

A4469 The History of Architectural Theory
Wed.11:00am-1:00pm, 114 Avery

Mark Wigley

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Architecture emerges out of passionate and unending debate. Every design involves theory. Indeed, architects talk as much as they draw. This class will explore the way that theory is produced and deployed at every level of architectural discourse from formal written arguments to the seemingly casual discussions in the design studio. A series of case studies, from Vitruvius through to Cyber-Chat, from ancient treatises on parchment to flickering web pages, will be used to show how the debate keeps adapting itself to new conditions while preserving some relentless obsessions. Architectural discourse will be understood as a wide array of interlocking institutions, each of which has its own multiple histories and unique effects. How and why these various institutions were put in place will be established and then their historical transformations up until the present will be traced to see which claims about architecture have been preserved and which have changed.

Lecture 1

The Sound of the Architect: Between Words and Drawings

Lecture 2

The Reign of the Classical Treatise: Digesting Vitruvius

Lecture 3

Curriculum as Polemic: Disciplining Architecture from Academy to University

Lecture 4

The Invention of Architectural History: Strategic Narratives

Lecture 5

The Invention of Criticism: Buildings in Review

Lecture 6

Theory as Weapon: System versus Manifesto

Lecture 7

The Canonization of Modern Theory

Lecture 8

Domesticating Discourse: Soft Packages

Lecture 9

Theory on the Couch: Self-Analysis

Lecture 10

Postmodern Theory: Engaging the Other

Lecture 11

The Commodification of Architectural Theory.

Lecture 12

Transgressive Theory: Sciences of Insecurity

Reading List for H.O.T. (Fall 2013)

[Main texts that will be discussed in the lectures plus recommended background reading. Most of the main texts will be on reserve in Avery along with a reader of Xeroxed essays. Original editions of some of the oldest texts can only be seen on Microfilm or with special care in the Classics Collection room.]

1. The Sound of the Architect: Between Words and Drawings

2. The Reign of the Classical Treatise: Digesting Vitruvius

Vitruvius, *The Ten Books of Architecture*, trans. Morris Hicky Morgan, (Dover, 1960).
Alberti, Leone Battista, *On the Art of Building in Ten Books*, trans. Joseph Rykwert and Robert Travenor, (MIT Press, 1988).
Vignola, *Canon of the Five Orders of Architecture* (New York: Acanthus, 1999).

Background Reading:

Mario Carpo, *Architecture in the Age of Printing: Orality, Writing, Typography and Printed Images in the History of Architectural Theory* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2001)

Vaughan Hart and Peter Hicks (eds.), *Paper Palaces: The Rise of the Renaissance Architectural Treatise* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998).

Payne, Alina. *The Architectural Treatise in the Renaissance: Architectural Invention, Ornament, and Literary Culture*, (Cambridge University Press, 1999).

Pevsner Nikolaus, "The Term 'Architect' in the Middle Ages," *Speculum* XVII (1942), pp.549-562.

Rykwert, Joseph, "On the Oral Transmission of Architectural Theory," *AA Files* 6, May 1984, pp.1-27.

3. Curriculum as Polemic: Disciplining Architecture from Academy to University

Blondel, François-Nicolas. *Cours d'Architecture, enseigné dans l'Academie royle d'architecture*, vol.I to III, (Paris: 1675-1683).

Blondel, Jacques-François. *Cours d'Architecture* vol. I to VI (Paris: 1771-7).

Guadet, Julien, *Elements et theorie de l'Architecture: cours professe a l'Ecole nationale et speciale des beaux-arts*, (Paris: Libraire de la construction moderne, 1902).

Trans. by N. Clifford Ricker as *Elements and Theory of Architecture*, (Urbana: University of Illinois, 1966).

Ware, William, *An Outline for a Course in Architectural Instruction*, (Boston, 1855).

Ware, William, *The American Vignola*, (Boston, 1902-6).

Background Reading:

- McQuillan, James. "From Blondel to Blondel: On the Decline of the Vitruvian Treatise," in Vaughan Hart and Peter Hicks (eds.), *Paper Palaces: The Rise of the Renaissance Architectural Treatise* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998), pp.338-357.
- Barzman, Karen-Edie, *The Florentine Academy and the Early Modern State. The Discipline of Disegno* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2000).
- Hughes, Anthony, "'An Academy for Doing.' I: The Accademia del Disegno, the Guilds and the Principate in Sixteenth-Century Florence," *The Oxford Art Journal*, 9:1, 1986, pp.3-10.
- Hughes, Anthony. "'An Academy for Doing' II: Academies, Status, Power in Early Modern Europe," *The Oxford Art Journal*, 9:2, 1986, pp.50-62.
- Goldstein, Carl. *Teaching Art: Academies and Schools from Vasari to Albers*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996).
- Chafee, Richard. "The Teaching of Architecture at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts," in Drexler, Arthur (ed.), *The Architecture of the Ecole des Beaux-Arts*, (New York: MoMA, 1977), pp.61-109.
- Middleton R. "J.F. Blondel and the *Cours d'Architecture*," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, XVIII, 1959, pp. 140-148.
- Chaoui, Mohamed. *The Rhetoric of Composition in Julien Guadet's 'Elements and Theories,'* (Ann Arbor: UMI, 1987).
- Weatherhead, Arthur Clason, *The History of Collegiate Education in Architecture in the United States*, (Los Angeles, 1941).
- Caroline Shillaber, *Massachusetts Institute of Technology School of Architecture and Planning - 1861-1961: A Hundred Year Chronicle.*, (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1963).
- Richard Oliver (ed.), *The Making of an Architect 1881-1981* (New York: Rizzoli: 1981).
- Chewning, J.A. "William Robert Ware at MIT and Columbia" *Journal of Architectural Education* Vol. 33(2), 1979, pp.25-29.
- Wright, Gwendelyn and Parks, Janet (eds.), *The History of History in American Schools of Architecture 1865-1975*, (Princeton Architectural Press, 1990).

4.The Invention of Architectural History: Strategic Narratives

- Vasari, Giorgio, *The Lives of the Artists*, trans, Julia Conaway Bondanella and Peter Bondanella, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1991).
- Winckelmann, J.J. *The History of Ancient Art* [1764/1776], trans. (New York: F. Unger: 1969).
- Burckhardt, Jacob. *The Civilization of the Renaissance in Italy* [1867], trans. Middlemore, S.G.C. (New York: Modern Library, 1954).
- Wölfflin, Heinrich. *Principles of Art History: The Problem of the Development of Style in later Art* [1915] trans. M.D. Hottinger, (Dover, 1950).
- Frankl, Paul. *Principles of Architectural History: The Four Phases of Architectural Style*, [1914], trans. James F. O'Gorman, (London: G. Bell and Sons, 1932).

Background Reading:

- Rubin, Patricia Lee, *Giorgio Vasari: Art and History* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995).
- Potts, Alex, *Flesh and the Ideal: Winckelmann and the Origins of Art History* (New Haven: Yale University, 1994).
- Watkin, David. *The Rise of Architectural History*, (London: Architectural Press, 1980).
- Porphyrios, Demetri ed. *On the Methodology of Architectural History*, Architectural Design Profile, *Architectural Design*, vol. 51 no 6/7, 1981.
- Podro, Michael. *The Critical Historians of Art*, (Yale University Press, 1982).
- Preziosi, Donald. *Rethinking Art History: Meditations on a Coy Science*, (Yale University Press, 1989).

5.The Invention of Criticism: Buildings in Review

- Camille, Francois (ed), *Journal des bâtiments civils* [1800-].
- Daly, Cesar (ed.), *Revue Générale de l'Architecture* [1839-1888].

Background Reading:

- Lipstadt, Helen. "Early Architectural Journals," in Robin Middleton (ed.). *The Beaux-Arts and Nineteenth Century Architecture*, (London: Thames and Hudson, 1882), pp.50-57.
- Lipstadt, Helen. "The building and the Book in César Daly's *Revue Générale de l'Architecture*." in Beatriz Colomina, (ed.). *Architectureproduction*, (Princeton Architectural Press, 1988), pp.24-55.
- Van Zanten, Ann Lorenz. "Form and Society: César Daly and the *Revue Générale de l'Architecture*," *Oppositions* 8, 1977, pp.136-45.
- Becherer, Richard. *Science Plus Sentiment: César Daly's Formula for Modern Architecture*, (Ann Arbor: UMI, 1984).
- Burgin, Victor, "The End of Art History," in Burgin, *The End of Art History: Criticism and Postmodernity* (Atlantic Highlands: Humanities Press International).

6.Theory as Weapon: System versus Manifesto

- Perrault, Claude, *Ordonnance for the Five Kinds of Column after the Method of the Ancients* [1673/84] trans. I.K. McEwen (Santa Monica: Getty Center, 1993).
- Diderot, Denis and D'Alembert, Jean le (eds.). *Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers* (Paris: Briasson, et. al. 1751-1780).
- Laugier, Marc-Antoine. *An Essay on Architecture* [1753] trans. Wolfgang and Anni Herrmann (Los Angeles: Hennessey and Ingalls, 1977).
- Durand, Jean-Nicolas-Louis. *Précis of the Lectures on Architecture* [1802] trans. David Britt. (Los Angeles: Getty Institute, 2000).
- Viollet-Le-Duc, Eugène-Emmanuel. *Dictionnaire raisonné de l'architecture française du X^e au XVI^e siècle* (1854-68). Partial trans. By Kenneth D. Whitehead as *The Foundations of Architecture: Selections from the Dictionnaire raisonné* (New York: George Braziller, 1990).

Semper, Gottfried. *De Stil* [1860-3]. Partial trans. by Harry Francis Mallgrave and Wolfgang Herrmann, as "Style in the Technical and Tectonic Arts or Practical Aesthetics" in Semper, Gottfried. *The Four Elements of Architecture and Other Writings*, trans. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989), pp. 174-263.
Conrads, Ulrich (ed.), *Programs and Manifestoes on 20th Century Architecture* (London: 1970).

Background Reading:

Harrington, K. *Changing Ideas on Architecture in the 'Encyclopédie'* (Ann Arbor: UMI, 1985).
Pfammatter, Ulrich. *The Making of the Modern Architect and Engineer: The Origins and Development of a Scientifically and Industrially Oriented Education* (Basel: Birkhauser, 2000).
Viollet-Le-Duc, Eugène-Emmanuel. *Entretiens sur l'architecture* [1872], trans. by Benjamin Bucknall as *Lectures on Architecture* vol. I and II (New York: Dover, 1987).
Damish, Hubert. "The Space Between: A Structuralist Approach to the Dictionary," *Architectural Design* 81, pp.84-89.
Jencks, Charles and Kropf, Karl. *Theories and Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture*, (Chichester: Academy Editions, 1997).

7.The Canonization of Modern Theory

Le Corbusier, *Towards a New Architecture* [1923], trans. Frederick Etchells, (New York: Dover, 1931).
Giedion, Sigfried. *Space, Time and Architecture*, Harvard University Press, (Cambridge: Harvard University, 1941).

Background Reading:

Bonta, Juan. *Architecture and Its Interpretation: A Study of Expressive Systems in Architecture* (London: Lund Humphries: 1979), pp.91-158.
Gillory, John, *Cultural Capital: The Problem of Literary Canon Formation* (Chicago: University of Chicago, 1993), pp. 3-84.
Colomina, Beatriz. "Esprit Nouveau" in Colomina, Beatriz (ed.), *Architectureproduction*, (Princeton Architectural Press, 1988), pp. 24-55.
Otto Wagner, *Modern Architecture: A Guidebook For His Students to This field of Art* [1896] trans. Harry Mallgrave (Santa Monica: Getty Center, 1988).
Giedion, Sigfried, *Building in France, Building in Iron, Building in Ferro-Concrete* [1928], trans. Sokratis Geogiadis (Santa Monica: Getty Center, 1995).
"Sigfried Giedion: A History Project," Special issue, *Rassegna* 25, 1979.
Geogiadis, Sokratis, *Sigfried Giedion: An Intellectual Biography* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1989).
Sekler, Eduard F. "Sigfried Giedion at Harvard University," in Elisabeth Blair MacDougall (ed.), *The Architectural Historian in America*, (Washington: National Gallery of Art, 1990), pp.265-271.

8. Domesticating Discourse: Soft Packages

- Hitchcock, Henry Russell and Philip Johnson. *Modern Architecture: International Exhibition*, Museum of Modern Art Catalog, 1932.
- Hitchcock, Henry Russell and Philip Johnson. *The International Style*, W.W. (New York: Norton, 1966).
- Rowe, Colin. *The Mathematics of the Ideal Villa and other Essays*, (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1976).

Background Reading:

- Hitchcock, Henry Russell, *Modern Architecture: Romanticism and Reintegration*, (New York: Payson and Clarke, 1929).
- Hitchcock, Henry Russell, *Painting Towards Architecture*, (New York: Sloan and Pearce, 1948).
- Hitchcock, Henry Russell, "Modern Architecture--A Memoir," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Dec 1968, pp.227-233.
- Terence Riley. *The International Style: Exhibition 15 and the Museum of Modern Art*, (New York: Rizzoli, 1992).
- Helen Searing, Henry-Russell Hitchcock: "The Architectural Historian as Critic and Connoisseur," in Elisabeth Blair MacDougall (ed.), *The Architectural Historian in America*, (Washington: National Gallery of Art, 1990), pp.251-263.
- ANY*, no. 7/8 (1994), special issue on Colin Rowe.

9. Theory on the Couch: Self-Analysis

- Banham, Reyner. *Theory and Design in the First Machine Age*, (Architectural Press, 1960).
- Banham, Reyner. *New Brutalism: Ethic or Aesthetic*, (Architectural Press, 1966).
- Banham, Reyner. "History and Psychiatry" [1960], in Banham, Reyner. *Design By Choice: Ideas in Architecture*, edited by Penny Sparke, (London: Academy Editions, 1981).
- Tafuri, Manfredo, *Theories and History of Architecture* (New York: Harper and Row, 1976).

Background Reading:

- Agrest, Diana and Gandelsonas, Mario. "Semiotics and Architecture: Theoretical Work or Ideological Consumption," *Oppositions* 1, 1972.
- Tournikiotis, Panyotis. *The Historiography of Modern Architecture* (Cambridge: MIT, 1999).
- Zevi, Bruno, "A Message to the International Congress of Modern Architecture [1948]," in Andreas Oppenheimer Dean, *Bruno Zevi on Modern Architecture* (New York: Rizzoli, 1983, pp.126-134).
- Banham, Reyner. *Architecture of the Well-Tempered Environment*. (Architectural Press, 1969).

- Banham, Reyner. *A Concrete Atlantis: US Industrial Building and European Modern Architecture*, (MIT Press, 1986).
- Banham, Mary. et. al. (eds.), *A Critic Writes: Essays by Reyner Banham*, (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996).
- Pevsner, Nikolaus. *Pioneers of Modern Design from William Morris to Walter Gropius*, (London, 1936).
- Tafuri, Manfredo. "There is no Criticism, only History," *Design Book Review*, Spring 1986.
- "Being Manfredo Tafuri," special issue, *ANY* 25/26, 2000.

10. Postmodern Theory: Engaging the Other

- Venturi, Robert. *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*, (New York: The Museum of Modern Art 1966 and revised edition 1977).
- Venturi, Robert, Denise Scott Brown and Steven Izenour. *Learning from Las Vegas*, (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1972 and second edition 1977).
- Moore, Charles. "You Have Got to Pay for the Public Life," *Perspecta* 9/10 (1965), pp.57-87.
- Moore, Charles. "Plug it in, Rames, and See if it Lights Up. Because We Aren't Going to Keep it Unless it Works," *Perspecta* 11 (1967), pp.32-43.

Background Reading:

- Venturi, Robert. "A Billdingboard Involving Movies, Relics and Space." *Architectural Forum*, April 1968, pp.74-79.
- Scott Brown, Denise. "Learning From Pop," *Casabella*, no 359-60, Dec. 1971, pp.15-23
- Venturi, Robert. *Iconography and Electronics on a Generic Architecture: A View from the Drafting Room* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996).
- Von Moss, Stanislaus. *Venturi, Rauch and Scott Brown: Buildings and Projects*, (New York: Rizzoli, 1987).
- Peter Blake, *God's Own Junkyard: The Planned Deterioration of America's Landscape*, (New York: Holt Rhinehart and Wilson, 1964).
- Robbins, David. ed., *The Independent Group: Postwar Britain and the Aesthetics of Plenty*, (MIT Press, 1990).
- Cook, Peter ed., *Archigram*, (Studio Vista Publishers, 1972).

11. The Commodification of Architectural Theory

- Frederick Jameson. "Postmodernism, Or the Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism," *New Left Review*, no.164, 1984. pp.53-92.
- Kevin Lynch, *The Image of the City*, (MIT Press, 1960).

Background Reading:

Sitte, Camillo, "City Planning According to Artistic Principles [1889]" trans. by George Collins and Christiane Collins in *Camillo Sitte: The Birth of Modern City* (New York: Rizzoli, 1986), pp.129-332.

Moholy-Nagy, L. *Von Material zu Architektur* (Munich: 1928).

Moholy-Nagy, L. *Vision in Motion*, (Chicago: Paul Theobald, 1947).

Kepes, Gyorgy. *Language of Vision*, (Chicago: Paul Theobald, 1944).

Cullen, Gordon. *Townscape* (New York: Rheinod, 1961).

Kevin Lynch, Donald Appleyard and John Meyer, *The View from the Road*, (MIT Press, 1964).

12. Transgressive Theory: Sciences of Insecurity

Tafuri, Manfredo. "The Historical Project," in *The Sphere and the Labyrinth: Avant-Gardes and Architecture from Piranesi to the 1970's*, (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1987), pp.1-21.

Dennis Hollier, *Against Architecture: The Writings of Georges Bataille* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1992)

Background Reading:

Libero Andreotti--Xavier Costa (eds), *Theory of the Derive: And Other Situationist Writings on the City* (Barcelona: ACTAR, 1996).

Sadler, Simon and Hughes Jonathon. *Non-Plan : Essays on Freedom, Participation and Change in Modern Architecture and Urbanism* (London: Architectural Press, 2000).

John Whiteman et. al. (eds.). *Strategies in Architectural Thinking*, (MIT Press, 1992).

Assemblage 27. [1995] Special issue on the "Tulane Conference."

Assemblage 41. [2000] Special issue on the state of critical theory.