

THE URBAN BUILDING AND URBAN SPACE

Fulfills one Modern Architectural History Requirement for Architecture majors

Tuesday 1:00-3:50 pm, White Stag Block, Portland

The development of cities as social, cultural and economic entities has gone hand-in-hand with the development of characteristic building types that have enabled private and public institutions to function and contribute to the complexity and varied life of the city. Urban buildings have always embodied cultural ideas and functional organization, and have changed over time in ways that have mirrored other changes in society.

The last 200 years have seen a proliferation of new and transformed building types connected with the growth of industrial capitalism and associated social change. Now, we are experiencing further changes connected to globalization and the emergence of the "information economy." With these changes, it is essential to look at the urban building in ways that can help us understand the importance of historical tradition and those aspects of buildings that do not (or should not) change, as well as the need for a pragmatic approach to the development of new forms.

The purpose of this course is to develop understandings of urban buildings as meaningful and functional artifacts, and of the relationship between the building and the city. The course will examine several characteristic types, looking at basic configurations, meaning, functional order, and the buildings' contributions to the economic, social and formal aspects of cities. Each type will be looked at through its historical (and technological) development, exemplary contemporary examples, and future prospects. Emphasis will be on American and European architecture, along with contemporary Asian buildings. This course will provide both a general historical and cultural background to students interested in the architecture of cities, as well as specific understandings that might be helpful in the design studio.

The building types to be examined have been chosen because of their fundamental difference in basic configuration, and the ability for that difference to help illustrate both basic theory and the rich variety that cities embody.

The emphasis in the instructors' presentations will be on analytical and historical material; the emphasis in the student projects will be on contemporary buildings and hybrid building types, using the historical and analytical content.

Student projects will incorporate conceptual design speculations in addition to documentary research. These speculations may be connected to studio projects, but this is not required.

Tentative topics:

TYPE: CONFIGURATION, MEANING AND FUNCTION
THE URBAN BUILDING AND URBAN SPACE
URBAN MORPHOLOGY AND SPACE SYNTAX
TOWN HALLS; MARKETS AND RETAIL STORES
DWELLINGS; LIVING OVER THE STORE
BUILDINGS FOR PRODUCTION
SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS AND PRISONS
OFFICE BUILDINGS AND THEIR EVOLUTION
STATIONS, TERMINALS AND AIRPORTS
NEW HYBRID BUILDINGS
BUILDINGS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Course format and requirements. Sessions will include presentations by the instructor, discussions of readings, and presentations of student projects. These projects will include both analysis of historical and contemporary buildings and short design exercises intended to help develop understandings of building configurations and their relationship to urban space. In addition, a final presentation/paper dealing with a contemporary building type will be required.

Readings. Required readings include selections from two books: Thomas Markus, *Buildings and Power*, and Nikolaus Pevsner, *A History of Building Types*; and a course reader with selections from authors such as Foucault, Evans, Lefebvre, Hillier, Forty, Conzen, Whitehand, Rossi, Kropf, Oliveira and others.

Questions? Contact Howard Davis at hdavis@uoregon.edu

