



California State University
Architecture Program in Florence

ARCHITECTURE LAB

2017-2018
ARC 402 / 404 / 405B

SPRING SEMESTER SYLLABUS

professors: **Gianni Pettena (GP)**, pettena@giannipettena.it
Marco Brizzi (MB), marco.brizzi@image-web.org
Paola Giaconia (PG), paola.giaconia@image-web.org
Achille Michelizzi (AM), achille@michelizziarchitettura.com

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, field trips 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 at the end of April.

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.

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 European and Italian students.

- One workshop (mandatory) will be run with the Aarhus School of Architecture. It will take place in Florence, at CSU-FI, and is scheduled to take place on Wednesday February 28 and Thursday March 1. The workshop will provide an important occasion for CSU students in terms of knowledge exchange.
- Another workshop (mandatory) will be run with the Faculty of Architecture in Ascoli Piceno. It is scheduled from Monday May 14 to Friday May 18. Titled "Coast2Coast", this workshop, originally conceived by Cristiano Toraldo di Francia, is now in its 15th edition.

events (OPTIONAL, BUT STRONGLY RECOMMENDED)

Kent State University's spring lecture series will have the following calendar:

- Maria Claudia Clemente and Francesco Isidori (Labics, Italy: www.labics.it) on Tuesday February 6 at 7 pm;
 - Ludovica Di Falco (SCAPE, France: www.scape.it) on Tuesday February 27 at 7 pm;
 - Jules Coke (squint/opera, United Kingdom: www.squintopera.com) on Tuesday April 10 at 7 pm;
 - Carsten Primdahl (CEBRA, Denmark: www.cebraarchitecture.dk) on Tuesday April 17 at 7 pm.
- All lectures will be held at Palazzo Vettori (via Cavour 26).

Syracuse University's spring lecture series will have the following calendar:

- Keith Krumwiede (USA) on Tuesday February 27 at 5:30 pm;
 - Clark Thenhaus (Endemic, USA: www.endemicarchitecture.com) on Tuesday March 20 at 5:30 pm;
 - Ana Luisa Soares (fala, Portugal: www.falaatelier.com) on Tuesday March 27 at 5:30 pm.
- All lectures will be held at SUF School of Architecture (Piazzale Donatello 25).

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

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 could 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 could 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: 50%
- Coast2Coast workshop in Ascoli: 10%
- CSUFI - Aarhus School of Architecture workshop: 10%
- end-of-semester exhibition design and set-up: 20%
- Submitted portfolio (due Wednesday May 23, 2018): 10%

calendar

Feb 26 Monday **Introduction to viale Belfiore project (aula magna)**
Students to set up groups and to start site analysis

Feb 27 Tuesday *lecture at Syracuse University @ 5:30 pm (strongly recommended)*
Keith Krumwiede, USA

Feb 28 CSUFI - Aarhus School of Architecture workshop in Florence (mandatory)
Wednesday all day: 9 am to 1 pm; 4 pm to 9 pm

Mar 1 Thursday 10 am to 2 pm (final presentations)

Mar 5 Monday desk crits AM

Mar 7 Wednesday am desk crits MB
Wednesday pm desk crits PG

Mar 12 Monday desk crits AM

Mar 14 Wednesday am desk crits MB
Wednesday pm desk crits PG

~~Mar 19 Monday no class (fieldtrip to Southern Italy)~~

Mar 20 Tuesday *lecture at Syracuse University @ 5:30 pm (strongly recommended)*
Clark Thenhaus (Endemic), USA
www.endemicarchitecture.com

Mar 21 Wednesday am desk crits MB
Wednesday pm desk crits PG

Mar 26 Monday desk crits AM

Mar 27 Tuesday *lecture at Syracuse University @ 5:30 pm (strongly recommended)*
Ana Luisa Soares (fala), Portugal
www.falaatelier.com

Mar 28 Wednesday MID-TERM CRITS GP+MB+PG+AM

***** SPRING BREAK (March 30 - April 8) *****

Apr 9 Monday desk crits AM

Apr 10 Tuesday *lecture at Kent State University @ 7 pm (strongly recommended)*
Jules Coke (squint/opera), United Kingdom
www.squintopera.com

Apr 11 Wednesday am desk crits MB
Wednesday pm desk crits PG

Apr 16 Monday desk crits AM

Apr 17 Tuesday *lecture at Kent State University @ 7 pm (strongly recommended)*
Carsten Primdahl (CEBRA), Denmark
www.cebraarchitecture.dk

Apr 18 Wednesday am desk crits MB
Wednesday pm desk crits PG

Apr 23 Monday desk crits AM

Apr 25	Wednesday	no class (National Holiday)	
Apr 30	Monday	desk crits	AM
May 2	Wednesday	FINAL REVIEWS	GP+MB+PG+AM
May 7	Monday	final exhibition setup	
May 9	Wednesday	final exhibition setup	
May 10	Thursday	final exhibition opening (time TBC)	

May 14 - 18 **Coast2Coast workshop in Ascoli (mandatory)**

May 23 **Wednesday** **CD with portfolio* of Florence studio projects (including Sky is the Limit preliminary assignment) is due**

*** INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE PORTFOLIO**

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

1. SKY IS THE LIMIT: please include a hi-res PDF or JPG file of the submitted boards;
2. PIAZZA BRUNELLESCHI: please include a hi-res PDF or JPG file of each of the boards + a folder containing high resolution images (plans, sections, elevations, renderings, photomontages, photos of the final model, etc.)
3. CSUFI-Aarhus School of Architecture WORKSHOP: please include a hi-res documentation of the workshop.
4. VIALE BELFIORE: please include a hi-res PDF or JPG file of each of the boards + a folder containing high resolution images (plans, sections, elevations, renderings, photomontages, photos of the final model, etc.). In particular, each student will add the project "postcard" image he/she made for the final presentation.
5. COAST-2-COAST WORKSHOP: please include a hi-res PDF or JPG file of each of the boards.