

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary objectives of the course are:

- to broaden our knowledge about the relationship of architecture to social concepts and popular culture through lectures, presentations, and discussion
- to research and critically analyze these relationships and draw new conclusions
- to observe the influence of architectural trends and how they become mainstream
- to understand architecture as an influence on social consciousness and develop a refined lens to consume media

CONTENT

Architecture has increasingly become more main stream and accessible to the public in recent decades. This is directly related to advancements in technology and access to information and now it is at our fingertips in a digital world. In previous decades, architects and architecture were represented in specific ways that provide a contextual basis for the study of architecture in popular culture. Progressing chronologically, the representation of architects and buildings in media reflects changing social taste and sometimes parallels social discourses. It also becomes a backdrop for critiques of society. Historical and theoretical concepts from architecture are deeply rooted in these critiques. This interplay between the two subjects is what this course will investigate.

The course will be divided into two main topics based on the focus, but many themes will run throughout the semester.

PART 1: The Architect as the Central Figure

PART 2: Places and Characters

METHOD

A variety of materials will be offered as course resources and referenced in lectures and assignments. This will include books, articles, periodicals, television and film with the aim of studying popular culture through a variety of mediums.

This course will also employ strategies to study these sources similar to strategies used to analyze and critique artworks and architecture. These strategies will be presented throughout to encourage you to expand of your methodology for processing information and drawing new conclusions. Each topic will pair with both written and graphic materials. There will be both individual and group work, and discussion will occur each class period.

The course is project-based to encourage self-guided research and exploration. The depth and breadth of this topic is such that a single semester only allows for a basic survey. Open-ended project assignments will allow for each student to delve further into those specific ideas that most interest them.

KEY TEXTS

Blake, Peter. No Place Like Utopia: Modern Architecture and the Company we Kept. W. W. Norton & Company, 1996.

Lasansky, D. Medina. Archi.Pop: Mediating Architecture in Popular Culture. Bloomsbury Academic, 2014.

Rowley, Stephen. Movie Towns and Sitcom Suburbs. Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.