Faculty: Architecture
Course Code & Number: ARCH 481
Type of Course: Departmental Elective
Course Credit Hours: (3+0+0) 3 / 5 ECTS
Language of Instruction: English

Department: Architecture
Course Title: READING ARCHITECTURAL PRECEDENTS
Semester: Fall
Pre-requisite: Arch 102 Introduction to Architectural Design
Mode of Delivery: Face-to-face

Instructors:
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CATALOG DESCRIPTION
Formal analysis of exemplary buildings. Critical reading of an architectural form. Examination of formal and spatial principles of a selected building. Exploration of formal elements and relations between these elements, and transformational operations on form.

COURSE OBJECTIVE
The objective is to gain knowledge of design through analytical process. The course aims at developing critical and graphical readings of architectural precedents by focusing on the design processes and transformational operations that generate the architectural form. The critical reflection on exemplary buildings will make students to better understand the practice of architecture.

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Upon successful completion of this course, a student will
1) Understand the important role of case studies in design research as both a theoretical and practical means of reasoning.
2) Acquire the essential skills for critical reading, interpreting and understanding architectural form.
3) Develop an awareness of the formal and spatial principles of architecture.
4) Reveal formal elements of a selected building, relations between these elements, and transformational operations on form.
5) Start to develop an intellectual opinion and a personal reflection on architectural practice.

EVALUATION
Precedent Analysis I (Visual and Oral Presentation): 10%
Precedent Analysis II (Visual and Oral Presentation): 30%
Precedent Analysis III (Visual and Oral Presentation and Paper): 50%
Attendance, Drawing Exercises and Class Contribution: 10%

COURSE ASSESSMENTS & LEARNING OUTCOMES MATRIX	
Assessment Methods	**Course Learning Outcomes**
Precedent Analysis I, II, III (Visual and Oral Presentation)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Precedent Analysis III (Paper)	2, 3, 5
Drawing Exercises	2, 3, 4
Class Contribution	1, 2, 3, 4, 5

GRADING SYSTEM
For each course taken, the student is given one of the following grades by the course teacher. The letter grades, coefficients and percentage equivalents are given below.

AA	4.0 / 100-90
BA	3.5 / 89-85
BB	3.0 / 84-80
CB	2.5 / 79-75
CC	2.0 / 74-70 average
DC	1.5 / 69-60
DD	1.0 / 59-50 unsatisfactory
F	0.0 / 49-0 fails to follow requirements of the assignment
FX	0

PRESENTATIONS & PAPER

Visual and oral presentations (Precedent Analysis I, II, and III) will be done in the class on the assigned dates. Paper (submitted for the Precedent Analysis III) will be a critical text discussing and presenting personal reflections on the architectural work in question by focusing on formal and operational issues that constitute design process. It will be submitted on the assigned date. Drawing exercises will be drawn by hand; they should be saved in a bound portfolio for evaluation at the end of the semester. All assignments are due at the date and time indicated. Late assignments if otherwise accepted will be downgraded. Incomplete work is generally discouraged.

LANGUAGE

The class discussions and all of your presentations will be in English. Developing your verbal language skills will be very important in acquiring the disciplinary terminology as well as daily communication at the class.

COURSE CONDUCT

Good academic conduct requires respect for the rights of others in the collective experience of learning, either in the class or elsewhere; responsibility towards others and sincere and honest engagement in group works; avoidance of cheating; and last but not the least, avoidance of plagiarism, which is using others' works, ideas, findings or products as if one's own.

REFERENCES

Baker, Geoffrey H. *Design Strategies in Architecture: An Approach to the Analysis of Form*, Hong Kong: Van Nostrand Reinhold (International), 1989.

Baker, Geoffrey H. *Le Corbusier: An Analysis of Form* (London: Spon Press, Third Edition, 1996).

Borden, Gail Peter. *Process: Material and Representation in Architecture*, London, N.Y.: Routledge, 2014.

Eisenman, Peter. *Ten Canonical Buildings: 1950-2000*, N.Y: Rizzoli, 2008.

Eisenman, Peter. *The Formal Basis of Modern Architecture* (Baden-Switzerland: Lars Müller Publishers, 2006)

Hoesli, Bernard. "Commentary", In *Transparency* by C. Rowe and R. Slutzky, Basel, Boston, Berlin: Birkhause Verlag, 1997, pp. 57-83.

Radford, A., Morkoç, S., and Srivastava, A. *The Elements of Modern Architecture: Understanding Contemporary Buildings*, London: Thames & Hudson, 2014.

Rowe, Colin and Slutzky, Robert. "Transparency: Literal and Phenomenal", In *Transparency* by C. Rowe and R. Slutzky, Basel, Boston, Berlin: Birkhause Verlag, 1997, pp. 21-56.

Rowe, Colin and Slutzky, Robert. "Transparency: Literal and Phenomenal, Part II", in *As I was Saying: Recollections and Miscellaneous Essays*, vol.1, Colin Rowe, ed. by Alexander Caragonne, Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1996, pp.73-106.

Salottobuono, "Revealing the Secrets behind the Designs", MAS Context, issue: 15 (Fall 2012): 46-63.

Unwin, Simon. *Twenty Buildings Every Architect Should Understand*, London, N.Y.: Routledge, 2010.

TEDU ARCH 481 READING ARCHITECTURAL PRECEDENTS │ SYLLABUS

PART 1 – INTRODUCTION & CONCEPT OF PRECEDENT (WEEK 1-2)

week 1 / september 28 / introduction

week 2 / october 5 / architectural precedents / canon – canonical works / precedent analysis / deriving design knowledge through precedent study / 'learning how to see and to think' architecture as an architect

Drawing exercise #1: Pantheon (126 AD)
"Draw what is not seen in the building"

PART 2 – HOW TO READ PRECEDENT (WEEK 3-4)

week 3 / october 12 / critical analysis / generic & specific form / platonic forms: centroidal & linear form / transformation process / components of architectural form: point, line, mass, surface / operations to transform architectural form

Drawing exercise #2: Jewish Museum (2001), Daniel Libeskind & Schröder House (1924), Gerrit Rietveld
"Compare corner conditions"

week 4 / **october 19** / examples for analytical-critical readings of buildings
text discussion:

Colin Rowe and Robert Slutzky. "Transparency: Literal and Phenomenal, Part II", in *As I was Saying: Recollections and Miscellaneous Essays*, vol.1, Colin Rowe, ed. by Alexander Caragonne, Cambridge, Massachusetts: The MIT Press, 1996, pp.73-106. [you are responsible from the pages between 73-83]

Drawing exercise #3: Villa Capra La Rotonda (1567), Palladio & Barcelona Pavilion (1929), Mies van der Rohe.
"Analyze differences in their formal formation"

Assignment 1: Precedent Analysis I

PART 3 – PRECEDENT ANALYSES

PRECEDENT ANALYSIS I (WEEK 5-6)

week 5 / october 26 / group work (each with 2 students)

case study: Barcelona Pavilion (1929, Mies van der Rohe)

week 6 / november 2 / **submission / PRECEDENT ANALYSIS I / students' presentations**

Assignment 2: Precedent Analysis II

PRECEDENT ANALYSIS II (WEEK 7-9)

week 7 / november 9 / group work (each with 2 students)

case study 1: Esherick House (Philadelphia, 1961, Louis Kahn)
case study 2: Fisher House (Pennsylvania, 1967, Louis Kahn)

week 9 / november 23 / **submission / PRECEDENT ANALYSIS II / students' presentations**

Assignment 3: Precedent Analysis III

PRECEDENT ANALYSIS III (WEEK 10-13)

week 10 – 13 / november 30 – december 21 / group work (each with 2 students)

case study 1: House in Old Westbury (1971, NY., Richard Meier)
case study 2: Douglas House (1973, Michigan, Richard Meier)
case study 3: Maidman House (1976, Long Island, Richard Meier)
case study 4: Giovannatti House (1983, Pennsylavania, Richard Meier)
case study 5: Saltzman House (1969, East Hampton-NY., Richard Meier)
case study 6: Hoffman House (1967, East Hampton-NY., Richard Meier)
case study 7: The Atheneum (1979, New Harmony, Indiana, Richard Meier)

FINAL – week 15 / january 4 / submission / PRECEDENT ANALYSIS III / students' presentations