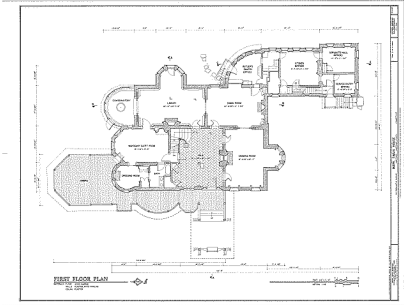


222  
 One of the most interesting of American Gothic buildings is the Shrine of St. Francis in St. Louis. It was designed by the architect Edward S. Ingham in 1906. The building is a masterpiece of the Gothic Revival style, and is one of the most beautiful buildings in St. Louis. It is a prime example of the Gothic Revival style, and is one of the most beautiful buildings in St. Louis. It is a prime example of the Gothic Revival style, and is one of the most beautiful buildings in St. Louis.



# History of American Landscapes and Architecture

## COURSE GUIDE

HIS/IAR 624

Spring 2012

Prof. L. Tolbert  
 Email: [lctolber@uncg.edu](mailto:lctolber@uncg.edu)

Office: MHRA 2109

Hours: by appointment gladly given

*A landscape "happens not by chance but by contrivance, by premeditation, by design."*

*—John Stilgoe, Common Landscape of America*

# Course Objectives

This course is designed as an advanced reading seminar in the history of American landscapes and architecture. We will explore a variety of approaches 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 different types of primary sources documenting 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.
  - Apply different interpretive approaches and primary sources to evaluate a particular landscape or building as a cultural artifact in historical context.

\*Note that though this course is not a traditional, art historical survey of styles and periods, accurate use of specialized terminology is an important part of your professional development. The McAlester survey is a useful reference tool for understanding specialized architectural vocabulary.

### **Role of this course in the graduate curriculum:**

This course plays an essential role as a requirement for historic preservation students and an elective for museum studies students. If you are a preservation student you should learn strategies for explaining the historical significance of any type of building you may need to evaluate—whether it be house, barn, store, or skyscraper. If you are a museum studies student you should learn how to look at architectural evidence to bring it to life for your visitors. If you are a regular history student this course can expand your toolkit of historical practice beyond traditional documents to understand strategies for using artifacts as historical evidence.

[http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian\\_citationguide.html](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)

## Evaluation

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Primary Source Case Studies                      100%

All written assignments should be 7-10 pages typed, with appropriate citations in Turabian style [[http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian\\_citationguide.html](http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html)]. You will submit your written assignments electronically to my email address on the appropriate due date. Late assignments will be penalized.

### **Primary Source Case Studies (25% each)**

The goal of each case study is to go beyond basic reading knowledge of the materials we discuss to begin to APPLY the knowledge you are acquiring in a "real world" case study. In each case you will evaluate a different type of primary source evidence by applying appropriate arguments from assigned readings to put the selected evidence in historical context. The case studies will introduce you to four different types of primary sources (probate inventories, HABS drawings, postcards, and consumer magazines) scholars have used in creative ways for studying doing architectural history. Above all, you will practice really looking at and analyzing the historical evidence that documents particular buildings or landscapes. While you will need to do some limited research in the primary sources, case studies are not intended as extensive research papers; therefore, you are not required to consult scholarship 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 and text evidence from the selected sources to develop 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](mailto:lctolber@uncg.edu).

Criteria for evaluation of all of the case studies:

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

- Analysis of specific architectural and spatial evidence documented by the selected case study.
- Evaluation of the possibilities and limitations of the primary sources for doing architectural history.
- Creative application of historical and methodological content of assigned readings that demonstrates complex understanding of the limits and possibilities of particular scholar's arguments.
- Synthesis of multiple scholars' arguments paying attention to points of consensus or disagreement among scholars. [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.]
- Accurate use of appropriate architectural terminology.
- Polish and presentation of prose.
- Accuracy and completeness of citations.

Due Dates:

**Case Study 1:** Eighteenth Century: Probate Inventories as Architectural History. Due 17 February by 5:00 p.m. Use up to 5 different probate inventories from the following databases to evaluate room uses and domestic spaces in eighteenth-century Chesapeake:

York County, Virginia <http://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/BrowseProbates.cfm>

Virginia and Maryland <http://chnm.gmu.edu/probateinventory/>

You may also find the Gunston Hall Room Use Study to be helpful in evaluating room uses using probate inventories: [http://www.gunstonhall.org/mansion/room\\_use\\_study/methodology.html](http://www.gunstonhall.org/mansion/room_use_study/methodology.html)

**Case Study 2:** Nineteenth Century: Using HABS to Study Buildings and Landscapes. Due 16 March by 5:00 p.m. Select a nineteenth-century domestic residence from HABS

([http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs\\_haer/](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/habs_haer/)) to evaluate. I will post some recommended properties that would work well with the assigned reading but you can also select a different property for approval. Your selection must contain a variety of documentation including floorplans, elevations, and photographs. Catalog records with historical context are also recommended.

Each paper should do the following:

- In what way is your selected building an architectural event that documents the nineteenth-century society and culture in which it was created?
- Use specific and appropriate visual evidence from the selected site to develop your analysis. Be sure to use both the photographic evidence and the floor plans in your analysis. Include appropriate illustrations in your paper. (illustrations do not count in overall page length of the assignment)
- 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.

**Case Study 3:** Twentieth Century: Consumer Magazines as Architectural History due 5 April by 5:00 p.m.

Select one pre-WWII issue and one post-WWII issue of one of the popular consumer magazines listed below and evaluate the content of the magazines using appropriate arguments from the assigned reading to consider the role of architecture in an evolving consumer society. Be sure to analyze visual content as well as text. Include illustrations of the specific advertisements or visuals that you analyze in the paper

with captions that cite the location of the item in the original source. Include a citation for your selected magazines.

Here is a list of approved popular consumer magazines of the twentieth century.

*Ladies' Home Journal* (AP2 .L135 [v.1-9 on Film 3570], holdings start in 1890)

*Better Homes and Gardens* (NA7100 .B45 [v.2-4 on Film 1562] holdings start in 1924)

*Good Housekeeping* (TX1 .G7, holdings start in 1916)

*House and Garden* (NA7100 .H6 1 holdings start in 1901)

*House Beautiful* (NA7100 .H65, holdings start in 1897)

**Case Study 4:** Commercial Landscapes: Postcards as Architectural History due 27 April by 5:00 p.m. Select postcards from [http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/nc\\_post/index.php?CISOROOT=/nc\\_post](http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/nc_post/index.php?CISOROOT=/nc_post) to evaluate commercial landscapes in North Carolina. Possibilities include the cultural context of the skyscraper, concepts of Main Street, comparison of different types of commercial buildings, evaluation of commercial interiors. We will discuss strategies for designing your case study as the semester unfolds.

### **Participation and Attendance Policy**

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, **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.

## Course Readings

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### **Recommended References**

Gelernter, Mark. *A History of American Architecture: Buildings in Their Cultural and Technological Context*. Hanover: University Press of New England, 1999. ISBN 1584651369

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 1984. ISBN 0394739698

### **Required Books:**

Upton, Dell and Michael Vlach. *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986. ISBN 0820307505

Isenstadt, Sandy. *The Modern American House: Spaciousness and Middle-Class Identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. ISBN 9780521770132

Loeb, Carolyn. *Entrepreneurial Vernacular: Developers' Subdivisions in the 1920s*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001. ISBN 0801866189

Small, Nora Pat. *Beauty and Convenience: Architecture and Order in the New Republic*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003. ISBN 1572332360

**Required Articles and Book Chapters:**

- 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]
- Archer, John. "Ideology and Aspiration: Individualism, the Middle Class, and the Genesis of the Anglo-American Suburb," *Journal of Urban History* 14:2 (1988): 214-253. [use journal finder]
- Bluestone, Daniel. "A City Under One Roof: Chicago Skyscrapers, 1880-1895." In *American Architectural History: A Contemporary Reader*. Edited by Keith L. Eggener. New York: Routledge, 2004.
- 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]
- Domosh, Mona. "Creating New York's Nineteenth-Century Retail District." In *American Architectural History: A Contemporary Reader*. Edited by Keith L. Eggener. New York: Routledge, 2004.
- 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]
- Herman, Bernard L "The Bricoleur Revisited" In *American Material Culture: The Shape of the Field*. Edited by Ann Smart Martin and J. Ritchie Garrison. Winterthur, Del. : Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum; Knoxville, Tenn. : Distributed by University of Tennessee Press, c1997. [ereserves]
- Isenberg, Alison. "Fixing an Image of Commercial Dignity: Postcards and the Business of Planning Main Street." In *Downtown America: A History of the Place and the People Who Made It*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2004. [ereserves]
- Izard, Holly V. "Random or Systematic? An Evaluation of the Probate Process. *Winterthur Portfolio* Vol. 32, No. 2/3 (1997): 147-167. [Use Journal Finder]
- 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]
- 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]
- Robinson, Annie. "A 'Portrait of a Nation': The Role of the Historic American Buildings Survey in the Colonial Revival." In *Re-creating the American Past: Essays on the Colonial Revival*. Edited by Richard Guy Wilson, Shaun Eyring, and Kenny Marotta. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006. [ereserves]
- 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, Outbuildings, and Rural Landscapes in 18<sup>th</sup> c. Virginia," *Winterthur Portfolio* 1993 28(1): 1-31. [Use Journal Finder]
- Upton, Dell. "The Power of Things: Recent Studies in American Vernacular Architecture." *American Quarterly* , Vol. 35, No. 3 (1983), pp. 262-279 Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2712651>
- Upton, Dell. "Toward a Performance Theory of Vernacular Architecture: Tidewater Virginia as a Case Study." *Folklore Forum* 12, no. 2/3 (January 1979): 173-196. *America: History & Life*, EBSCOhost (accessed December 10, 2011). [posted to Bb]

# Course Schedule

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9 January *Introductions*

16 January **MLK Holiday**

23 January *Reading Architectural History/Academic vs. Vernacular/How Do You Study a Building that Doesn't Have a Particular Style?*

**READ:**

- Upton, Dell. "The Power of Things: Recent Studies in American Vernacular Architecture." *American Quarterly*, Vol. 35, No. 3 (1983), pp. 262-279 Article Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2712651>
- Chappell, Edward A. "Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement in *Common Places*
- Glassie, Henry, "Eighteenth-Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building," in *Common Places*
- 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]
- Gelernter, Chapters 2 and 3 for comparison to readings on vernacular architecture.

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**EIGHTEENTH CENTURY: PROBATE INVENTORIES AS ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

*Recommended reading for eighteenth century:  
Gelernter, Chapter 3. Colonial Culture, 1650-1763, and  
Chapter 4. The Age of Revolution, 1763-1820*

### 30 January *Introduction to Probate Inventories as Evidence*

#### READ:

Explore the section titled “Interpreting” on the Exploring the Past website:

<http://chnm.gmu.edu/probateinventory/interpret.php>, including the two sample probate inventories (Sarah Green and Moore Fauntleroy). Also read “Methodology” and “Clues to George Mason” in the Gunston Hall Room Use Study:

[http://www.gunstonhall.org/mansion/room\\_use\\_study/methodology.html](http://www.gunstonhall.org/mansion/room_use_study/methodology.html)

Cummings, Abbott Lowell, “Inside the Massachusetts House” in *Common Places*.

Herman, Bernard L “The Bricoleur Revisited” In *American Material Culture: The Shape of the Field*. Edited by Ann Smart Martin and J. Ritchie Garrison. Winterthur, Del. : Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum; Knoxville, Tenn. : Distributed by University of Tennessee Press, c1997.

Izard, Holly V. “Random or Systematic? An Evaluation of the Probate Process. *Winterthur Portfolio* Vol. 32, No. 2/3 (1997): 147-167.

St. George, Robert Blair, “Set Thine House in Order”: The Domestication of the Yeomanry in Seventeenth-Century New England,” in *Common Places*.

### 6 February *Eighteenth-Century Virginia Landscapes*

#### READ:

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]

Wells, Camille, "The Planter's Prospect: Houses, Outbuildings, and Rural Landscapes in 18<sup>th</sup> c. Virginia," *Winterthur Portfolio* 1993 28(1): 1-31. [Use Journal Finder]

Upton, Dell. "Toward a Performance Theory of Vernacular Architecture: Tidewater Virginia as a Case Study." *Folklore Forum* 12, no. 2/3 (January 1979): 173-196. *America: History & Life*, EBSCOhost (accessed December 10, 2011). [posted to Bb]

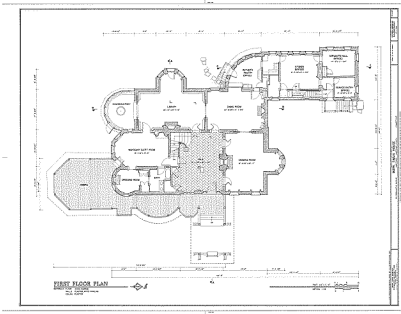
Upton, Dell, “Vernacular Domestic Architecture in Eighteenth-Century Virginia,” in *Common Places*.

Also read “Public Spaces” and “Domestic Spaces” in the Gunston Hall Room Use Study:

[http://www.gunstonhall.org/mansion/room\\_use\\_study/public.html](http://www.gunstonhall.org/mansion/room_use_study/public.html)

*13 February Probate Inventory Workshop [We will work with the probate inventories you are analyzing for your case study]*

**17 February Case Study 1 due by 5:00 p.m.**



## NINETEENTH CENTURY: USING HABS TO STUDY NINETEENTH CENTURY BUILDINGS AND LANDSCAPES

*Recommended reading for nineteenth century:*  
Gelernter, Chapter 5. *Culture Realigned, 1820-1865*; Chapter 6. *Enterprise and Turmoil 1865-85*; Chapter 7. *The Age of Diversity, 1885-1915*  
McAlester, *Field Guide to American Houses*, pp. 2-437.

### *20 February Introduction to HABS and Houses in the Early Republic*

#### READ:

Robinson, Annie. "A 'Portrait of a Nation': The Role of the Historic American Buildings Survey in the Colonial Revival." In *Re-creating the American Past: Essays on the Colonial Revival*. Edited by Richard Guy Wilson, Shaun Eyring, and Kenny Marotta. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2006. [ereserves]

Small, Nora Pat. *Beauty and Convenience: Architecture and Order in the New Republic*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003. ISBN 1572332360

### *27 February Gender, Technology and the Commercialization of Middle Class Housing in the Nineteenth Century*

#### READ:

Archer, John. "Ideology and Aspiration: Individualism, the Middle Class, and the Genesis of the Anglo-American Suburb," *Journal of Urban History* 14:2 (1988): 214-253. [use journal finder]

Bishir, Catherine, "Jacob W. Holt: An American Builder" in *Common Places*

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]

### **5 March Spring Break**

### *12 March Architecture and the Construction of Class Identities in the Victorian Era*

#### READ:

Ames, Kenneth L. "Meaning in Artifacts: Hall Furnishings in Victorian America," in *Common Places*

Borchert, James, "Alley Landscapes of Washington" in *Common Places*

Cohen, Lizabeth A. "Embellishing a Life of Labor: An Interpretation of the Material Culture of American Working-Class Homes, 1885-1915," in *Common Places*

**16 March Case Study 2 due by 5:00 p.m.**





TWENTIETH CENTURY: CONSUMER MAGAZINES AS ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

Recommended reading for twentieth century:

Gelernter, Chapter 8. *Between the World Wars 1915-45*; Chapter 9. *Modern Culture, 1945-1973*

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

**19 March** *Redefining Suburbs in the 1920s*

READ:

Loeb, Carolyn. *Entrepreneurial Vernacular: Developers' Subdivisions in the 1920s*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001. ISBN 0801866189

**26 March** *Twentieth-Century Single-Family House (notice Isenstadt's extensive use of popular magazines as evidence)*

READ:

Isenstadt, Sandy. *The Modern American House: Spaciousness and Middle-Class Identity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006. ISBN 9780521770132

**2 April** *Postwar Suburbia and Consumer Magazine Workshop [We will work with the materials you are analyzing for your case study]*

READ:

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]

**5 April Case Study 3 due by 5:00 p.m.**



COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPES:  
POSTCARDS AS ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

**9 April** *Commercial Building Types: Evolving Contexts of Consumption*

READ:

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]

Domosh, Mona. "Creating New York's Nineteenth-Century Retail District." In *American Architectural History: A Contemporary Reader*. Edited by Keith L. Eggener. New York: Routledge, 2004.

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]

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]

**16 April**      *Constructing Community? Twentieth-Century Commercial Streetscapes*

READ:

Isenberg, Alison. "Fixing an Image of Commercial Dignity: Postcards and the Business of Planning Main Street." In *Downtown America: A History of the Place and the People Who Made It*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2004. [ereserves]

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]

Rubin, Barbara, "Aesthetic Ideology and Urban Design," in *Common Places*

**23 April**      *Reconsidering Class and Gender: Skyscrapers and the Reorganization of Urban Space in the Twentieth Century/Postcard Workshop*

READ:

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]

Bluestone, Daniel. "'A City Under One Roof': Chicago Skyscrapers, 1880-1895." In *American Architectural History: A Contemporary Reader*. Edited by Keith L. Eggener. New York: Routledge, 2004.

27 April Case Study 4 due by 5:00 p.m.