THE BUILDINGS of LOUIS I. KAHN

CONTENT - Study of the interaction between theory and practice in the work of Louis I. Kahn. Topics of analysis attempt to be appropriate to both Kahn’s work and to fundamental issues of architectural design.

FORMAT- The work of this course will proceed through case studies. Students, in teams of 2, will select a single Kahn building as the subject of their in-depth investigation for the entire term. Drawings and models will be required media for studying, presenting, and discussing these buildings.

11/3/2010
PREREQUISITES- Due to the course’s content and its analysis/report technique the class will be limited to 24 students. This course is only open to Graduate students with at least 24 hours of design credit and to Undergraduate students with at least 36 hours of design credit.

STUDY/ COURSE OBJECTIVES- To develop critical, speculative attitudes about the elements and relationships of architecture.

To establish a basis for Architectural Theory and criticism.

To search out theoretical and philosophical issues and to trace their architectural implications in literal case studies.

VEHICLE- Student teams will be required to present a concise report each week relating the given topic of analysis to their specific building. At the end of the term each team will be required to submit drawings, models, notes, diagrams, etc., they have made to selectively describe each analytical topic a summary report.

Class requirements will emphasize analytical review and careful documentation.

It seems advantageous to study one architect’s work to form a deeper understanding of architectural concepts and their design implications. Particularly Kahn because of his historical importance and because of my direct personal experience with the ideas and methods behind the work. A common reference will also prove valuable in comparing the specific reports, and can lead to a clearer understanding of both the general attitude and the specific implementation.

OUTLINE of TOPICS
Week 1- Class format, organization, issues of analysis, and building selection
Week 2- Kahn’s design priorities and methods
Week 3- Program- components and organization
Week 4- Volume- The schematic and perceptual intentions of space.
Week 5- Structure- Spatial and system characteristics
Week 6- Light- Concepts and techniques of natural light
Week 7- Services- Electrical lighting and mechanical systems
Week 8- INTERIOR Materials and Details
Week 9- EXTERIOR Materials and Details
Week 10-FINAL REVIEW WEEK
FINAL EXAM WEEK- Final class presentation
This will be hard and demanding work. Only serious and committed students need apply.

11/3/2010