Cultural Landscapes Seminar: ARCH 566 (3 credits)

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School of Architecture, McGill University

Seminar meets Tuesdays from 9:35-12:25 in room 206
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Catalogue Description:

An overview of cultural landscapes studies, methodologies, and resources. Comparative studies of the connection between people, particular places, and artifact systems are interpreted through architecture, critical regionalism, and material culture. Precedents for the interpretation of cultural landscapes by architects, ethnologists, anthropologists, folklorists, historians, writers, filmmakers, photographers, and artists are presented.

Course webpage:


Please note that the course outline and schedule will be updated weekly on the web page, so you should check for assignments, clarifications, possible schedule changes, and for supplementary references. PDF files for all assigned readings (except for the novels of Sebald) and for some supplementary readings will be available online.

Pedagogical objectives:

This seminar provides an overview of cultural landscapes studies, methodologies, and resources, including analysis and discussion of the work of architects embracing critical regionalism in architecture and housing. Comparative studies of the connection between people, particular places, and artifact systems are interpreted through architecture, critical regionalism, housing, urban design, material culture, and intangible culture. Precedents for the interpretation of cultural landscapes by architects, ethnologists, anthropologists, folklorists, historians, writers, filmmakers, photographers, and artists are presented. Rather than focusing on the study of individual buildings, the focus of this course is on understanding and interpreting the artifact system at all scales, reaching beyond the study of form to syndetically interpret meaning and address values.

Required submissions:

Weekly assignments: due at the start of the next seminar session or as indicated.

Prepare a typed, concise synopsis of the assigned reading(s) - minimum of one paragraph, maximum of one page. Please make sure your name and assignment number is included in your submission.
Mid-term Paper: due October 19

The Mid-term paper requirement is the submission of an annotated bibliography for books, articles, and films. Please note that one book must be selected from Sebald’s novels (see bibliography). A concise paragraph (max. one page) should be written summarizing the aspects most relevant to you in each book or article. Please aim for five to ten typed, double-spaced pages. Books cited for the weekly assignments may be used for the annotated bibliography as long as chapters different from the weekly assignments are used.

End-of-term Project: due November 30

You will prepare a small project that interprets and represent a particular cultural landscape in Montreal or elsewhere. Be prepared to present your work to your colleagues during the seminar on November (last meeting date of the seminar). The end-of-term project should have the format of Anne Meredith Berry’s Gros Morne Time Lines (see the pdf file linked to the web page). Gros Morne Time Lines is a fold out book, but you will produce a web version that requires scrolling to the right (continuous images) on a standard Dreamweaver web page template I will provide that uses a simple table for positioning images. If you are not comfortable using Dreamweaver or if you do not have this program, you may submit jpg images. This piece (text, photos, drawings) will feature your documentation and interpretation of a particular area, building, condition, way of living, or artifact in Montreal (or elsewhere if you have access during the term), with reference to time, place, space, and possibly with reference to other aspects like light, materials, and details. As you will find from your readings on Sebald (see Searching for Sebald), the visual character / layout of text and graphics is very important for this assignment.

Each “page” or image on the sample of the assignment format on the course web page is a jpg image 6” wide by 8” high at a resolution of 105dpi. Folded paper in a book was used for continuity in the original document. However, you can enhance the continuity by presenting a continuous image with graphics and text arranged accordingly. For example, if you decide to have 20 pages with the dimensions shown above, you can present one final image that is 120” wide by 8” high at 105dpi (you must use width multiples of 6”). The final image must be in jpg format (colour or grayscale) at 105dpi for the web page, and a second image at 300dpi (same dimension constraints) must be provided for printing purposes. Your name and your project title must be integrated in the graphic design of your images. The end-of-term assignment is due the day before the last class meeting date (jpg images to be placed in a folder with your name on the folder).

There are two points of departure for independent study that may help you to prepare for your end-of-term project for this course. The first is an article by Mitchell (2003) on “Medium Theory” (available on the web and as a pdf accessed from the seminar web page: this is a preface to the 2003 Critical Inquiry Symposium). The second involves the novels of Sebald (Austerlitz, or The Rings of Saturn, or The Emigrants) and a particular

**Grading:**

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<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly assignments (10)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation November 30</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>End-of-term project</td>
<td>35%</td>
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**Seminar Schedule:**

1) **September 6**

*Introduction to Cultural Landscapes Studies*

2) **September 14**

*Rural Cultural Landscape and Housing Case Study Part One: Tilting, Fogo Island, Newfoundland*

3) **September 21**

*Rural Cultural Landscape and Housing Case Study Part Two: Tilting, Joe Batt’s Arm, Little Fogo Islands*

4) **September 28**

*Syndesis and Pattern Language: The Architecture of Rogelio Salmona (Professor Ricardo Castro)*

5) **October 5**

*Urban Cultural Landscape Case Study: Housing and Urban Form in St. John’s, Newfoundland*

6) **October 12**

*Regional Cultural Landscape Study: Newfoundland Modern: Architecture in the Smallwood Years, 1949-1952*
7) October 19

Crossing Cultural Landscape Boundaries:
Housing and architecture in Ahmedabad, India

8) October 26

A Forgotten Cultural Landscape:
Havana, Cuba

9) November 2

Architectural Regionalism in North America:
California, Arizona, Nova Scotia

10) November 9

Super Scale:
Beijing, Lagos, Bogota

11) November 16

Domestic Environments:
Inside the Home (Professor Annmarie Adams)

12) November 23

Suburban Cultural Landscape Case Studies:
Pittsburgh, Kalamazoo, Leisureworld, Morongo Basin

13) November 30

Student Presentations

McGill Policy Statements:

Please make sure you read the information in the section titled “McGill Policy Statements” on the McGill University web page below:

http://www.mcgill.ca/tls/resources/outline/#GENERAL
Bibliography

(note that you do NOT have to read all these books. They are presented here for your convenience and possible reference)

Library books on reserve in blue:

Cultural Landscapes: General


Alexander, Christopher et. al. A Pattern Language (New York: Oxford University Press, 1977) NA9050 A49x


Corner James, Editor; Recovering Landscape: Essays in Contemporary Landscape Architecture (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1999).


Coyula Havana: Two Faces of the Antillean Metropolis (Mario et. al.) HT384 C92 H387 2002


de Certeau The Practice of Everyday Life (, Michel, with Luce Giard and Pierre Mayol) HN8 C4313 1984 (try to find the U. of Minnesota 1998 edition if you decide to purchase this book)

Duany, Andres, Towns and Town Making Principles NA9015 C35 G86 1991

Ewan, Rebecca Fish. A Land Between: Owens Valley, California (Baltimore: John’s Hopkins University Press, 2000).


Gramp, Christopher. From Yard to Garden (Chicago: Center for American Places, 2008).

Groth, Paul and Todd W. Bressi, eds. Understanding Ordinary Landscapes (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1997).


Jackson, J. B. *A Sense of Place, a Sense of Time* (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1994) F796 J27 1994


Kubler, George *The Shape of Time* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1962) N66 K8


Lippard *The Lure of the Local* (Lucy) GF503 L56 1997

Lippard *On the Beaten Track: Tourism, Art, and Place* (Lucy) G155 A1 L57 1999


Moore, Charles *The Place of Houses* NA7125 M66


Tuan, Yi-Fu. *Space and Place: The Perspective of Experience* (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977). G71.5 T8 1977


Architecture


McCoy, Esther, *Case Study Houses, 1945-1962* NA7235 C2 M2 1977

Mellin, Robert. “Site and Services Case Study,” M. Arch. Thesis (McGill, 1984) and Open House International article. AS42 M3 1984 M48

Owen, David. A. Like No Other Place (Chicago: Center for American Places, 2010)

Polyzoides, Stefanos, Courtyard Housing in Los Angeles NA7238 L6 P6 1982


Artists, Photographers


Creates, Marlene. *Signs of Our Time* TR647 C733 2006

Creates, Marlene *Places of Presence* N6549 C74 A4 1993b

Creates, Marlene *Language and Land use* N6549 C74 A4 1998


Galassi, Peter. *Jeff Wall* (New York: Museum of Modern Art, 2007). (there are many other books on Jeff Wall in the library).


Gursky, Andreas. *Andreas Gursky* (Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2007).

Gursky, Andreas. *Architecture* (Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz Verlag, 2008).


*Kauffman, Ross. Born into Brothels* (2004: view the special features after you watch the DVD). HQ792 I5 B67 DVD

Keller, Judith and Anne Lacoste *Where We Live: Photographs of America from the Berman Collection* (Los Angeles, J. Paul Getty Museum, 2006).


Pratt, Christopher. *All My Own Work* (Toronto: Douglas & McIntyre, 2005).


Suburbia


Material Culture


Literature


ARCH 536. Landscape and American Culture. 3 credits, 3 contact hours. As in architecture, the parallel discipline of landscape architecture involves artistic intention set in conjunction with utilitarian concerns. As such, designs on the land include the integration of the arts and sciences of human culture with nature. Discusses landscape as a manifestation of American culture. ARCH 537. ARCH 566. Advanced Architectural Design Studio. 5 credits, 12 contact hours. Prerequisite: ARCH 501G This is a 3-credit seminar course for graduate students exploring advanced 3-dimensional computer modeling techniques and data export for assembly and fabrication to various computer numerically controlled (CNC) hardware available at the School of Architecture. G 587 Seminar in Cultural Resource Management 3 cr. Offered autumn. Prereq., graduate standing. ANTH g410 Introduction to Cultural Resources Management 3 credits. Introduction to CRM reviewing historic preservation and federal legislation as they pertain to archaeology; practical experience in site survey and recording. Prereq: anth 203 or permission of instructor. ANTH g410 Introduction to Cultural Resources Management 3 credits. Introduction to CRM reviewing historic preservation and federal legislation as they pertain to archaeology; practical experience in site survey and recording. Prereq: anth 203 or permission of instructor. 344 Oregon Archaeology (4) [ARCH] Native American cultural history of Oregon based on archaeological evidence. Focuses on environmental and ecological factors that condition human adaptations and on contemporary cultural resource protection issues. Taught by staff members from the Museum of Natural History. Cultural landscapes -- cultivated terraces on lofty mountains, gardens, sacred places -- testify to the creative genius, social development and the imaginative and spiritual vitality of humanity. The protection of traditional cultural landscapes is therefore helpful in maintaining biological diversity. Categories and Subcategories. Cultural landscapes fall into three main categories (Operational Guidelines 2008, Annex3), namely: The most easily identifiable is the clearly defined landscape designed and created intentionally by man. This embraces garden and parkland landscapes constructed for aesthetic reasons which are often (but not always) associated with religious or other monumental buildings and ensembles.