Modern Architectural Influence on Today’s World
BUILDING - PLACE - CULTURE

This course investigates the importance of building form, structure and materials. However, buildings are not isolated objects, they are anchored in and shaped by their physical and cultural contexts. This course examines the emergence of settlements in which buildings are the important part, from the earliest time until today.

The historical components are two fold: first, we will examine the building blocks of architecture from simple to complex over time. Second, we will contrast the processes and forces which originated with Le Corbusier and Frank Lloyd Wright to show how the ideal life should play out. We will look closely at the typical environment of the early 21st century and the problems that have become obvious about our way of building and dwelling.

The course will emphasize graphic exploration of spatial compositions throughout time. We will interpret the architecture and its context through sketches and diagrams. How do drawings describe and communicate ideas?

Student Case Studies (mid-term project) will focus on a specific architect and that architect’s approach, starting with architecture of the early 20th century (Modern) coming forward in time until today. The final paper will incorporate your graphic explorations with research and writing based on the content of the course.

Course Requirements and Evaluation Criteria:
Attendance and participation at all classes 30%
Required readings
Case Study for mid-term + presentation to class 40%
Final paper 30%

NOTE: This course satisfies History, Group 3: Modern