

# SPECULATIVE CITY

## CRISIS, TURMOIL, AND PROJECTIONS IN ARCHITECTURE

A4397-1 Design Seminar  
Spring 2019  
504 Avery Hall, Columbia University GSAPP  
Wednesday 11:00am - 1:00pm



Instructor: David Eugin Moon, [dem2177@columbia.edu](mailto:dem2177@columbia.edu)  
Office Hours: By appointment  
Session: Full Semester, 3 points

### Course Description

This seminar outlines changes in the discourse and practice of architecture responding to crisis and uncertainty as an opportunity for new potentials, exploring social, political, and economic contexts and their influences on visionary architecture and urbanism. The last tumultuous decade was compounded by disrupted economies, contested political grounds, and realizations in climate change. These crises and turmoil upended traditional notions of the typical processes of architecture and question top-down and bottom-up hierarchies, public and shared realms, and other norms. The course will study the current practices of the architecture of crisis and disruption as well as the historical significance of previous post traumatic yet

productive periods from the post-war periods in the U.S., the nadir in New York in the late 70s, and other seminal moments that projected and shaped the modern environment.

Examining a selection of initiatives and their geographies, the course will also investigate architecture in the current context of shifting demographics and social conventions, privatized collectivity, rising migrant populations, and heightened ecological and environmental concerns. The seminar will be comprised of lectures, readings, discussions, as well as a final project intervening in the existing context of selected cities which will be reviewed with outside critics and will culminate in a final booklet. Guest lecturers will be invited for specific topics. Work from the seminar will be presented at the 2019 Seoul Biennale of Architecture and Urbanism, more information will be available at the first meeting.

## **Course Requirements**

### Class Discussion and Participation

Each week will begin with a presentation by the instructor followed by a discussion on the readings distributed across the seminar students from a weekly selection. Students will be evaluated in part on their level of participation in the discussion.

### Student Work Updates

At end of each class, several students will do a presentation of the progress of their final projects which will become the basis for a discussion. There will be periodic workshops when the class will discuss their projects as a whole.

### Final Project

As the final project, each student will submit a research project as a case study using the context of a specific city and timeframe. Students will submit a paper topic and bibliography well in advance of the final submission (schedule t.b.d.). The subject of the project will be decided in consultation with the instructor and the final format will be a booklet which includes a design component and a 2,000 word essay. Evaluations for the final assignment will favor a concise, focused, well structured, and compelling project that supports a convincing thesis.

## **Course Schedule (tent. as of 2/6/19)**

Week 1 (1/23) **Introduction : The Speculative City**

Week 2 (1/30) **Revolution and the Russian Avant Garde**

### Readings Selected From:

Smith, Roberta. "Italian Futurism, 1909-1944,' at the Guggenheim." *The New York Times*, February 20, 2014.

Van Toorn, Roemer. "No More Dreams? The Passion for Reality in Recent Dutch Architecture... And Its Limitations."

Conrads, Ulrich. *Programs and Manifestoes on 20th-Century Architecture*. Cambridge (Mass.): MIT Press, 1999. 34-38.

Constructing a New Agenda: Architectural Theory 1993 - 2009. Sykes, A. Krista, ed. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2010. 290-317.

Frampton, Kenneth. *Modern Architecture: A Critical History*. Fourth Edition edition. London ; New York, N.Y: Thames & Hudson, 2007. 167-177.

Recommended Reading:

Lissitzky, El. *Russia: An Architecture for World Revolution*. Trans. by Eric Dluhosch. The MIT Press, 1984. 27-34 57-83.  
Gurianova, Nina, Gerald Janecek, Margit Rowell, Deborah Wye, Natalia Goncharova, Kasimir Malevich, El Lissitzky, and Alexander Rodchenko. *The Russian Avant-Garde Book 1910-1934*. New York, N.Y: The Museum of Modern Art, New York, 2002.

Week 3 (2/6) **Workshop / Readings Discussion (Vacancies and Voids)**

Readings Selected From:

Hughes, Jonathan, and Simon Sadler. *Non-Plan: Essays on Freedom, Participation and Change in Modern Architecture and Urbanism*. Architectural Press, 2000. 22-31.  
Boyer, M. Christine, Kaminer, Tahl, Robles-Durán, Miguel, Sohn, Heidi. *Urban Asymmetries: Studies and Projects on Neoliberal Urbanization*. Rotterdam: 010 Publishers, 2011.192-205.  
Ockman, Joan, Edward Eigen, Columbia University, and Planning, and Preservation Graduate School of Architecture. *Architecture Culture, 1943-1968: A Documentary Anthology*. [New York]: Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation : Rizzoli, 1993. 428-436.

Week 4 (2/13) **Post-Bubble Economies and Changing Demographics**

Readings Selected From:

Carmichael, Matt. *Buyographics: How Demographic and Economic Changes Will Reinvent the Way Marketers Reach Consumers*, 2013. 47-54, 114-117, 123-126..  
Harvey, David. *The Enigma of Capital: And the Crises of Capitalism*. Oxford [England]; New York: Oxford University Press, 2010. 1-11, 40-43.  
Kaminer, Tahl. *Architecture, Crisis and Resuscitation the Reproduction of Post-Fordism in Late-Twentieth-Century Architecture*. Abingdon, Oxon; New York, NY: Routledge, 2011. 7-14, 21-25, 154-157.

Week 5 (2/20) **Post War: Architecture, Urbanism, and Culture**

Readings Selected From:

"When Less Was More." *Opinionator*. Accessed January 15, 2014.  
Colomina, Beatriz, Annemarie Brennan, Jeannie Kim, and AnnMarie Brennan. *Cold War Hothouses*. 1 edition. Princeton Architectural Press, 2004. 1-7, 101-104.  
Fishman, Robert. *Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia* . New York: Basic Books, 1987. 182-187, 192-199.  
Roth, Leland M. *Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History, and Meaning* . New York, NY: Icon Editions, 1993. 469-483.

Week 6 (2/27) **Guest Lecture**

Week 7 (3/6) **Workshop / Alternatives in Production**

Reading Selected From:

Reeser, Amanda, and Ashley Schafer. *Architecture after Capitalism: Reorganizing Appropriating Pursuing Subverting Aftermath*. New Orleans, La.: Praxis, Inc., 2003. 78-87.

Design, Harvard University Graduate School of. *Harvard Design Magazine - HDM 32: Design Practices Now, Vol. 1: Architecture Spring/Summer 2010*, n.d. Excerpts.

Leland, John. "The Pop-Up Activist of the Lower East Side." *The New York Times*, November 8, 2013, sec. N.Y. / Region. <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/11/10/nyregion/the-pop-up-activist-of-the-lower-east-side.html>.

Week 8 (3/13) **L.A. Nadir (Kinne Week)**

Readings Selected From:

Reeser, Amanda, and Ashley Schafer. *Architecture after Capitalism: Reorganizing Appropriating Pursuing Subverting Aftermath*. New Orleans, La.: Praxis, Inc., 2003. 88-95.

Sykes, A. Krista. *Constructing a New Agenda: Architectural Theory 1993 - 2009*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2010. 136-151.

Cuff, Dana, and Roger Sherman. *Fast-Forward Urbanism: Rethinking Architecture's Engagement with the City*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2011. 11-17, 22-31.

Recommended Readings:

Latour, Bruno. *Politics of Nature: How to Bring the Sciences into Democracy*. Translated by Catherine Porter. Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2004.

**\*\*Final Project Topic and Bibliography Due T.B.D.\*\***

Week 9 (3/20) **Spring Break (no class)**

Week 10 (3/27) **Workshop / Readings Discussion (Resilience)**

Reading Selected From:

Ford, Kristina. *The Trouble with City Planning: What New Orleans Can Teach Us*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2010. Excerpts.

Bergdoll, Barry, and NY) Museum of Modern Art (New York. *Rising Currents: Projects for New York's Waterfront*. New York: Museum of Modern Art, 2011. Excerpts.

Bhatia, Neeraj, and Lola Sheppard. *Goes Soft: Bracket 2*. Barcelona: Actar, 2012. 225-228.

Goodbun, Jon, Jeremy Till, and Deljana Iossifova. *Scarcity Architecture in an Age of Depleting Resources*. Chichester: John Wiley & Sons, 2012. Excerpts.

Recommended Reading:

Easterling, Keller. "Disposition and Active Form." In *Infrastructure as Architecture: Designing Composite Networks*, edited by Katrina Stoll and Scott Lloyd. Berlin: Jovis, 2010.

Eisenschmidt, Alexander. "The City's Architectural Project: From Formless City to Forms of Architecture." In *City Catalyst: Designing Architecture for the Global Metropolis*. Chichester: Wiley, 2012.

Week 11 (4/3) **The Japanese Bubble: Micro-Architecture and other Speculations**

Readings Selected From:

Bognar, Botond. *Beyond the Bubble: The New Japanese Architecture*. London; New York: Phaidon Press, 2008. 45-67,  
Shinada, Kyoichi, Tōkyō-Kōgyō-Daigaku. *Pet Architecture Guide Book*. Tokyo: World Photo Pr., 2002. 1-33.  
Koolhaas, Rem, Hans-Ulrich Obrist, Kayoko Ota, James Westcott, Office for Metropolitan Architecture, and AMO. *Project Japan: Metabolism Talks--*. Köln; London: TASCHEN GmbH, 2011. 57-79.

Week 12 (4/10) **New York Nadir**

Readings Selected From:

Kostelanetz, Richard. *Soho: The Rise and Fall of an Artists' Colony*. New York: Routledge, 2003. 10-19, 45-49, 88-90,  
97-98, 145-148, 163-170.  
Taylor, Marvin J, Grey Art Gallery & Study Center, Fales Library, Andy Warhol Museum, and Austin Museum of Art. *The Downtown Book: The New York Art Scene, 1974-1984*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2006. 68-73, 101-103.  
Tannenbaum, Allan. *New York in the 70s - Soho Blues, a Personal Photographic Diary*. Berlin: Feierabend, 2003. 6-9,  
54-66.

Week 13 (4/17) **Over-speculation: Foreclosed, Big boxed, and Mismatched**

Readings Selected From:

Bergdoll, Barry. *Foreclosed: Rehousing the American Dream*. New York, NY: Museum of Modern Art, 2012. 11-52.  
Christensen, Julia. *Big Box Reuse*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2008. Excerpts.  
Easterling, Keller, Rick Prelinger, and Tal Schori. *Call It Home: The House That Private Enterprise Built.*, 2013. Excerpts.

Recommended Readings(Politics of Scarcity) Selected From:

Harvey, David. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. Oxford [u.a.: Oxford Univ. Press, 2009.1-39.  
Fainstein, Susan S, and Scott Campbell. *Readings in Urban Theory*. Chicester, West Sussex; Malden, MA: Wiley-  
Blackwell, 2011. 42-54.  
Ballesteros, Mario. *Verb Crisis*. Barcelona; New York: Actar, 2008. 46-52..

Week 14 (4/24) **Final Workshop with Outside Critics / Closing Discussion**

**\*\*FINAL PROJECT DUE DATE May 8th (tent.)\*\***