ARC 6310 Architectural Theory and Criticism

2011 1st Term, Wednesdays 9:30-12:15
Instructor: Prof. Hendrik Tieben, Course assistant: Ryan Ip

DESCRIPTION

The course *Architectural Theory and Criticism* introduces and discusses themes of contemporary architectural theory through lectures, readings, and case studies. The themes are not meant to cover all theoretical issues of the discipline but to outline possible trajectories. They may map a vector that will be swerved by the students own research. Or alternatively, students may illuminate and develop thinking on further architectural themes.

OBJECTIVES

The course is divided in a series of lectures and seminar sessions. The course will prepare M.Arch.1 students to formulate their future thesis proposal by introducing contemporary discourses and by training research ability and critical thinking. Students will analyze theoretical texts and architectural examples, and formulate a final paper on a self-defined topic.

ASSESSMENT

For the final grades, the quality of the writing, the group presentation and the active involvement in the course during the seminars will be assessed. Participation therefore does not mean pure presence in the class room but active contributions to the seminar discussions. Students who haven't made any question or comments to the content of the course during the seminars can not achieve a participation grade of B or above.

The Ning platform can be used for discussions related to the course with your classmates and the teacher. Involvement in online discussions can count as part of the participation grade and is strongly encouraged. However it can not substitute the active involvement in the seminars.

For the two papers the intellectual strength of the argumentation is valued most. Nevertheless, a good or excellent grade (B or above) can only be achieved if the
paper is based on a solid research on the specific topic and a professional presentation. Texts which fail to name all sources of their information (incl. image sources) properly will not be considered for grades in the B range or above (see guideline below). To be able to involve in the discussions and get a broader theoretical understanding students are expected to read the seminar texts for each session posted on the ning platform.

ASSESSMENT
Participation:  20% (participation)
Paper 1 (Individual):  20% (An architectural critique, 4 A4 pages)
Presentation (Group work):  20%
Final Paper 2 (Individual):  40%* (Exploration of a self defined topic 10 A4 pages)

DEADLINES
Paper 1 has to be handed on October 21, 2011
Paper 2 has to be handed on December 15, 2011
All papers have to include footnotes and a bibliography. All used images have to be labeled.

COURSE FORMAT
The structure of the course is based on lectures and seminars. Students will exercise the writing of abstracts and articles and give power point presentations.

COURSE WEBSITE
http://cuhkarchtheory.ning.com/
READING LIST

Reference Books on Architecture Theory (Anthologies)


1 Details


2 Units


3 Spaces


4 Plans

5 Envelopes


6 Bodies


7 Atmospheres

ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignment 1 / Individual Paper 1
Critique of contemporary architecture culture in the Pearl River Delta (incl. HK and Macao)
Write an architectural critique of an architectural, engineering or urban project in the Pearl River Delta including Hong Kong and Macao. The project may not be described in the two earlier PRD readers.
- Include proper images and plans (site plan, sections etc.) which allow the reader to understand the architectural decisions of the project (image quality (300dpi)).
- The article should have a length of 2-3 double pages including images.
- According to international standards for publishing, all images have to be labeled with captions (name of project, place, architect(s), year of planning and completion, image source).
- Note references and further readings.
- Use layout format provided by course assistant (Jonas Tang).
- The article should have the standard of an article publishable in a professional architectural journal without further adjustments. Before handing the article it has to be revised and signed by one classmate of free choice.
- Deadline October 21.

Examples of articles written by students in the last term will be discussed in the 2-3 session of the seminar.

Assignment 11
Group Presentations on Architectural Theory
One Group Presentation (PPP) a 20 min (three or four students in each group). Make sure that the presentation is concise and keeps the time limited. Presentation will be interrupted after 20min to allow enough time for discussions.

Questions to be addressed in the presentation:
- Who are the authors?
- In which discourse can they be located?
- What are the main arguments?
- How do they analyze architecture?
- What can we learn from their approach to architecture?
Assignment III, Individual Paper II

Write a paper on a self defined topic related to architectural design

This paper allows you to explore your own interests in architectural design. The paper might be related to the work of a particular architect, a specific building or a self-defined theme. Choose a topic that might inform and enrich your own designs.

- Include proper images and plans (site plan, sections etc.).
- The article should have a length of 10 A4 pages including images.
- According to international standards for publishing, all images have to be labeled with captions (name of project, place, architect(s), year of planning and completion, image source).
- Note references and further readings.
- Use the same layout format provided for assignment I.
- Before handing the paper it has to be revised and signed by one classmate of free choice.
-Deadline December 15.

Use the requested abstract to formulate a first idea for this individual paper. Bring print out of your abstract (1 A4 page) to seminar session on September 16.

Examples of papers written by students in the last terms will be provided.

GUIDELINE FOR NOTES AND REFERENCES

Use following guideline for academic papers (Harvard system) for your notes and references:

The authors' names (no initials) and dates are given in the body of the text - for example (Biddle and Hill, 1971) - and the references are listed alphabetically at the end of the paper, under the heading 'References', in the following form:

1. A system in which numbers are inserted in the text - for example\(^3,4\) - and references to these are given in numerical order at the end of the paper, under the heading 'Notes', in the following form:


**IMPORTANT NOTE TO STUDENT:**
Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at [http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/](http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/). With each assignment, students will be required to submit a **statement** that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures.

Additionally, all papers have to be uploaded by each student to the Plagiarism Detection Engine CUPIDE.