



History of American Landscapes and Architecture

COURSE GUIDE

HIS/IAR 624

Spring 2013

Prof. L. Tolbert

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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 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 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.

Evaluation

Lit Review	30%
Domestic Landscape Analysis and Presentation	35%
Commercial Landscape Analysis and Presentation	35%

All written assignments should be 7-10 pages double-spaced, with appropriate citations in Turabian style [http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html]. You will submit your written assignments electronically on the appropriate due date. Late assignments will be penalized.

Criteria for evaluation:

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

- Analysis of specific architectural and spatial evidence.
- Creative application of historical and methodological content of assigned readings that demonstrates complex understanding of the limits and possibilities of particular scholar's arguments and sources.
- 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.

Unit 1 Lit review [30%, due Feb 15] In this paper you will evaluate the methodological approaches for studying buildings and landscapes we address in Unit 1, with particular consideration of how historians have used fieldwork, material culture analysis, and historical documents to interpret architecture as a cultural artifact.

Unit 2 Historical Analysis of Domestic Building/Landscape [35%]

May be related to your thesis/dissertation project. You will apply assigned reading to interpret a particular domestic building/landscape of your choice. Detailed instructions and approval form will be provided as the semester unfolds.

Due dates:

Submit form identifying your selected building/streetscape for approval by **March 5**.

March 27, 20-minute Ppt presentation and final essay due.

Unit 3 Historical Analysis of a Commercial Building/Streetscape [35%]

May be related to your thesis/dissertation project. You will apply assigned reading to interpret a particular commercial building/streetscape of your choice. Detailed instructions and approval form will be provided as the semester unfolds.

Due dates:

Submit form identifying your selected building/streetscape for approval by **April 9**.

April 24, 20-minute Ppt presentation and final essay due.

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—participation is not formally graded as a specific percentage of the final grade but the success of this course for your learning depends on active intellectual engagement with your peers.

Course Readings

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:

- Grampp, Christopher. *From Yard to Garden: The Domestication of America's Home Grounds*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008. ISBN: 9781930066748
- Herman, Bernard L. *Town House: Architecture and Material Life in the Early American City, 1780-1830*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005. ISBN-10: 0807829919
- 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:

- Auslander, Leora. "Beyond Words," *The American Historical Review*. Vol. 110, No. 4 (October 2005): 1015-1045. [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. Eggner. New York: Routledge, 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]
- Domosh, Mona. "Creating New York's Nineteenth-Century Retail District." In *American Architectural History: A Contemporary Reader*. Edited by Keith L. Eggner. New York: Routledge, 2004. [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]

- Groth, Paul. "Making New Connections in Vernacular Architecture." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*. Vol. 58, No. 3 (September 1999): 444-451. [Use Journal Finder]
- Heathcott, Joseph. "Reading the Accidental Archive: Architecture, Ephemera, and Landscape as Evidence of an Urban Public Culture." *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 41, No. 4 (Winter 2007): 239-268. [Use Journal Finder]
- 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]
- Krulikowski, Anne E. "A Workingman's Paradise': The Evolution of an Unplanned Suburban Landscape." *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 42, No. 4 (Winter 2008): 243-285. [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]
- 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]
- Prown, Jules David. "Mind in Matter: An Introduction to Material Culture Theory and Method." *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 17, No. 1 (Spring 1982): 1-19. [Use Journal Finder]
- Prown, Jules David. "Style as Evidence" *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 15, No. 3 (Autumn 1980): 197-210. [Use Journal Finder]
- Sandoval-Strausz. "Spaces of Commerce: A Historiographic Introduction to Certain Architectures of Capitalism." *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 44, No. 2/3 (Summer/Autumn 2010): 143-158. [Use Journal Finder]
- Sies, Mary Corbin. "North American Suburbs, 1880-1950: Cultural and Social Reconsiderations." *Journal of Urban History* 27, no. 3 (2001): 313-346. [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]
- Upton, Dell. "Architectural History or Landscape History?." *Journal of Architectural Education* 44, no. 4 (August 1991): 195-199. [Use Journal Finder]
- . "The Power of Things: Recent Studies in American Vernacular Architecture." *American Quarterly* 35, no. 3 (1983): 262-279. [Use Journal Finder]
- Wells, Camille, "The Planter's Prospect: Houses, Outbuildings, and Rural Landscapes in 18th c. Virginia," *Winterthur Portfolio* 1993 28(1): 1-31. [Use Journal Finder]

Course Schedule

Jan. 16

Introductions

I. Theories and Methods for Studying Buildings

Jan. 23 Introduction to Historiography/Lit Review

Groth, Paul. "Making New Connections in Vernacular Architecture." *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*. Vol. 58, No. 3 (September 1999): 444-451. [Use Journal Finder]

Sandoval-Strausz. "Spaces of Commerce: A Historiographic Introduction to Certain Architectures of Capitalism." *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 44, No. 2/3 (Summer/Autumn 2010): 143-158. [Use Journal Finder]

Upton, Dell. "The Power of Things: Recent Studies in American Vernacular Architecture." *American Quarterly* 35, no. 3 (1983): 262-279. [Use Journal Finder]

Jan. 30 Material Culture: Form and Style as Evidence

Auslander, Leora. "Beyond Words." *The American Historical Review*. Vol. 110, No. 4 (October 2005): 1015-1045. [Use Journal Finder]

Prown, Jules David. "Mind in Matter: An Introduction to Material Culture Theory and Method." *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 17, No. 1 (Spring 1982): 1-19. [Use Journal Finder]

Prown, Jules David. "Style as Evidence" *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 15, No. 3 (Autumn 1980): 197-210. [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]

Loeb, *Entrepreneurial Vernacular*, Chapter 5 "Architectural Style: The Charm of Continuity" pp. 180-203.

Feb. 6 Documentary Evidence and Fieldwork

Heathcott, Joseph. "Reading the Accidental Archive: Architecture, Ephemera, and Landscape as Evidence of an Urban Public Culture." *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 41, No. 4 (Winter 2007): 239-268. [Use Journal Finder]

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]

Small, Nora Pat. *Beauty and Convenience: Architecture and Order in the New Republic*, Introduction, pp. xiii-xxiv. Pay particular attention to her rationale for why it is necessary to use both documents AND fieldwork in studying historical landscapes.

Feb. 13 Cultural Landscapes

Upton, Dell. "Architectural History or Landscape History?" *Journal of Architectural Education* 44, no. 4 (August 1991): 195-199. [Use Journal Finder]

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

Herman, Bernard L. *Town House*, "The Merchant Family's House," pp. 33-76.

Feb. 15 Lit Review Due

II. Historical Contexts: Domestic Landscapes

Feb. 20 Atlantic World Town House

Herman, Bernard L. *Town House: Architecture and Material Life in the Early American City, 1780-1830*. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2005. ISBN-10: 0807829919

Feb. 27 Federal Era New England

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

Submit form identifying your selected building/streetscape for approval by **March 5**

March 6 Early Twentieth Century Suburbs: Planned and Unplanned

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

Krulikowski, Anne E. "A Workingman's Paradise': The Evolution of an Unplanned Suburban Landscape. *Winterthur Portfolio*. Vol. 42, No. 4 (Winter 2008): 243-285. [Use Journal Finder]

Sies, Mary Corbin. "North American Suburbs, 1880-1950: Cultural and Social Reconsiderations." *Journal of Urban History* 27, no. 3 (2001): 313-346. [Use Journal Finder]

March 13 Spring Break

March 20 Lawn

Grampp, Christopher. *From Yard to Garden: The Domestication of America's Home Grounds*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2008.

March 27 Presentations: Domestic Landscape Analysis Due

III. Historical Contexts: Commercial Landscapes

April 3 Stores as Cultural Spaces

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]

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]

Submit form identifying your selected building/streetscape for approval by **April 9**.

April 10 Department Stores and Skyscrapers

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. [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]

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. [ereserves]

April 17 Commercial Streetscapes

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]

Spellman, Susan. "All the Comforts of Home: The Domestication of the Service Station Industry, 1920–1940."
Journal of Popular Culture. Vol. 37 No. 3 (Feb. 2004): p463-477. [Use Journal Finder]

April 24 Presentations: Commercial Landscape Analysis Due

[Last day of classes = Tuesday April 30 (Friday schedule)]