

UMass/HSV HP Program
Arch-DES 597E-01
American Building 17th-20th Centuries
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Course Outline and Assignments

This course is a graduate survey of the American building tradition from the 17th century to the early 1960s. This is primarily a lecture course. Grading for this course will be based on two short papers, one site visit description and short assignments in the intervening weeks, which will be given in class and are to be posted on Spark. All submissions should be succinct, but long enough to answer the question in some depth. Beyond providing the instructor with a means for grading the student, the papers should serve as a reference tool for the student. Longer papers and the site visit should be amply illustrated. Students are expected to follow UMass guidelines on plagiarism.

Grading Each Paper = 30%
Biweekly responses:20%
Site visit= 20%

Office hours: 1 hour after class or by appointment

Required Texts

Gelernter, *A History of American Architecture*. UPNE, 2001.

McAlester & McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*. Knopf 1984 and later.

Readings for the later intervening weeks will be announced in Class.

Outline of Topics and Basic Readings

Prior to First Class:

Required: Gelernter (Hereafter *G*) Chapters 1 and 2
McAlester. pp 20-59.

Highly Recommended: Mann: *1491* and *1493* (multiple editions)
Taylor, A: *American Colonies...* Viking, 2001

Class 1

A Terminology, Description, Research Tools.

B Ancient and Medieval America European Background 17th century European settlements

For Intervening Week:

Comment: Carson et al. "Impermanent architecture of the Southern American Colonies." In *Winterthur Portfolio*, vol 16, (1981) (available on JSTOR).

St. George, Robert Blair. "Set Thine House in Order': The Domestication of the Yeomanry in Seventeenth-Century New England." In *New England Begins: The Seventeenth Century*, eds. Jonathan L. Fairbanks and Robert F. Trent, 3 vols. Boston: Museum of Fine Arts, 1982, vol. 2, pp. 159-83; rpt. in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, eds. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 1986, pp. 336-64.

Required Reading for Class 2: **G- Chapter 3**

Recommended: Noble: *Wood Bricks and Stone* vols I and II (various editions)
Martin: *Profits in the Wilderness*. UNC Press, 1991.

Class 2

18th century domestic and public architecture

Required Reading for Class 3: **G- Chapter 4 G-5**

McAlester, 138-15

For Intervening Week:

Comment:

Wells, Camille. "The *Planter's* Prospect: Houses, Outbuildings, and Rural Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia." *Winterthur Portfolio* 28, no. 1 (1993): 1-31 (available on JSTOR).

or

Recommended: TBA

Class 3

On the eve of the Revolution

Required Reading for Class 4: **G- Chapter 5**

McAlester, 153-175

For Intervening Week; TBA

Recommended: TBA

Class 4

Neoclassicism and the New Republic

PAPER DUE

Required Reading for Class 5:

McAlester, 178-237

For Intervening Week; TBA

Recommended: TBA

Class 5

19th century architecture before the Civil War
SITE VISIT DUE

Required Reading for Class 6: **G-6**

Intervening week: TBA

Recommended: TBA

Class 6

Post Civil War architecture: from Second Empire to Richardson
Required Reading for Class 7: **G-7-8**

Class 7

Aggressive eclecticism during the first decades after the Civil War and The beginnings of Modern Architecture; reforms and innovations from the late 19th century to the First World War
The dominant modes and their European sources
The related modes and regional variations
Domestic architecture in the northeast and the rise of an American ideal
The Academic Reaction: McKim, Mead & White and their contemporaries.
The early work of Frank Lloyd Wright;
The Prairie School Architects;
The Californians: Maybeck, the Greene brothers, and Irving Gill

Required Reading for Class 8: **G-9-10**

Intervening week: TBA

Recommended: TBA

Class 8

America Post WWII
Required Reading for Class :
FINAL PAPER DUE

Short paper Due after Fourth Class

Describe and discuss the major timber framing systems in use in America into the late 19th century. Describe the major differences between systems

Site Visit Paper: Due on date of Fifth Class

Visit a structure dating 1750-1850 within 1 hour of where you live. Describe the building. How does it fit into the historical context and planning typology of the era in America?

Second Paper: Due on date of Last Class

For years scholars have debated the existence of an independent American architecture. Your paper should examine this question, as well as its cultural origins, and offer an answer. Your response should be illustrated and justified by specific examples covered in class and the readings. Don't forget proper academic conventions when submitting your response