Spatial Gestures  
*Modern Architecture | Themes & Variations*

This course will introduce students to major ideas of architectural space in early to late twentieth-century architecture from approximately 1850 to the present, with a focus on how each has either contributed to or challenged basic spatial principles of the Modern Movement. Various approaches are represented by significant buildings and practitioners whose work contains a comprehensible set of theoretical guidelines. The premise of the class is that it is an exploration by students, without preconceived attitudes.

The goal of the course is to provide students with an historic overview of some of the most influential modern architectural themes and how these affect contemporary work, including their own. Students will investigate spatial concepts underlying representative buildings and projects, specifically their relationships to four major considerations: topography (site & the earth), typology (function, precedent & history), sustainability (climatic response) and tectonics (structure and material).

Specific topics are flexible and will be determined partly by the strengths and weaknesses in the backgrounds of students in the class.

Students are required to: 1) keep a typewritten journal with notes, sketches and commentary on the readings; 2) critique and discuss topics presented in class; and 3) make a single visual seminar presentation to the class. In creating their presentation, students must meet 2-3 times with the instructor, with revised drafts to receive individual guidance on its development. If the class size is over 15, students will likely work in groups.

Questions or comments: jmcava.architect@gmail.com