THE TECTONIC IDEA IN 20TH CENTURY ARCHITECTURE
Material, Structure & Form
J. M. Cava

The tectonic, as defined by Eduard Sekler, is a certain expressivity arising from the statical resistance of constructional form in such a way that the resultant form could not be accounted for in terms of structure and construction alone.

Good architecture starts always with efficient construction. Without construction there is no architecture. Construction embodies material and its use according to its properties, that is to say, stone imposes a different method of construction from iron or concrete. Konstantinidis

Loosely based on Kenneth Frampton & John Cava’s book, Studies in Tectonic Culture, this course looks at the evolution and development of the tectonic idea in twentieth century architecture examining the role played by structure and the poetics of construction in the development of modern form. The work and thought of Pugin, Schinkel, Wright, Perret, Kahn, Utzon, & Mies form the basis of the lectures, reading and discussions with as much coverage of contemporary architects such as Murcutt, Foster, Fehn, & Piano as time allows.

Students are required to prepare a seminar presentation on an approved topic – individually or in teams, depending upon enrollment – or prepare a model or drawings of an unbuilt architectural work.