Design Theory and Modern Architecture

Meeting Times: Tuesday and Thursday, 1:00-2:50pm
Room: LA 206

Introduction
This course will examine Modern Architecture, focusing on significant built and theoretical work starting from 1890. Key buildings by architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Le Corbusier, Alvar Aalto, Louis Kahn and others will serve as exemplars for the ideas that have defined Modernism from the period before WWII, to post war developments primarily in the United States and Europe.

Review of selected buildings will attempt to demonstrate their design theory through an examination of the artifact itself. Illustrations along with architectural documentation (plans, sections, diagrams, etc.) will attempt to distill the principles and elements that animate each one. From this perspective, visual literacy and familiarity with modes of architectural representation will be critical.

Readings
- Modern Architecture Since 1900, William J.R. Curtis
- Towards a New Architecture, Le Corbusier
- Twenty Buildings Every Architect Should Understand, Simon Unwin

Requirements
The format of the class will be weekly lectures that will incorporate at least one building analysis from the masterworks explored. Students will be required to keep a notebook that will incorporate sketches as well as text that records the lectures. A take home exam will be assigned that is related to the required readings.