recognizes its responsibility for providing instruction in information literacy and academic integrity, offering models of good practice, and responding vigilantly and appropriately to infractions of academic integrity. Accordingly, academic dishonesty is prohibited in The City University of New York and is punishable by penalties, including failing grades, suspension and expulsion.

Course Requirements: There will be weekly course reflection writing assignments coupled with site notes and sketches scanned and submitted as noted below. Each student will research an important NYC building, write a research paper, and present the building on site.

Contact Info:

Professor: Jason A. Montgomery, NCARB LEED AP
Email: jmontgomery@citytech.cuny.edu
Text messages: 718.791.2787 (always include your name in message)

Grading:	Sketchbook	15%
	Short Writing Exercises	40%
	Research Paper	30%
	Site Presentation	15%

Learning Objectives: Upon successful completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Explain the progression of key elements of New York City architectural developments from early European settlements to contemporary times.
2. Define the major differences between the technology of early New York and later architectural developments of the 18th, 19th and 20th century design and the modern movement.
3. Explain and analyze the impact of the past on Architecture of the city, and the neighborhood.
4. To develop an appreciation and awareness of good contemporary architecture.

Assessment: Students will be given quizzes and writing assignments that test their ability to:

1. Explain the progression of key elements of New York City architectural developments from early European settlements to contemporary times.
2. Analyze the major differences between the technology of early New York and later architectural developments of the 18th, 19th and 20th century design and the modern movement.
3. Explain and analyze the impact of the past on Architecture of the city, and the neighborhood.
4. Evaluate contemporary architecture.

Course Outline:

WEEK 1:

Mannahatta and the Beginnings of a Great World City

The ecology and geography of the region and the founding of New Amsterdam and the early settlements on Long Island. New Amsterdam's street development, development of canals and the waterfront, protective wall on the north side of the early city. Critical urban planning and transformation for growth. New York, recognizing the potential for significant growth, commissions a plan for the extension of the city north with the 1811 grid proposal (see *The Greatest Grid*, Museum of the City of New York, 2011.) Across the water a second settlement grows: emerging Brooklyn transforms from small villages, to the town, to the city. Modern New York in the Context of Global Cities.

Short Writing Exercise: Compare New York and Brooklyn Urban Growth and Planning.

Research Paper: Discussion of List of Case Study Buildings, requirements.

WEEK 2:

The Post-Revolutionary Cities

Development of the region is stifled during the British occupation of New York and Long Island. After the war both New York and Brooklyn begin to redevelop trade, business, with new opportunities attracting new immigration to the region. The waterfront is the focus of commerce, with building development and land fill extending the shoreline to support business centered on shipping and movement of goods. Brooklyn's leading land owners also recognize the growth potential of their town and plan the land along the bluff (Brooklyn Heights) as well as along the waterfront heading east to Wallabout Bay ("Olympia", now Dumbo, Vinegar Hill.)

Site Visit: Meet at Borough Hall North Façade Portico 2:30pm

Brooklyn: Brooklyn Heights
Ferry Crossing: Dumbo to Wall Street
New York: South Street Seaport

Short Writing Exercise: Compare Early New York/Brooklyn Architecture and Streetscape

WEEK 3:**An Immigrant City: Urban Population Explosion**

Local and international forces push immigration to great heights, with significant population increases straining housing in particular. Providing safe housing, clean water, sanitary conditions is major challenge for the young cities. The lower east side becomes a symbol of the plight of the urban immigrant population. 5 Points is the nexus of social turmoil.

Short Writing Exercise: What factors precipitated housing crisis for immigrants and the working poor? What needed to change? How does this crisis mirror/relate to current conditions of housing in New York?

WEEK 4:**Mid-19th Century Civic Improvement: Central Park**

With the strains of rapid urbanization, the progressive movement pushes for reform and civic improvements. Central Park and Prospect Park are the crown jewels of New York and two of the great urban parks. The parks provide diverse landscape spaces along sensuous walking paths that elegantly guide the sequence and movement through these parks. Innovative infrastructure integrates multiple modes of movement/transportation seamlessly within the parks and connects this system to the surrounding city.

Site Visit: **Meet at Sherman Monument, Grand Army Plaza Manhattan
5th Ave @ 59th Street 2:30pm**

The Pond, The Dairy
The Sheep Meadow, The Mall
Bethesda Fountain, The Ramble
Belvedere Castle, The Great Lawn
The Reservoir, Engineer's Gate

Short Writing Exercise: How does the design of the park impact visitors? What features of the park are particularly notable? Describe these features and why you are intrigued by them.

WEEK 5:**19th Century New York Neighborhoods and Architecture: Washington Square**

Washington Square epitomizes the elegance of 19th century New York neighborhood development around park spaces. Many historic buildings surround the park and survive across the neighborhood to the north and west of the park. To the south, the important neighborhood of Soho is a repository of 19th century industrial buildings, with significant use of cast-iron for its efficiency and architectural appeal.

Site Visit: **Meet at the Arch in Washington Square Park 2:30pm**

Washington Square
5th Avenue
Greenwich Village
I.M. Pei Towers
Louis Sullivan
Soho

Short Writing Exercise: How would you describe the sense of place when walking through 19th century New York City neighborhoods? What qualities are particularly notable?

WEEK 6:**Millionaires' Row and Museum Mile: 5th Avenue along Central Park**

Central Park's development elevates the adjacent stretch of 5th Avenue to the top of the competition for prime real estate in New York. Large scale houses are built for the wealthiest New Yorkers including Frick, Carnegie, Kahn, Warburg, and many of them are adapted into museums or schools over time, providing New York with an elegant stretch of cultural and architectural heritage.

Site Visit: **Meet the Frick Museum, 1 East 70th Street 2:30pm**
Frick Museum* (\$12.00 Admission for Students)
Metropolitan Museum*
Guggenheim Museum* (\$18.00 Admission for Students)
Heavenly Rest*
Carnegie Mansion
Kahn Mansion
Warburg Mansion

Short Writing Exercise: Compare the viewing of art in a house museum (Frick) to a designed museum (Guggenheim). Compare the spaces and movement through the galleries.

WEEK 7:**Lower Manhattan: The Emerging Metropolis**

The Brooklyn Bridge and the Otis Elevator Safety Break mark a new era of engineering and architecture in New York. The bridge is a remarkable innovation of engineering and design, setting a standard for urban infrastructure rarely matched. The connectivity between Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan fuels acceleration of urban development in Brooklyn. The elevator provides the critical missing piece for tall buildings. With the technology established by 1860, taller and taller projects are planned, providing an opportunity to invent a new architectural typology and a new image of the city. The early 20th century marks the beginning of a new era for the city, as New York's prominence as a commercial power grows, with key institutions building future landmark buildings.

Site Visit: **Meet at Customs House/National Museum of the American Indian Entrance 2:30pm**
US Customs House, Stock Exchange, Federal Hall
Trinity Church, St. Paul's Chapel
Equitable Building, Woolworth
Brooklyn Bridge

Short Writing Exercise: Describe the unique urban composition of key landmark buildings in lower Manhattan, with analysis of sight lines and urban streets and spaces.

WEEK 8:**20th Century Civic Infrastructure**

As the city extends out and the region beyond the city grows, transportation networks are increasingly important. Nationwide and regional train networks are brought into Manhattan through two key buildings: Grand Central Terminal and Penn Station. In between these new stations, the New York Public Library provides educational infrastructure in a monumental public palace for New Yorkers on land that provided a reservoir for the city's drinking water system, bringing clean water through the Croton Aqueduct. With the library another new park is developed on the site of the reservoir, Bryant Park, now one of the most successful urban spaces in the country.

Site Visit: **Meet by the Information Kiosk in the center of Grand Central's main hall at 2:30pm**
 Grand Central Terminal*
 New York Public Library*
 Bryant Park
 Penn Station*

Short Writing Exercise: What is important about the way civic infrastructure is developed in a city? How do Penn Station and Grand Central reflect New York City's civic architectural culture and history?

WEEK 9:**The Classic Skyline: 1920s-1930s New York**

Decades into the experimentation with the tall building, two of the great high-rise towers are developed, both exhibiting the power and prestige of the emerging automobile industry: the Chrysler Building and the Empire State Building (General Motors). Rockefeller Center is an experiment in the city within a city, a multi-building complex with its own framed urban space that is a set-piece in scenographic drama.

Site Visit: **Meet Along the 34th St Side Entrances to the Empire State Building, 34th St at 2:30pm**
 Empire State Building*
 Chrysler Building*
 Rockefeller Center*
 St. Patrick's Cathedral*

Short Writing Exercise: How do the Chrysler and Empire compare? Describe the massing, materials, and detailing of each?

WEEK 10:**Mid-town Modernism: Corporate and Institutional Modern Architecture**

Post-war architects start to define a new architectural image linked to American corporate culture of the time. These critical projects reimagine the office tower through massing, materials and skin treatment, proportion, and relationship to the ground plane.

Site Visit: **Meet at the Lever House 390 Park Ave 2:30pm**
 Lever House*, Seagram Building*
 Citicorp*, Lipstick Building
 Ford Foundation*
 United Nations

Short Writing Exercise: Compare the evolution of the exterior skin of these modern office/institutional buildings. Compare their massing strategies.

WEEK 11:**Beyond the 1811 grid: 20th Century Planning Experiments in the City**

Urban challenges in the early century prompted city officials and planners to consider other approaches to planning cities and experimented with these approaches in large scale projects under the banner *Urban Renewal*. Much of this planning was centered on the automobile, providing increased access at the expense of other modes of transportation. The Regional Plan Association developed concepts and plans at the regional scale, seeking efficiency and connectivity between the urban core and the surrounding suburbs. In the city, planners proposed projects that required mass demolition of neighborhood fabric, large enough to reconfigure the block and street structure and public space. The new plans were modeled on the Tower in the Park urbanism deriving from modernist planners including Le Corbusier (see his Plan Voisin for Paris.) Civic centers are a subcategory of this planning approach, where multiple institutions are grouped in formal compositions around open space, inspired by the Columbian Exposition (1892).

Site Visit: Meet at the Central Fountain at Lincoln Center at 2:30pm

Lincoln Center*
Lincoln Tower Apartments
Amsterdam Apartments
170 Amsterdam Avenue Apartments

Short Writing Exercise: How do civic centers like Lincoln Center relate to the city around them? Describe the nature of the public plaza in this civic center.

WEEK 12:**Expanding Manhattan: Battery Park City**

Battery Park City is a significant example of contemporary urban planning in New York City that rejects the Tower in the Park planning of the early-mid 20th century. The plan seeks to provide integrated building fabric, streets, and open spaces that generate the quality of place of a distinct neighborhood for the city that takes advantage of its unique waterfront environment. Streets and blocks are formed in innovative ways to accommodate contemporary development approaches and to provide amenities to attract new residents and businesses.

Site Visit: Meet in park space in front of Stuyvesant High School 345 Chambers Street 2:30pm

Teardrop Park
Porphyrios Pavilion
Esplanade
Irish Hunger Memorial
North Cove Yacht Harbor
Winter Garden
South End Ave/West Thames/Battery Place
911 Memorial
The Oculus*

Short Writing Exercise: Compare the Lincoln Center urban renewal planning to Battery Park City's planning. How does the spatial experience of the Tower in the Park differ from the urbanism of Battery Park City?

RESEARCH PAPER DUE PRIOR TO CLASS 13

WEEK 13:

Breathing New Life into Urban and Architectural Design in the City: The High Line

The High Line has played an important role in New York City architectural culture in the 21st century, inspiring a reinvigoration of design in a city that was ruled by developers prioritizing maximum efficiency and profit over design. The High Line provides a mode of being in the city that is unique: the opportunity to stroll through the city without the stress of crossing traffic. Set piece designs, especially Zaha Hadid's apartment block dynamically interact with the passersby.

Site Visit: **Meet the south end of the highline at Washington and Gansevoort (next to the Whitney Museum) at 2:30pm**
Whitney Museum
High Line
Standard Hotel
IAC, 100 11th Avenue
HL-23
520 West 28th Street*
Hudson Yards: The Shed, The Vessel

Short Writing Exercise: Compare place making and urban planning at Hudson Yards to Battery Park City.

WEEK 14:

New York City Cultural Institutions: MoMA

MoMA occupies a special place in the cultural life of New York City. It was a unique institution when it was founded, celebrating new and inventive art that transcended the boundaries of tradition and convention. Now, interestingly, it is the venerable institution with great history and depth, continuing to extoll the virtues of the first generation of great modern artists. The building, like the Metropolitan Museum, is now a grouping of a series of periods of construction, with the most recent just completed. The garden is now a revered remnant of the initial phase, a sacred space so to speak for New Yorkers and visitors to contemplate this great city and its link to modern artistic and architectural visions.

Site Visit: **Meet at 54 Street Entrance of MoMA at 2:30pm**
MoMA

Short Writing Exercise: How does the MoMA garden relate to other spaces in the city? What makes it special? How does the architecture relate to the space?

WEEK 15:

Review of Research Papers
Class Reflection