

ARC5936: Cejas Eminent Scholar Seminar
Professor Jeffrey Kipnis, The Ohio State University

Spring 2009
Florida International University School of Architecture
Professor David Rifkind [david.rifkind@fiu.edu]

PCA167, Wednesday, 3:00 – 5:00PM
Office hours, room PCA383b, Monday and Thursday, 1:30-4:00

Cejas Eminent Scholar Seminar examines the debates that have animated architectural practice over the last four decades. The seminar includes four sessions led by Professor Jeffrey Kipnis during the week of January 13-16.

Requirements: Students will lead discussions in class, and pursue a semester-long written research project. Each student will lead two of the weekly discussions, and will prepare a series of analyses of a work of architecture or design.

For each weekly discussion, one or several students will present the assigned reading. Students are expected to distill the text's arguments into a five-minute presentation, and to prompt the class with three or more penetrating questions that generate an illuminating conversation about the work under discussion. Each student will have at least two opportunities to present during the semester

The analytical project will focus on a single work of architecture, design (including landscapes, interiors, cities and objects) or theory chosen by each student in consultation with the instructor.

Goals: Students will hone their ability to read architects' theoretical statements and historians' analyses critically. The course stresses analysis and interpretation of both texts and designed works. Students will gain an intimate understanding of some of the key works of architectural theory and history from the last two centuries.

Textbook: Students are asked to purchase Kate Nesbitt, ed., *Theorizing a New Agenda for Architecture. 1965-1995*. New York, 1996.

Sessions and readings

- 1 [1.7] introduction
- 2 [1.13-16] Jeffrey Kipnis will lead four seminars, from 3:30 to 4:30. The first session we will discuss his article, "On Criticism." The subsequent sessions will deal with the content of his lectures, which will follow the seminars from 5:30 to 6:30.
Jeffrey Kipnis, "On Criticism," *Harvard Design Magazine* (Fall 2005), pp. 96-104.
- Lecture 1 [1.13] Introduction to Contemporary Architecture as Cultural Discourse
Lecture 2 [1.14] Formalism and Conceptual Architecture
Lecture 3 [1.15] Staging Character
Lecture 4 [1.16] New Authenticities
- 3 [1.21] Critical theory
Manfredo Tafuri, "Problems in the Form of a Conclusion," in Nesbitt, pp. 360-368.
[Andrew]
- 4 [1.28] Phenomenology

Martin Heidegger, "Building Dwelling Thinking," *Poetry Language Thought*, pp.145-161. [Andrew]

Superstudio, "Invention Design and Evasion Design," (1967) in Joan Ockman, ed. *Architecture Culture 1943-1968*. New York, 1993, pp. 437-441. [Madeline]

- 5 [2.4] Typology
Aldo Rossi, "An Analogical Architecture," in Nesbitt, pp. 345-52. [Madeline]
- 6 [2.11] Surfaces
Joanna Merwood, "The Mechanization of Cladding: The Reliance Building and Narratives of Modern Architecture," *Grey Room*, No. 4. (Summer, 2001), pp. 52-69. [Ashley]
- 7 [2.18] Critical Regionalism
Kenneth Frampton, "Prospects for a Critical Regionalism," (1983) in Nesbitt, pp. 468-482. [Madeline]
Alexander Tzonis and Liane Lefaivre, "Why Critical Regionalism Today?" (1990) in Nesbitt, pp. 483-492. [Andrew]
- 8 [2.25] Feminism
Mary McLeod, "Everyday and Other spaces," *Architecture and Feminism*, ed. Debra Coleman et al. New York, 1996, pp. 1-37. [Ashley]
Esther da Costa Meyer, "La Donna e Mobile: Agoraphobia, Women, and Urban Space," in *The Sex of Architecture*, ed. Patricia Conway and Leslie Kanés Diana Agrest, New York, 1996, pp. 141-156. [Sybille]
- 9 [3.4] Post-colonial theories
Vikramaditya Prakash, "Identity Production in Postcolonial Indian Architecture: Re-Covering What We Never Had," in Gülsüm Baydar Nalbantoglu and Wong Chong Thai, eds. *Postcolonial Space(s)*, New York, 1997, pp.39-52. [Sybille]
- 10 [3.11] Post-structuralism
Peter Eisenman, "The End of the Classical. The End of the Beginning. The End of the End," *Perspecta*, Vol.21 (1984, reprinted in *Architecture Theory Since 1968*, 522-539). [Andrew]
- [3.16-20] Spring break – no class
- 11 [3.25] Digital representation and fabrication
Alberto Pérez-Gómez, "Architecture as Drawing," *JAE*, Vol. 36, No. 2 (Winter 1982), pp. 2-7. [Sybille]
Mario Carpo, "Post-Hype Digital Architecture: From Irrational Exuberance to Irrational Despondency," *Grey Room* 14 (Winter 2004), 102-115. [George Valdez]
Anthony Vidler, "Skin and Bones. Folds from Leibniz to Lynn" *Warped Space*, pp.219-233. [George Valdez]
Jeffery Kipnis, "Drawing a Conclusion," *Perspecta* 22 (1986), 94-99. [George Valdez]
- 12 [4.1] no class
- 13 [4.8] Psychoanalysis
Sylvia Lavin, "Open the Box: Richard Neutra and the Psychology of the Domestic Environment," *Assemblage*, No. 40 (December 1999), pp. 6-25. [Ashley]
Victor Burgin, "Perverse Space," in Beatriz Colomina, ed., *Sexuality and Space*. New York, 1992, pp. 218-240. [Madeline]
[Andrew may also present a piece by Slavoj Zizek, tba.]

14 [4.15] Ecology

Ken Yeang, *Designing with Nature*. New York, 1995. [Sybille, excerpt tba.]

William McDonough, "Design, Ecology, Ethics, and the Making of Things," in Nesbitt, pp. 398-407. [Ashley]

William McDonough Architects, "The Hannover Principles," in Nesbitt, pp. 408-410. [Ashley]