

SPRING SEMESTER SYLLABUS

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schedule

Monday: 4.00pm-9.00pm

Wednesday: 9am-1pm; 4.00pm-9.00pm

office hours

Marco Brizzi: Wednesday 9am-9:40am or by appointment

Paola Giaconia: Wednesday 4pm-4:40pm or by appointment

Achille Michelizzi: Monday 4pm-4:40pm or by appointment

course fees

There are no specific course fees for the ARCHITECTURE LAB for the spring semester.

Expenses can vary greatly, from student to student, depending on how much each is investing on printing boards and making models.

course objective

The ARCHITECTURE LAB fosters an interdisciplinary approach to research in architecture and aims at promoting critical thinking on the disciplines and activities that shape our environment.

A combination of informative lectures by the instructors, fieldtrips and personal research and readings will support the development of studio projects that will exhibit a creative approach, conceptual precision and aesthetic sophistication.

course description

The Spring Semester for the ARCHITECTURE LAB at CSU Florence takes advantage of the students' design experiences in the Fall Semester, when they dealt with the urban structure of the city of Florence, its stratifications, its history, its urban complexity. The students will be led to further ripen their point of view and their abilities, and will therefore be asked to develop a much larger design assignment which

involves an urban area located close to Florence international airport: a quite contradictory and complex context to work in.

Theme for the spring studio project is: a mixed-use development in viale Belfiore, in Florence. The students will be asked to develop their project in small groups (3 students per group). They will conclude their assignment in early May.

Lectures by the professors and by invited guests, as well as readings on various themes related to the project topics, will be addressed to generate a common cultural ground and reinforce the multidisciplinary approach of this course. Also, a lecture series organized by Kent State University and one organized by Syracuse University in Florence will greatly enrich the students' knowledge on the debate in contemporary architecture.

Image: HOT SEASON'S PIX

Image, the company run by Marco Brizzi and Paola Giaconia (www.image-web.org), is exceptionally opening up its architecture video archive, unparalleled repository of its kind, to liven up a special evening devoted to some hot topics in contemporary architecture. Part of the architecture video archive is available for public viewing on the Architecture Player website (www.architectureplayer.com).

assignments

In the Spring Semester students will work on the area of viale Belfiore in Florence.

workshops (tentative)

In the Spring Semester we are planning to hold 2 workshops for CSU-FI students to experience collaborations with Italian students.

- One workshop (mandatory) will be run with the Politecnico di Milano, Sede di Piacenza. It will take place in Florence, at CSU-FI, and will run from Monday February 29 to Thursday March 3. The workshop will provide an important occasion for CSU students in terms of knowledge exchange.
- One workshop (optional) will be run with the Faculty of Architecture in Ascoli Piceno. It will run from Monday May 9 to Friday May 13. Titled "Coast2Coast", this workshop, originally conceived by Cristiano Toraldo di Francia, is now in its 12th edition.

events (OPTIONAL, BUT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

Kent State University's spring lecture series will have the following calendar: Sandy Attia and Matteo Scagnol (Modus Architects, Italy: www.modusarchitects.com) on Tuesday February 23; Helena Casanova and Jesus Hernandez (Casanova+Hernandez, The Netherlands: www.casanova-hernandez.com) on Tuesday March 1; Giuseppe Farris (Studio Farris, Belgium: www.studiofarris.com) on Tuesday April 5.

bibliography

Readings from the texts mentioned below, as well as from current magazines/newspapers, will be discussed during classes:

- Benevolo, Leonardo. *The Origins of Modern Town Planning*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1967.
- Bruno, Giuliana. *Atlas of Emotion: Journeys in Art, Architecture, and Film*. New York: Verso, 2002.
- Colomina, Beatriz. *Privacy and Publicity: Modern Architecture as Mass Media*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1996.
- Colquhoun, Alan. *Modern Architecture*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- Frampton, Kenneth. *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*. London, UK: Thames and Hudson, 1992.
- Gehl, Jan. *Life Between Building: Using Public Space*. New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1987.
- Hays, Michael. *Architecture Theory Since 1968*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2000.
- Jacobs, Jane. *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*. New York: Random House, 1961.
- Lang, Peter and William Menking. *Superstudio: Life without Objects*. Milan: Skira, 2003.

- Lynch, Kevin. The Image of the City. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 1960.
- Mumford, Lewis. The Culture of Cities. New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1938.
- Pettena, Gianni. Radicals: architettura e design. Venezia: La Biennale di Venezia, 1996.
- Vidler, Anthony. Architecture Between Spectacle and Use. Williamstown, MA: Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute, 2008.

architecture lab lectures

Gianni Pettena
 Marco Brizzi
 Paola Giaconia
 Achille Michelizzi

attendance policy

Class meets on Mondays, 4.00-9.00pm, and on Wednesdays, 9am-1 pm and 4.00-9.00pm.

Attendance to all CSU architecture courses is mandatory. Two unexcused absences are allowed during the semester but more than two unexcused absences will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **3** unexcused absences, lowers one letter grade; **4** unexcused absences, lowers two letter grades; **5** unexcused absences, lowers 3 letter grades. **More than five unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding 30 minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of mid-term and final crits **can not** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final crits and plan their trips after the last crit. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these crit dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these crit dates. Missing the midterm or the final crit will mean failure of the course.

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

grading policy

Evaluation is based on daily work in studio, presentations, and quality and completeness of assignments. Grades are given by the instructors. The final course grade will be determined as indicated below:

- Studio project evaluation: 80%
- Submitted portfolio (due Wednesday May 25, 2016: 20%

calendar

Feb 22 Monday	Introduction to viale Belfiore project (aula magna) Students to set up groups and to start site analysis	
Feb 23 Tuesday	<i>STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Kent State University: Sandy Attia and Matteo Scagnol (Modus Architects, Italy: www.modusarchitects.com) - 7:00-8:00pm</i> <i>Kent State University, via Cavour 26 (2 min walk from Piazza San Marco)</i>	
Feb 24 Wednesday am	desk crits	MB
Wednesday pm	desk crits	PG
Feb 29 - March 3	CSUFI - POLIMI workshop in Florence (tentative)	
Feb 29 Monday	desk crits	AM

Mar 1	Tuesday	<i>STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Kent State University: lecture by Helena Casanova and Jesus Hernandez (Casanova+Hernandez, The Netherlands: www.casanova-hernandez.com) - 7:00-8:00pm</i> <i>Kent State University, via Cavour 26 (2 min walk from Piazza San Marco)</i>	
Mar 2	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	lecture by Marco Brizzi (aula magna) Cities on the Move. Between Representation and Observation. desk crits	MB PG
Mar 7	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 9	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Mar 14	Monday	class cancelled (CSU field trip to Southern Italy)	
Mar 16	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Mar 21	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 23	Wednesday	MID-TERM CRITS	GP+MB+PG+AM
***** SPRING BREAK (March 25 - April 3) *****			
Apr 4	Monday	desk crits	AM
Apr 5	Tuesday	<i>STRONGLY RECOMMENDED: Kent State University: lecture by Giuseppe Farris (Studio Farris, Belgium: www.studiofarris.com) - 7:00-8:00pm</i> <i>Kent State University, via Cavour 26 (2 min walk from Piazza San Marco)</i>	
Apr 6	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Apr 11	Monday	desk crits	AM
Apr 13	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits Image: HOT SEASON'S PIX (via Venti Settembre 84) - 8 pm	MB PG
Apr 18	Monday	desk crits	
Apr 20	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Apr 25	Monday	no class (National Holiday)	AM
Apr 27	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
May 2	Monday	desk crits	AM
May 4	Wednesday	FINAL CRITS	GP+MB+PG+AM
May 9-13	Coast-2-Coast workshop in Ascoli (tentative)		
May 25	Wednesday	CD with portfolio* of Florence studio projects (including adopt-a-monument) is due	

*** INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PORTFOLIO**

Each student will turn in a CD which will contain a folder for each of the 4 assignments carried out in the course of the year in Florence:

- 1. Adopt-a-monument: please include a PDF or JPG file of the submitted boards;*
- 2. Piazza Brunelleschi: please include a PDF or JPG file of each of the boards + a folder containing high resolution images (plans, sections, elevations, renderings, photomontages, etc.).*
- 3. Bellariva: please include a PDF or JPG file of each of the boards + a folder containing high resolution images (plans, sections, elevations, renderings, photomontages, etc.).*
- 4. Viale Belfiore: please include a PDF or JPG file of each of the boards + a folder containing high resolution images (plans, sections, elevations, renderings, photomontages, etc.). In particular, each student will add the project "postcard" image he/she made for the final presentation.*