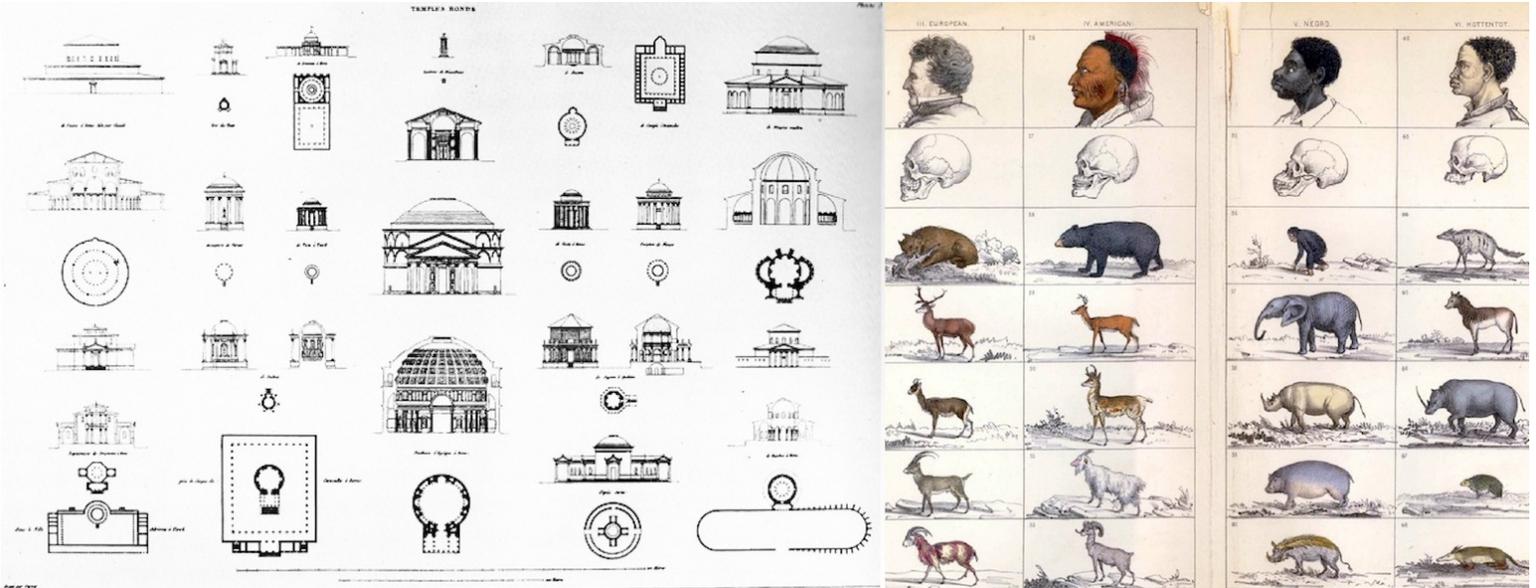


THINKING RACE, READING ARCHITECTURE [draft]



[L. Round Temples, *Recueil et Parallèle* (1800), J.N.L. Durand; R. *Types of Mankind* (1850) Josiah Nott & George Gliddon

Jazz, like the skyscrapers is an event and not a deliberately conceived creation. They represent the forces of today. The jazz is more advanced than the architecture. If architecture were at the point reached by jazz, it would be an incredible spectacle. I repeat: Manhattan is hot jazz in stone and steel. The contemporary renewal has to attach itself to some point. The Negroes have fixed that point through music. Their simple spirit has caused the reformation to spring up from the depths and has situated it in our times. Le Corbusier, *When the Cathedrals Were White* (emphasis in original text).

Philosophies of human variation remain a fundamental catalyst for subject and social formation in the West. The racial, a formidable tool for determining human difference was mobilized by Europeans to differentiate them from those peoples encountered through colonial expansion in the Americas, Asia, and Africa; through these categories and others the modern world would be discovered, conquered, and known. Over the course of the Enlightenment, the comparative frameworks and methods of categorization of people, things, and processes, such as those formulated by the French Encyclopedists, were critical for the development of Post-Enlightenment ideas of history, rationalism, positivism, and science. In early part of the nineteenth century, for example, theories of typologies in architecture that utilized taxonomic comparison of buildings to determine their most desirable characteristics also parallel the taxonomic logic foundational to mid-century racial science. In either case, these various taxonomies were a means for *Man*, in the process of becoming a rational being (a citizen, an architect), to conceive and represent *his* place in the world. With this in mind, one can ask how did the racial influence architectural discourse from the Enlightenment onward? One should also note that racial thinking was productive within the works of modern architects. For Le Corbusier, a racialized “blackness” represented in his *When Cathedrals Were White* as the syncopated movement of African American lindy hoppers and the regal performance of jazzman Louis Armstrong in Harlem, provided a base material—a Corbusian machine of primal energy—that would fuel the regeneration of his rational Radiant (re: White) City back home in Europe. As a representational tool and one of spatial regulation, how does the racial, a category that mobilizes concepts human difference in service of creating hierarchies of power and inequalities, become a productive means for organizing of the spaces of modernity, i.e. the nation, the society, and the city?

Thinking Race, Reading Architecture will examine the topic of the racial in architecture. The class will closely read primary treatises and manifestos, scholarly essays and books, along with reviewing drawings, models, buildings, and urban plans to trace a genealogy of how concepts of human and racial difference shaped modern architectural discourse and practices. Critical for the seminar will be to understand how and why the racial evolves in western philosophy. These concepts are found in the writings Kant, Hegel, and others from which architectural theory and history derives its conceptual frameworks. The course will also chart a history of the racial in order to understand its presence in the writings and projects of various of architects, theorists, and historians including Thomas Jefferson, Viollet Le Duc, Gottfried Semper, Adolf Loos, Le Corbusier, and others. One key objective of the seminar will be to understand why the discipline and profession of architecture has been resistant to recognize how the racial has been part of its discursive genealogy. The study of gender and sexuality in architecture will serve as a model for how to interpret the category of the racial in these readings and projects. Over the course of the semester, scholars in architectural history who are undertaking innovative research on the topic will share their work with the seminar.

Readings

All readings are available online at Columbia Courseworks. All books are on reserve in Avery at main desk. E-book indicates that the reading can be found on the E-book database (see Clio).

For this course students are expected to have some familiarity with foundational theoretical texts of critical and social theory. Excellent sources for these writings include (also see various resources on-line):

Critical and Cultural Theory by Dani Cavallaro

A Dictionary of Cultural and Critical Theory by Michael Payne, Meenakshi Ponnuswami

Critical Theory Today: A User Friendly Guide by Lois Tyson

Course Requirements

This course is a seminar run as a series of discussions and therefore all students are responsible for completing all reading assignments. Each student will be responsible for contributing one critical question per reading to the weekly discussion.

Analysis Paper - due 03.01.17

You are required to write one short analytical paper—2500 word text + images—in response to the first half of the semester's themes. All students are expected to be able to write in a clear concise well-developed essay format. This essay should use one or two of the course's readings to analyze a topic related to the themes of the seminar. This paper should not be a summary of the readings, but instead apply the critical insights to a new object of analysis. The analysis paper is due by midnight 03.01.17 (PDF or MSWord document). Please include visual material, appropriately captioned and cited, to further illustrate your argument.

Remember *an analysis is not a summary, but a critical perspective* on the readings and an expansion of the authors' themes. Please consult a writing guide such as the *MLA Handbook* or the *Bedford Writing Handbook* for assistance with grammar and structure. All papers must be written in a legible font (typically 10-12pt. Helvetica, Times Roman, or Courier) *double-spaced*, 1-1.25 inch margins, and paginated. Please include your name and date. Use endnotes or footnotes. All images, quotes or referenced material must include citations formatted according to a writing manual of style (*MLA Handbook* or *Chicago Manual of Style*.) This essay will count toward 25% of your grade.

Final Research Presentation and Paper - due 05.05.17

All students are required to make a 30-minute presentation and develop a paper (5000 words + images for PhD students) of their final research. The presentation and paper should take the critical insights on the racial and architecture and expand them into the analysis or comparison of a particular text, theory, building, architect, city, landscape or event. All research should present a clear comprehensible thesis and demonstrate thorough research by utilizing primary sources. During the first week in March each student will meet with the professor to discuss the direction of the research topic. The final presentations will take place on the last 2 classes of the semester. The final research paper will be due by midnight 05.05.17 via e-mail (PDF or MSWord document) no later than 6pm. This final research paper will count toward 75% of your grade.

Papers will be evaluated on the following criteria: strong thesis; clear, logical, and original argument; critical and creative analysis of theoretical texts and visual material; serious effort, preparation, and engagement in the subject matter. Please consult a writing guide such as the *MLA Guide* or the *Bedford Writing Handbook* for assistance with grammar and structure. All papers must be written in a legible font (typically 10-12pt. Helvetica, Times Roman, or Courier,) *double-spaced*, 1-1.25 inch margins, and *paginated*. Use endnotes or footnotes. All images, quotes or referenced material must include citations formatted according to a writing manual of style (*MLA* or *Chicago Manual of Style*.)

Readings

WEEK 1 – 18.01.17

Is the formation racial difference relevant to architecture and architectural discourse?

Bindman, David. *Ape to Apollo*. London: Reaktion Books. [Ebook]

Jefferson, Thomas. *Notes on the State of Virginia*. Richmond: J. W. Randolph, 1853.

WEEK 2 – 25.01.17

How is the racial aestheticized?

Bindman, David. *Ape to Apollo*. London: Reaktion Books. [Ebook]

Kant, Immanuel. "On the Different Races of Man," "On National Characteristics" and *Physical Geography*, in *Race and the Enlightenment*, edited by Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze, Cambridge: Blackwell, 1997. 38-58.

WEEK 3 – 01.02.17

How does racial difference produce Man?

Wynter, Sylvia, "Unsetting the Coloniality of Being/Power/Truth/Freedom: Towards the Human, After Man, Its Overrepresentation—An Argument," *CR: The New Centennial Review*, Vol. 3, No. 3, Fall 2003, 257 – 337.

Herder, Johann Gottfried Von. Excerpt "Ideas on the Philosophy of History of Mankind" and Kant, Emmanuel, "Review of Herder" in *Race and the Enlightenment*, edited by Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze, Cambridge: Blackwell, 1997. 65-78.

WEEK 4 – 08.02.17

How is reason productive of racial difference?

Silva, Denise Ferreira da. "Introduction, Preface Chapters 1- 4" in *Toward a Global Idea of Race*. Borderlines. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007.[Ebook]

WEEK 5 – 15.02.17

When does racial take its modern formation?

da Silva, Denise Ferreira. "Chapter 5 - 10" *Toward a Global Idea of Race*. Borderlines. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007. 115-151 [Ebook]

Hegel, George Friedrich. "Lectures of the Philosophy of History" in *Race and the Enlightenment*, edited by Emmanuel Chukwudi Eze, Cambridge: Blackwell, 1997. 109-149.

WEEK 6 – 22.02.17

How is Empire productive of racial difference?

Gikandi, Simon, *Slavery and the Culture of Taste*, University of Princeton Press, 2011.

WEEK 7 – 01.03.17 – ANALYSIS PAPER DUE

Teyssot, Georges. "Figuring the Invisible." In *A Topology of Everyday Constellations*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 2013. 31-82.

TBD

WEEK 8 – 08.03.17

How is racial difference productive within Modernism?

Davis, Charles L. "Viollet-Le-Duc and the Body: The Metaphorical Integrations of Race and Style in Structural Rationalism." *arq: Architectural Research Quarterly* 14, no. 04 (2010): 341-48.

— — —. "The Racial Epistemology of the Semperian Construction." Unpublished paper.

WEEK 9 – NO CLASS (Spring Break)

WEEK 10 – 22.03.17

What is Modernism's racialized surfaced?

Cheng, Anne Anlin, and Josephine Baker. *Second Skin: Josephine Baker and the Modern Surface*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2011.

Loos, Adolf. "Ornament and Crime." *Spoken into the Void: Collected Essays 1897 - 1900*. Cambridge: MIT Press and Opposition Books, 1982.

WEEK 11 – 29.03.17

How is the racial embedded within postwar consumer culture?

Harris, Dianne. *Little White Houses*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013.

WEEK 12 – 05.04.17

TBD

WEEK 13 – 05.12.17 – Research Presentations

WEEK 14 – 05.19.17 – Research Presentations

WEEK 15 – NO CLASS [Final Reviews GSAPP]

FINAL PAPER DUE – 05.05.17

Bibliography

Adorno, Theodor W., and J. M. Bernstein. *The Culture Industry : Selected Essays on Mass Culture*. London: Routledge, 1991.

Anderson, Benedict R. O'G. *Imagined Communities : Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso, 1983.

Appadurai, Arjun. *Modernity at Large*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1998.

Barthes, Roland. *Mythologies*. Translated by Annette Lavers. 1984.

Barton Craig. *Sites of Memory: Perspectives on Architecture and Race*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2001.

Baudrillard, Jean. *Simulations*. Semiotext(E) Foreign Agents Series. New York City, N.Y., U.S.A.: Semiotext(e), Inc., 1983.

Benjamin, Walter. *Illuminations*. Translated by Harry Zohn. London: Fontana/Collins, 1982.

Benjamin, Walter, and Peter Demetz. *Reflections : Essays, Aphorisms, Autobiographical Writings*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1978.

Bernal, Martin. *Black Athena*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1991.

Bhabha, Homi. *The Location of Culture*. London: Routledge, 1994.

Boyer, Christine. *Dreaming the Rational City: The Myth of American City Planning*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1983.

Butler, Judith. *Bodies That Matter*. London: Routledge, 1993.

— — —. *Gender Trouble-Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. London: Routledge, 1990.

Camp, Tina. *Image Matters : Archive, Photography, and the African Diaspora in Europe*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2012.

Carby, Hazel. "Policing the Black Woman's Body in an Urban Context." *Critical Inquiry* 18 (Summer 1992): 738-55.

Castells, Manuel. *The Network Society : A Cross-Cultural Perspective*. Cheltenham, GL, UK ; Northampton, MA, USA: Edward Elgar Pub., 2004.

Celik, Zeynib. "Le Corbusier, Orientalism, Colonialism." *Assemblage* 17 (1992): 59-77.

Cogdell, Christina. *Eugenic Design: Streamlining America in the 1930s*. Philadelphia: U. Penn Press, 2012.

— — — and Susan Currell eds. *Popular Eugenics: National Efficiency and American Mass Culture in the 1930s*. Athens, OH: Ohio University Press 2006.

Colomina, Beatriz. *Privacy and Publicity : Modern Architecture as Mass Media*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 1994.

— — —. "The Split Wall: Domestic Voyeurism." In *Sexuality and Space*, 73-130. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1992.

Cosgrove, Denis E. *Social Formation and Symbolic Landscape*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 1998. 1984.

Crary, Jonathan. *Techniques of the Observer - on Vision and Modernity in the Nineteenth Century*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996.

Crenshaw, Kimberlé. *Critical Race Theory : The Key Writings That Formed the Movement*. New York: New Press : Distributed by W.W. Norton & Co., 1995.

Deleuze, Gilles, and Félix Guattari. *A Thousand Plateaus : Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. London: Athlone Press, 1988.

Deleuze, Gilles, and Séân Hand. *Foucault*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1988.

Derrida, Jacques. "Differance (1968)." In *A Critical and Cultural Theory Reader*, edited by Antony Easthope and Kate McGowan, 108-32. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 1992.

Deutsche, Rosalyn. *Evictions*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996.

Doyle, Laura Anne. *Bordering on the Body : The Racial Matrix of Modern Fiction and Culture*. Race and American Culture. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995.

Du Bois, W. E. B. *The Souls of Black Folks. 1903*. New York: Signet/NAL Penguin, 1982.

Dyer, Richard. "On the Matter of Whiteness." In *Only Skin Deep : Changing Visions of the American Self*, edited by Coco Fusco and Brian Wallis, 301-11. New York: International Center of Photography : Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers, 2003.

— — —. *White*. New York: Routledge, 1997.

Fanon, Frantz. *Black Skin White Masks*. New York: Grove Press, 1967.

Foucault, Michel. *Discipline and Punish: The Birth of the Prison*. Translated by Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books, 1977.

— — —. *The History of Sexuality, Vols 1 and 2*. New York: Vintage Books, 1990.

— — —. *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings 1972-1977*. edited by C. Gordon New York: Pantheon, 1980.

— — —. "The Society Must be Defended" *Lectures at the College de France, 1975-1976*. London: Picador, 2009.

Frampton, Kenneth. *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1980.

— — —. "Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance." In *The Anti Aesthetic*, edited by Hal Foster, 16-30. Seattle: Bay Press, 1983.

Fusco, Coco, and Brian Wallis. *Only Skin Deep : Changing Visions of the American Self*. New York: International Center of Photography : Harry N. Abrams, Inc., Publishers, 2003.

Gates, Henry Louis. "Race," *Writing, and Difference*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1986.

Geddes, Patrick. *Evolution*. London: Williams and Norgate, 1911.

Gilroy, Paul. *The Black Atlantic : Modernity and Double Consciousness*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1993.

— — —. *Darker Than Blue : On the Moral Economies of Black Atlantic Culture*. The W E B Du Bois Lectures. Cambridge, Mass.: Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2010.

Gleason, William A. *Sites Unseen: Architecture, Race, and American Literature*. America and the Long 19th Century. New York: New York University Press, 2011.

Goldberg, David Theo. *Racist Culture : Philosophy and the Politics of Meaning*. Cambridge, Mass.: Blackwell, 1993.

González, Jennifer A. *Subject to Display : Reframing Race in Contemporary Installation Art*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2008.

Gooding-Williams, Robert. *Reading Rodney King, Reading Urban Uprising*. New York: Routledge, 1993.

Gray, Herman. *Watching Race*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1995.

Greenough, Horatio. *Form and Function*. edited by Harold Small Berkeley: University of California Press, 1947.

Grosz, Elizabeth. *Jacques Lacan: A Feminist Introduction*. London: Routledge, 1990.

— — —. *Space, Time, and Perversion: Essays on the Politics of Bodies*. New York: Routledge, 1995.

Haraway, Donna J. *Simians, Cyborgs, and Women: The Reinvention of Nature*. New York: Routledge, 1991.

Hartman, Saidiya V. *Scenes of Subjection : Terror, Slavery, and Self-Making in Nineteenth-Century America*. Race and American Culture. New York: Oxford University Press, 1997.

Heynen, Hilde. *Architecture and Modernity*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1999.

Hobsbawm, E. J., and American Council of Learned Societies. *Nations and Nationalism since 1780 Programme, Myth, Reality*. Cambridge [England] ; New York: Cambridge University Press, 1992. <http://www.columbia.edu/cgi-bin/cul/resolve?clio5969457>.

Hooks, Bell. *Black Looks : Race and Representation*. Boston, MA: South End Press, 1992.

Howard, Ebenezer. *Garden Cities of Tomorrow*. London: Faber and Faber, 1946.

Ingraham, Catherine. "Lines and Linearity: Problems in Architectural Theory." In *Drawing/Building/Text*, edited by Andrea Kahn, 63-84. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1991.

Irigaray, Luce. *This Sex Which Is Not One*. Translated by Catherine Porter. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 1985.

Keith, Michael, and Steve Pile. *Place and the Politics of Identity*. London ; New York: Routledge, 1993.

Lacan, Jacques. *The Four Fundamental Concepts of Psychoanalysis*. Translated by Alan Sheridan. New York: W.W. Norton, 1973.

Lefebvre, Henri. *The Production of Space*. Translated by Donald Nicholson-Smith. Cambridge: Blackwell, 1991.

Lokko, Lesley Naa Norle. *White Papers, Black Marks: Architecture, Race, Culture*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2000.

Lowe, Lisa. *Immigrant Acts : On Asian American Cultural Politics*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1996.

Mercer, Kobena. *Cosmopolitan Modernisms*. Annotating Art's Histories. LondonCambridge, Mass.: Institute of International Visual Arts ; MIT Press, 2005.

— — —. *Exiles, Diasporas & Strangers*. Annotating Art's Histories. Cambridge, Mass. London ; Iniva, Institute of International Visual Arts, : MIT Press ;, 2008.

Merchant, Carolyn. *The Death of Nature: Women, Ecology, and the Scientific Revolution*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1980.

Mitchell, Timothy. *Colonising Egypt*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1991.

Morrison, Toni. *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination*. New York: Vintage Books, 1993.

Nakamura, Lisa, and ebrary Inc. *Digitizing Race Visual Cultures of the Internet*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2008.

Nast, Heidi J., and Steve Pile. *Places through the Body*. London ; New York: Routledge, 1998.

Ockman, Joan, ed. *Architecture Culture 1943-1968*. New York: Rizzoli/Columbia Books of Architecture, 1993.

- Omi, Michael, and Howard Winant. *Racial Formation in the United States : From the 1960s to the 1980s*. Critical Social Thought. New York: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1986.
- Park, Robert E., Ernest W. Burgess, and Roderick D. McKenzie. *The City (1925)*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1967.
- Pieterse, Jan Nederveen. *White on Black: Images of African and Blacks in Western Popular Culture*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1995.
- Pratt, Mary Louise. *Imperial Eyes - Travel Writing and Transculturation*. London: Routledge, 1992.
- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. New York: Vintage Books, 1979. 1978.
- Sanders, Joel, ed. *Stud: Architectures of Masculinity*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1996.
- Semper, Gottfried. "Style in the Technical and Tectonic Arts or Practical Aesthetics." Translated by Harry F. Mallgrave and Wolfgang Herrmann. In *The Four Elements of Architecture and Other Writings*, 215-19;54-57. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1989.
- Stoler, Ann Laura. *Race and the Education of Desire*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1995.
- Wallace, Michelle. "Modernism, Postmodernism and the Problem of the Visual in Afro-American Culture." In *Out There: Marginalization and Contemporary Cultures*, edited by Russell Ferguson, Martha Gever, Trinh T. Minh-ha and Cornel West, 39-50. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1990.
- Wiegman, Robyn. *American Anatomies*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1995.
- Wigley, Mark. *Derrida's Haunt*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1993.
- — —. "Untitled: Of the Housing of Gender." In *Sexuality and Space*, edited by Beatriz Colomina, 327-89. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1992.
- — —. *White Walls, Designer Dresses: The Fashioning of Modern Architecture*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1996.
- Williams, Raymond. *Culture and Society 1780-1950*. Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1961.
- Wilkins, Craig. *The Aesthetics of Equity: Notes of Race, Space, Architecture and Music*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2007.