FWIS 168 - FRESHMAN WRITING SEMINAR: CASE STUDIES ON BUILDING DESIGN PROBLEMS
ALAN FLEISHACKER, T & TH 1-2:20PM, AH 117

This course is not for the faint of heart. We will read and analyze case studies, project documents and other source materials on buildings that have experienced serious design problems and ended up in the news and in court. Some major buildings lose their high-rise windows inexplicably, others experience catastrophic structural failures, while others are saved from disaster through brilliant professional skill and sheer luck. After learning the facts, we will ask you to write about what went right and wrong, why the situation happened, who caused the problem, who saved the day and who should have acted differently. Another aspect we will study is the public perception of architectural and engineering design when confronted with unfavorable news coverage. The broad goals of the course are to improve and refine your ability to think and write critically and powerfully, and to present a convincing argument on the written page and in person. Open to non-architecture students.

ARCH 305 - ARCHITECTURE FOR NON-ARCHITECTS
JOHN CASBARIAN, M 7-9:30PM, AH 117

This seminar introduces non-architecture students to how architects think about, view and produce the built environment. Ways of working common to architectural design will be introduced and explored through careful readings of buildings and places through creative design speculations. Weekly discussions and hands-on exercises centered on a single theme will teach students how to more precisely interpret their surroundings and more critically engage architects and architecture. Class meetings will be lead by a group of select graduate and fifth-year students pursuing a professional degree in architecture. Only open to non-architecture students.

ARCH 317/617 - LANDSCAPE & SITE STRATEGIES FOR HOUSTON
LARRY ALBERT AND KERRY WHITEHEAD, T 7-9:45PM, AH 148

This course is a workshop in site planning, with Houston as its focus. A series of lectures presented by guest experts on various aspects of the local environment -- including geology, hydrology, soil science, and planning regulations -- serve as a rich and unique introduction to the city. Seeing Houston through these adjacent disciplines will help illuminate the many complex issues that go into plugging a building into a site, helping you become more disciplined, inventive, and effective in your own work. A series of parallel exercises over the course of the semester will help you gain practice assessing, cataloging, communicating, and laying the groundwork for your own ideas. We will draw a lot. Open to qualified non-architecture students.

ARCH 322/622 - CASE STUDIES IN SUSTAINABILITY: THE HIGH PERFORMANCE BUILDING ON RICE CAMPUS
RIVES TAYLOR, TH 7-9:45PM, AH 117

This course will explore application of high performance, sustainable design to specific Rice University campus and facility targets. In partnership with Rice University leadership, the team effort will develop “regenerative redesign” approaches based on investigation of other campuses. Space is limited and registration does not guarantee a space in this course. The final course roster is formulated on the first day of class by the individual instructor. Open to non-architecture students.
Charles Moore, in *The Place of Houses*, speculated on the idea of the home: “You bind the goods and trappings of your life together with your dreams to make a place that is uniquely your own. In doing so you build a semblance of the world you know, adding it to the community that surrounds you.” In this seminar, we will consider the house typology as a connective thread through history with embedded representational imagery and political implications. We will focus our discussion on the time period from 1910 to the present, looking primarily (but not exclusively) at American examples. We will examine the various forces that define the domestic realm and bring that larger view to specific Houston examples. The class will be divided into three segments (historical, representational, and political/cultural), each beginning with overview lectures and discussions and followed by short readings, guest lectures, and field trips. The goal is to look very closely at parts of a large subject, to edit to the essentials, and to find specificity and detail by developing student responses in word and image. Open to non-architecture students.

Digital models are central to the design process, more and more displacing drawing as the basis of representation, calculation, and communication. In the context of a material practice, they aid in the simulation of complex behavior, facilitate the description of form, and provide a direct means of machine translation into physical artifacts. MODEL OBJECT introduces students to the reciprocal and nonlinear relationship between the digital model and physical object. Concise lectures and readings on relevant technical and historical concepts will supplement a serial, comparative investigation: the design of a digital object and its translation into successive material constructs, digitally fabricated and disciplined in geometry, scale, material, and tectonic. Open to architecture students only.

This course continues work on a ‘pop-up’ FotoFest venue on the Rice campus for two artists working on sustainability issues. During the first semester, students worked with the artists to develop a design concept for the temporary spaces; this semester, we will continue to fabricate, construct, and install the various components of the design. Participation in last semesters’ course is not required.

The objective of this workshop is to develop improved visualization abilities, i.e., formation of mental visual images and transformation of those images into drawing skills. Learning how to draw better begins with learning how to see clearer. Students will practice and develop a series of drawing methods and techniques in the context of the architectural design process. Emphasis will be on the development of free-hand drawing that enhance the ability of the designer in communicating conceptual ideas, especially the role of working design experiments on overlays of tracing paper. Exercises use sketching as a method of improving the way one sees things and enhancing one’s thinking in graphic terms.

Images saturate our lives, confirming Italo Calvino’s remark of living in “an unending rainfall of images.” Across this relentless deluge, images appear and disappear in a maddening competition for attention (propelled by an unprecedented speed of production and consumption, and by an ever insatiable market of far reaching tentacles). This blatant exploitation permeates everything from politics to entertainment, from art to fashion, from food to architecture..... Living within this daily, vast, and pervasive “culture of images” posits interesting challenges for the architect to remain a critical and effective maker of images. This course closely examines a selection of works in architecture, film, literature and music in order to reveal how images transcend their initial evocation, fabrication, or manipulation. In particular, the seminar focuses on the intricate construction of images that make, bind and liberate each examined work.
ARCH 412/612 (2) - PLAUSIBLE FICTIONS
TROY SCHAUM, TH 7-9:30PM, AH 210

Architecture is practiced in the space between the imagined and the built. Operating in this zone between speculations and realizations architects construct plausible fictions that transcend the material facts of the built and connect with broader cultural meaning. These fictions range from the hyper-rational to the trite but are instrumental in understanding the ambitions of a practice and the visions it intends to construct. This seminar explores the recent history of several of these plausible fictions especially as they relate to form, composition and representation. How has the transition of production to primarily one of massing changed our understanding of part-to-whole relationships, legibility and proportion? How have certain typologies come to dominate our understanding of the possible in architecture? Can we understand terms like aggregate and graphic as actually masking some alternative narrative of architectural composition?

ARCH 412/612 (3) - THE FIFTH PLAN
RON WITTE, M 7-9:30PM, AH 210

In this seminar we will consider the evolution of the floor plan across five iterations: proto-modern, modern, post-modern, sequel-modern, and, most importantly, the present. We will begin with a hypothesis about the present, namely that there is a new plan afoot. It has been stealing into architecture, announcing its arrival via the paroxysms that come with a long gestation, declaring what it isn't more often than what it is. Its terms are not those of the suck-the-air-out gangly hollowness of proto-modern experiments in iron and steel (as seen in train stations, department stores, and exhibition halls), nor the give-me-liberty-or-give-me-death plan of modernism (universal, free), nor the we-used-to-do-it-like-this-plus-je-ne-sais-quoi plan of post-modernism (neo-historical, juxtaposing), nor the plan-non-chalant of recent reinvigorations of modernist architecture (data-driven, a-formal). Given it descends from these four earlier paradigms of plan thinking, I’ve provisionally labeled this new plan the “fifth plan.”

ARCH 480/680 - INTRODUCTION TO BIM
JACKI SCHAEFER, T 7-9:30PM, AH 117

BIM has become a popular buzzword in the AEC community, and has begun to infiltrate the academic world ... But what does BIM mean, and how does it affect the design process? During the semester, we will explore various aspects of BIM, from types of BIM software to the challenges it presents to professionals and students. Later in the semester, we will explore Autodesk Revit Architecture and its capabilities in terms of the opportunities it can afford both academically and professionally. The ultimate goal is to create a level of comfort with the concept of BIM, as well as an introduction to a BIM program that can benefit students both in studio and after graduation.

ARCH 605 - ARCHITECTURE FOR NON-ARCHITECTS
JOHN CASBARIAN, M 7-9:30PM, AH 117

This course is a 3 credit-hour graduate seminar for six selected graduate/fifth-year architecture students interested in teaching design to undergraduate students from other majors. Students will lead instruction of an undergraduate architectural design seminar, ARCH 305 “Architecture for Non-Architects,” contributing to syllabus design, preparing and delivering lectures and design exercises and leading pin-ups under the supervision of Prof. John Casbarian.

ARCH 610 - HISTORY, THEORY & STRUCTURE: PARIS PROGRAM
FRANÇOISE FROMONOT, JAMES NJOO, ANTOINE PICON, AND GARRY WHITE T & TH 1-5PM, PARIS

This course is comprised of multiple formal and informal modules each lasting 3 - 5 weeks each, either overlapping or following the other, with meeting times determined by the nature of the module. Other site visits, guest lectures, study travel trips are also part of the course experience.

ARCH 612 (4) - RADICAL CHANGE: THE CASES OF DOWNTOWN AND THE SUBDIVISION
LARS LERUP, TH 9:30AM-12PM, AH 148

Is it possible to rethink the standard subdivision? Let’s hope so because it is in dire need of rejuvenation. In any case, we will make a concerted effort to do so by exploring its history and questioning its socio-economic viability by exploring new social agendas. This class will explore Robert Fishman’s Bourgeois Utopias, New Urbanism, Frank Lloyd Wright’s Broadacre City, Lars Lerup’s Planned Assaults and a catalog of heterogeneous design ideas. In the end we will design a number of New Subdivisions using ideas drawn from our reading.
ARCHITECTURE ELECTIVES CROSS-LISTED WITH ART HISTORY

ARCH 331/521 - ISTANBUL: IMPERIAL CITY 1453\1922
SHIRINE HAMADEH, TH 1-3:30PM, TBD

This thematic seminar examines significant historical moments in the architectural and urban culture of the Ottoman imperial capital from the moment it was conquered until the demise of the Ottoman Empire. Weekly readings and discussions will cover a range of topics including building patronage, architectural decorum, the Byzantine legacy, artistic relations with Persia, India and Europe, cultural pluralism, neighborhood and public life, law and urban order, modernity and modernization. Crosslist: ARCH 331.

NON-ARCHITECTURE COURSES OF ARCHI INTEREST

GERM 351: HOLOCAUST MEMORY
ASTRID QESMANN TBD

This course traces and examines forms of Holocaust memory and memorialization in film, literature, art, architecture, city planning. The course will include a trip to Berlin where students explore the ways in which Holocaust memory has been and is currently preserved in the German capital. Furthermore, students will witness the ways in which World War II and its Cold War aftermath have shaped the city of today.

HART 265/665: ART AND POLITICS IN MODERN LATIN AMERICA
FABIOLA LOPEZ DURAN, T 3-5:30PM, TBD

Providing an alternative understanding of modernity and its artistic partner, modernism, this survey course traverses the political, social and cultural landscapes that informed and formed the art and architecture of Latin America, from the early twentieth century to the present.

HART 339: AMERICAN ART AND ARCHITECTURE I: 1620-1800
DR. JOSEPH MANCA, M & W 11AM-12:15PM, TBD

Painting, architecture, urban design, and the decorative arts in the colonies and early United States. Highlights will include design at Monticello and Mount Vernon; the portraiture of John Singleton Copley; Georgian and Federal-period architecture in Boston, New York, Williamsburg, and Philadelphia; and Spanish and Dutch colonial art and architecture.

HART 391/691: PLACE AND MEMORY IN MIDDLE EASTERN AND EUROPEAN CINEMA
SHIRINE HAMADEH AND LIDA OUKADEROVA, T 1-5PM, TBD

This seminar focuses on cinematic explorations of and preoccupations with the notion of place. Screenings include iconic and lesser known films from Europe and the Middle East that offer diverse lenses and contexts (love, family, landscapes, borders, trauma, exile) through which we will examine questions of real and imagined place and the politics of memory.

Updated course listings will be available at http://arch.rice.edu.