DESCRIPTION  |  OBJECTIVES

The primary focus of this class is research into major ideas and attitudes towards architectural space in 19th & 20th Century architecture (from about 1850 to the present) through case studies of significant buildings and architects. Particular emphasis is on discovering and presenting underlying principles of the work and ways in which they support and/or challenge fundamental spatial principles of the Modern Movement.

A secondary goal is providing students with an historic overview of influential modern architectural concepts and their effect on contemporary work, including their own. Students will use comparative case studies to reveal differing concepts underlying representative buildings and projects, specifically their relationships to the interweaving of topography (site & the earth), typology (function, context, precedent & history), sustainability (climatic response) and tectonics (structure and material).

Specific topics are flexible in nature and will be determined partly by the nature of each selected project, and the existing strengths and weaknesses of individual students. The class is an exploration by students and teacher, with as few preconceptions as possible.

REQUIREMENTS

• Class attendance and participation [critiques and discussions of lectures and presentations]. [30%]
• Graphic journal of notes, diagrams, sketches, collages on readings, class lectures & presentations. Journal reviewed at mid-term and end of term. [20%]
• Single Comparative Case Study Presentation (probably in teams of 2-3 depending upon class size). This is the main event of the class - students are expected to commit necessary time to pursue their research topics seriously and rigorously and produce high-quality presentations.[50%]

FORMAT
A mix of instructor lectures & discussion, student or student team-instructor research meetings, and student presentations. Other media, guest lectures, etc. if appropriate.

TEXTS
Every attempt will be made to have readings available on reserve so that students may photocopy or borrow at their own convenience. Most research materials will be specific to individual or team topics, with a lesser amount of reading for overall context.