



History of American Landscapes and Architecture

COURSE GUIDE

HIS/IAR 624

Fall 2009

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Hours: by appointment

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gladly given

Course Objectives

A landscape “happens not by chance but by contrivance, by premeditation, by design.” –John Stilgoe, *Common Landscape of America*

This course is designed as an advanced reading seminar in the history of American landscapes and architecture. The course will introduce you to a variety of methods developed by architectural and cultural historians to interpret buildings and landscapes as cultural artifacts with historically specific meanings that must be understood in particular context over time. An important objective of the course is to go beyond classroom reading and discussion to application of specific scholars' arguments and methodologies through analysis of particular buildings and landscapes.

By the end of the semester you should know and be able to do the following:

- Identify and explain the most important influences on the design of domestic and commercial landscapes from the colonial era through the mid-twentieth century.
- Explain how individual buildings and larger sites or landscape systems document cultural and social change over time using specific architectural examples.
- Define the distinguishing characteristics of particular architectural styles and building types and use specialized architectural vocabulary/terminology accurately.

- Explain the differences between vernacular and academic building traditions and the approaches scholars have used to study them.
- Compare and contrast the methodologies developed by a variety of scholars to interpret landscape and architecture as historical evidence.
- Use different interpretive approaches to evaluate a particular landscape or building in historical context.

Evaluation

Architectural Analysis Presentation and Bibliography	25%
Unit Case Studies	75%

All written assignments should be typed, with appropriate citations in Turabian style [<http://library.uncg.edu/depts/ref/handouts/turabian.html>]. You will submit your written assignments electronically to my email address on the appropriate due date. Late assignments will be penalized.

Participation

1. Consistent attendance—this is a seminar, not a traditional lecture course. We will be critically evaluating the content of the readings and practicing the application of analytical skills during each class period. You will not be able to make up for your absences by copying someone else's notes. For this reason, consistent attendance is essential to your learning in this course. Therefore, beyond the part attendance plays in the overall participation grade, **there will be a 3% reduction of your final grade for each absence after the first 1**. Beyond even this penalty, a student who seriously neglects attendance and preparation risks failing the course.
2. Thorough preparation for class—readings must be completed before class and assignments must be turned in on time.
3. Regular contributions to class discussions—the success of this course for your learning depends on active intellectual engagement with your peers.

Architectural Analysis Presentation and Bibliography (25%)

Ppt presentation to the class and annotated research bibliography focusing the history and analysis of a particular style or form of American architecture. The purpose of this assignment is to create a shared resource for your peers that can be used as a quick reference to your selected style.

- Identify famous or representative examples
- Evaluate vernacular examples that show the influence of your style but are not necessarily pure academic representations of the style.
- Identify local representative examples
- Explain distinguishing features of style/form
- Brief history of the style including date range and major cultural influences
- Annotated Bibliography of at least 12 useful references (scholarly books and journal articles; may also include relevant primary sources) for understanding the history of the style/form—Post to Bb.

Case Study Building/Landscape Analyses (75%; 25 % each)

The goal of each case study is to go beyond basic reading knowledge of the materials we discuss to begin to USE the knowledge you are acquiring in a "real world" case study. In each case you will evaluate evidence from a particular building or landscape by applying appropriate arguments from assigned readings to put the designated site in historical context. The case studies may also introduce you to different types of primary sources (HABS drawings and Sanborn insurance maps, for example) that are useful for doing architectural history. Above all, you will practice really looking at and analyzing the historical evidence that is documented in particular buildings or landscapes. Case studies are not intended as research papers; therefore, you are not required to consult references beyond the assigned reading or additional resources identified in the assignment. You will find the McAlester field guide to be a useful reference for identifying appropriate architectural vocabulary for specific features of your selected case study, but be sure to focus your analysis on arguments presented by scholars in appropriate assigned readings.

Each paper should do the following:

- Use specific and appropriate visual evidence from the selected site to develop your analysis. It may be necessary to take photographs of specific building or landscape features for your analysis.
- Use specific arguments from appropriate assigned scholars to interpret and evaluate your selected landscape in an appropriate historical context. Be sure to evaluate divergent interpretations among the scholars.
- Use appropriate architectural vocabulary to describe key features of your case study as part of your analysis.

All unit essays should be typed and double-spaced, 7-10 pages long, with appropriate citations in Turabian style [<http://library.uncg.edu/depts/ref/handouts/turabian.html>]. You will submit your essays electronically to my email address: lctolber@uncg.edu.

Criteria for evaluation of unit essays:

For each essay, I will evaluate how effectively you accomplish the following:

- Analysis of specific architectural and spatial evidence documented by the selected case study.
- Creative application of historical and methodological content of assigned readings.
- Application and understanding of appropriate authors' arguments. [Note: You are not required to mention every author assigned in a particular unit, but you should certainly address the content of more than one or two authors in the unit.]
- Use of appropriate architectural terminology.
- Polish and presentation of prose, and accuracy of citations.

Case Study 1: Due by 9:00 a.m. on Monday 5 October. Style and Form in Early America:

Choose **ONE** of the following sites and use appropriate assigned reading to evaluate the architecture and landscape design in historical context:

Drayton Hall (18th century)

- [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=hhphoto&fileName=sc/sc0100/sc0132/photos/browse.db&action=browse&recNum=0&title2=Drayton%20Hall,%20Ashley%20River%20Road%20\(Sate%20Route%2061\),%20Charleston%20vicinity,%20Charleston%20County,%20SC&displayType=1&itemLink=D?hh:4:./temp/~ammem_uJah::](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collId=hhphoto&fileName=sc/sc0100/sc0132/photos/browse.db&action=browse&recNum=0&title2=Drayton%20Hall,%20Ashley%20River%20Road%20(Sate%20Route%2061),%20Charleston%20vicinity,%20Charleston%20County,%20SC&displayType=1&itemLink=D?hh:4:./temp/~ammem_uJah::)

- <http://www.draytonhall.org/research/architecture/>

The Hermitage: (19th century)

- http://www.thehermitage.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=87&Itemid=111
- [http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=hhphoto&fileName=tn/tn0000/tn0022/photos/browse.db&action=browse&recNum=0&title2=The%20Hermitage,%20U.S.%20Highway%2070%20North%20\(4580%20Rachel's%20Lane\),%20Nashville%20vicinity,%20Davidson%20County,%20TN&displayType=1&itemLink=D?hh:22:./temp/~ammem_vdaf::](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=hhphoto&fileName=tn/tn0000/tn0022/photos/browse.db&action=browse&recNum=0&title2=The%20Hermitage,%20U.S.%20Highway%2070%20North%20(4580%20Rachel's%20Lane),%20Nashville%20vicinity,%20Davidson%20County,%20TN&displayType=1&itemLink=D?hh:22:./temp/~ammem_vdaf::)

Dunleith (19th century):

- http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage?collid=hhsheet&fileName=nc/nc0000/nc0039/sheet/browse.db&action=browse&recNum=0&title2=Dunleith,%20677%20Chestnut%20Street,%20Greensboro,%20Guilford%20County,%20NC&displayType=1&maxCols=2&itemLink=D?hh:1:./temp/~ammem_sNL0::

Blandwood (19th century) <http://www.blandwood.org/blandwood.html>

Case Study 2: Due by 9:00 a.m. on Monday November 2) Suburban Landscape: Compare and contrast suburban design of suburbs created in **two** distinct time periods: Local examples include College Hill, Westerwood, Aycocock, Fisher Park, Sunset Hills, Lindley Park, and Starmount. For information about the history of local neighborhoods see

Marvin A. Brown, *Greensboro: An Architectural Record*

Gayle Hicks Fripp, *Images of America. Greensboro, Volume II: Neighborhoods*

Catherine W. Bishir and Lawrence S. Earley, eds. *Early Twentieth-Century Suburbs in North Carolina: Essays on History, Architecture, and Planning*

Sanborn Maps available through Jackson Library databases.

Case Study 3: Due by 9:00 a.m. on Monday 7 December) Commercial Landscape: compare and contrast downtown Elm St. commercial district and Lawndale Shopping Center

Marvin A. Brown, *Greensboro: An Architectural Record*

Gayle Hicks Fripp, *Images of America. Greensboro, Volume II: Neighborhoods*

Catherine W. Bishir and Lawrence S. Earley, eds. *Early Twentieth-Century Suburbs in North Carolina: Essays on History, Architecture, and Planning*

Sanborn Maps available through Jackson Library databases.

Course Readings

Books (Available at the UNCG bookstore)

Bushman, Richard. *The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities*. New York: Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group 1993.

Eggner, Keith L., ed. *American Architectural History: A Contemporary Reader*. New York: Routledge, 2004.

Hanchett, Thomas W. *Sorting Out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875-1975*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998.

- Heath, Kingston Wm. *The Patina of Place: The Cultural Weathering of a New England Industrial Landscape*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2001.
- Isenberg, Allison. *Downtown America: A History of the Place and the People Who Made It*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004.
- Loeb, Carolyn. *Entrepreneurial Vernacular: Developers' Subdivisions in the 1920s*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.
- Shaw Diane. *City Building on the Eastern Frontier: Sorting the New Nineteenth Century City*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004.
- Small, Nora Pat. *Beauty and Convenience: Architecture and Order in the New Republic*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003.

Recommended Textbooks:

- Gelernter, Mark. *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context*. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1999.
[recommended]
- McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1984.
[recommended]

Book Chapters/Journal Articles (Available on electronic reserve or online as noted.)

- Adams, Annmarie, "The Eichler Home: Intention and Experience in Postwar Suburbia," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, Vol. 5, Gender, Class, and Shelter*. (1995), pp. 164-178. [Use Journal Finder]
- Bishir, Catherine W. "Jacob Holt: An American Builder," *Common Places*, pp. 447-481.
[ereserves]
- Brucken, Carolyn. "In the Public Eye: Women and the American Luxury Hotel." *Winterthur Portfolio* 31 (1996): 203-220. [Use Journal Finder]
- Cohen, Lizabeth, "From Town Center to Shopping Center: The Reconfiguration of Community Marketplaces in Postwar America" Jackson, Kenneth T., (commentary).; *American Historical Review* 1996 101(4): 1050-1081. [Use Journal Finder]
- Ellis, Clifton. "Greeking the Southside: Style and Meaning at James C. Burce's Berry Hill Plantation House. *Journal of Early Southern Decorative Arts* 2002 28(1): 1-51
[ereserves]
- Fine, Lisa M. "The Female 'Souls of the Skyscraper'" In *The American Skyscraper: Cultural Histories*. Edited by Roberta Moudry. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. pp. 63-82. [ereserves]
- Longstreth, Richard. "Sears Roebuck and the Remaking of the Department Store, 1924-1942." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 2006 65(2): 238-279. [Posted to Bb]
- Marsh, Margaret. "From Separation to Togetherness: The Social Construction of Domestic Space in American Suburbs, 1840-1915." *Journal of American History* 76:2 (September 1989): 506-527. [Use Journal Finder]

- Martin, Ann Smart. Commercial Space as Consumption Arena : Retail Stores in Early Virginia, *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. 8, People, Power, Places (2000), pp. 201-218. [Use Journal Finder]
- Nye, David E. "The Sublime and the Skyline: The New York Skyscraper." In *The American Skyscraper: Cultural Histories*. Edited by Roberta Moudry. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. pp. 255-269. [ereserves]
- Pogue, Dennis J. "The Domestic Architecture of Slavery at George Washington's Mount Vernon." *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 37, No. 1 (Spring 2002): 3-22. [Use Journal Finder]
- Rubin, Barbara. "Aesthetic Ideology and Urban Design," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 69:3 (September 1979): 339-361. [Use Journal Finder]
- Sewell, Jessica "Sidewalks and Store Windows as Political Landscapes" *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* Vol. 9 *Constructing Image, Identity, and Place: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* (2003), pp. 85-98. [Use Journal Finder]
- Southern, Michael. "The I-House as a Carrier of Style in Three Counties of the Northeastern Piedmont." In *Carolina Dwelling: Towards Preservation of Place: In Celebration of the North Carolina Vernacular Landscape*. Edited by Doug Swaim. Raleigh, NC: North Carolina State University, 1978. [ereserves]
- Tolbert, Lisa C, "The Aristocracy of the Market Basket: Self-Service Food Shopping in the New South." In *Food Chains: From Farmyard to Shopping Cart*. Edited by Warren Belasco and Roger Horowitz. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009: 179-195. [posted to Bb]
- Wells, Camille, "The Planter's Prospect: Houses and Rural Landscapes in 18th c. Virginia," *Winterthur Portfolio* 1993 28(1): 1-31. [[Use Journal Finder]

Course Schedule

26 August **Introductions**

Unit 1: Early American Houses: Contesting American Ideals

2 September **The Georgian Revolution**

Required Reading: Bushman, Richard. *The Refinement of America: Persons, Houses, Cities*. New York: Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group 1993. Read part I: Gentility, Chapters 1, 4, 5, and 6.

Recommended Reading: Gelernter, Chapters 2 and 3

9 September **Southern Contexts**

Required Reading:

American Architectural History Reader:

4. Space : parish churches, courthouses, and dwellings in colonial Virginia / Dell Upton –

Martin, Ann Smart. Commercial Space as Consumption Arena : Retail Stores in Early Virginia, *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. 8, People, Power, Places (2000), pp. 201-218. [Use Journal Finder]

Unit 2: Defining and Redefining Suburban Landscapes

7 October Working-Class Vernacular

Required Reading: Heath, Kingston Wm. *The Patina of Place: The Cultural Weathering of a New England Industrial Landscape*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2001.
Hanchett, Thomas W. *Sorting Out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875-1975*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. Read Chapter 2.

Recommended Reading:

Gelernter, 6. Enterprise and turmoil 1865-85

14 October Middle-Class Victorians at Home

Required Reading:

American Architectural History Reader:

9. First impressions : front halls and hall furnishings in Victorian America / Kenneth L. Ames –

14. The prairie house / James F. O'Gorman –

Marsh, Margaret. "From Separation to Togetherness: The Social Construction of Domestic Space in American Suburbs, 1840-1915." *Journal of American History* 76:2 (September 1989): 506-527. [Use Journal Finder]

Recommended Reading:

Gelernter 7. The age of diversity 1885-1915

McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, pp. 438-500.

21 October Entrepreneurial Vernacular: Developers Suburbs

Required Reading: Loeb, Carolyn. *Entrepreneurial Vernacular: Developers' Subdivisions in the 1920s*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.

Recommended Reading: Gelernter, 8. Between the World Wars 1915-45

28 October Post-WWII: Domestic

Required Reading:

American Architectural History Reader:

17. People who live in glass houses : Edith Farnsworth, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe, and Philip Johnson / Alice T. Friedman –

18. Mirror images : technology, consumption, and the representation of gender in American architecture since World War II / Joan Ockman –

Adams, Annmarie, "The Eichler Home: Intention and Experience in Postwar Suburbia," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, Vol. 5, Gender, Class, and Shelter*. (1995), pp. 164-178.

Recommended Reading: Gelernter, 9: Modern Culture, 1945-1973

2 November Case Study 2 due by 9:00 a.m.

Unit 3: Consumer Landscapes in Modern America

4 November **Style in Modern America**

Required Reading:

American Architectural History Reader:

- 12. Architecture and the reinterpretation of the past in the American renaissance / Richard Guy Wilson –
 - 16. The search for modernity : America, the international style, and the Bauhaus / Margaret Kentgens-Craig –
- Rubin, Barbara. "Aesthetic Ideology and Urban Design," *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 69:3 (September 1979): 339-361. [Use Journal Finder]

11 November **Interpreting the Skyscraper**

Required Reading:

American Architectural History Reader:

- 10. "A city under one roof," Chicago skyscrapers, 1880-1895 / Daniel Bluestone
- Fine, Lisa M. "The Female 'Souls of the Skyscraper'" In *The American Skyscraper: Cultural Histories*. Edited by Roberta Moudry. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. pp. 63-82. [ereserves]
- Nye, David E. "The Sublime and the Skyline: The New York Skyscraper." In *The American Skyscraper: Cultural Histories*. Edited by Roberta Moudry. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005. pp. 255-269. [ereserves]

18 November **Downtown: Isenberg, Sewell, Longstreth**

Required Reading:

- Isenberg, Allison. *Downtown America: A History of the Place and the People Who Made It*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004. Read Introduction and Chapters 1-4.
- Longstreth, Richard. "Sears Roebuck and the Remaking of the Department Store, 1924-1942." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 2006 65(2): 238-279. [Posted to Bb]
- Sewell, Jessica "Sidewalks and Store Windows as Political Landscapes" *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* Vol. 9 *Constructing Image, Identity, and Place: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* (2003), pp. 85-98. [Use Journal Finder]

25 November **Southern Commercial Landscapes: Hanchett, Tolbert,**

Required Reading:

- Hanchett, Thomas W. *Sorting Out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875-1975*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. Read Chapters 3-8.
- Tolbert, Lisa C, "The Aristocracy of the Market Basket: Self-Service Food Shopping in the New South." In *Food Chains: From Farmyard to Shopping Cart*. Edited by Warren Belasco and Roger Horowitz. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009: 179-195. [posted to Bb]

2 December **Post WWII: Commercial**

Required Reading:

- Cohen, Lizabeth, "From Town Center to Shopping Center: The Reconfiguration of Community Marketplaces in Postwar America" Jackson, Kenneth T.,

(commentary).; *American Historical Review* 1996 101(4): 1050-1081. [Use Journal Finder]

Hanchett, Thomas W. *Sorting Out the New South City: Race, Class, and Urban Development in Charlotte, 1875-1975*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998. Read Chapter 9.

Isenberg, Allison. *Downtown America: A History of the Place and the People Who Made It*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2004. Read Chapters 5-7 and conclusion.

Recommended Reading: Gelernter, 9: Modern Culture, 1945-1973

7 December

Case Study 3 due by 9:00 a.m.