

A4388: (Re)Inventing Living: Modern Experiments in Latin American Housing

Spring 2020 | M 11am – 1pm | Avery 114

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Affonso Reidy, Pedregulho, Rio de Janeiro, 1952

The aim of this course is to look at experiments centered around how to solve for housing needs and new living practices for Latin America during the 20th and 21st century. Depending on the political and social influences of the place and its geographic, climatic, historic, and material context, the forms that collective housing took varied dramatically yet reflected the central concerns and investigations of its architects regarding domestic life. In some cases, the single-family house became a working prototype to be aggregated into apartment buildings and, in other cases, the explorations were centered on developing smaller buildings that could be reproduced or whose scale could be increased. All in all, the house/housing became a central component to the definition, formation, and transformation of living environments at the scale of the city.

Throughout the semester we will look at a number of diverse types of houses and housing prototypes, contextualize them, and discuss their implication to broadly address the social needs of a rapidly growing and changing world. At the core will be the discussion of how architects, planners, landscape architects, and interior or furniture designers reconsidered the roles, norms, and strictures of the domestic environment to alter living and social relationships that preceded them.

The class presentations will focus on case studies ranging from the earliest experiments of the social avant-garde, through the influence of Le Corbusier's proposals, to the promotion of self-

built communities. We will also look at the dialogue with European and North American housing proposals and at the way that housing in Latin America developed solutions which whose innovation preceded other international investigations. These include: Juan Legarreta's Balbuena Neighborhood, Hannes Meyer's Lomas de Becerra Housing proposal, Affonso Reidy's Pedregulho Apartments, Lucio Costa's Guinle Apartments, Oscar Niemeyer's housing for Brasilia's Supercuadras, Mario Pani's Multifamiliares, BVCH's Portales Neighborhood apartments, PREVI, and Alejandro Aravena's "Incremental" housing, among others.



- January 27** **Introduction**
- February 3** **What is Experimental Housing? Living? Building?**
Patricio del Real, "Simultaneous Territories," 16-19; Dolores Hayden, "The Ideal Community," 8-31.
- February 10** **Early Housing: Reviving 19th Experiments**
Charles Fourier, "The Ideal Community," 233-264; Zaire Z. Dinzey-Flores, "Temporary Housing, Permanent Communities: Public Housing Policy and Design in Puerto Rico," 467-492; Anahí Ballent, "Unforgettable Kitsch: Images around Eva Perón," 143-170.
- February 17** **Housing the Masses: What do the workers need?**
Selections from *(Radical) Functionalism in Latin America*
- February 24** **Socialist Housing: Reorganizing Life**
Selections from *(Radical) Functionalism in Latin America*; Pablo Lazo, "Dislocating Modernity: Projects by Hannes Meyer in Mexico," 57-63.

- March 2** **Le Corbusier's Brazilian Legacy**
 Le Corbusier, "Brazilian Corollary... which is also Uruguayan," 233-245; Ana Luiza Nobre, "Guinle Park: A Proto-Superquadra," 33-39; Sigfried Gideon, "Affonso Eduardo Reidy and Contemporary Brazilian Architecture," 7-11.
- March 9** **Rich People Need Housing Too: Condos and Apartment Buildings**
 [Bibliography Due] "Extract from an Interview with Mario Pani (1911-1993);" Marcelo Barreiro, "The Kavanagh Building Buenos Aires, 1933-35," 23-29.
- March 14 - 22** **Spring Break**
- March 23** **Multifamiliares: Mexico's Contribution**
 Miquel Adriá, "Mario Pani and Collective Housing," 74-87; George F. Flaherty, "Uncanny Tlatelolco, Uncomfortable Juxtapositions," 401-417.
- March 30** **New Cities, New Houses: Supercuadras and TPA's Experiments**
 Juan Antonio Zapatel, "Regarding the Superquadra: An Interview with Lucio Costa" and "*Unidade de Vizinhança*: Brasilia's 'Neighborhood Unit,'" 19-24 and 41-48; Josep Luis Sert, "The Neighborhood Unit: A Human Measure in City Planning," 11-32.
- April 6** **Dwelling in Earth: Lazo, O'Gorman, and Caveri**
 [Outline Due] Yolanda Bravo Saldaña, "The Civilized Cave of Carlos Lazo," 84-93; Francisco González de Canales, "The Mask House: Juan O'Gorman, House in the Pedregal de San Angel, Mexico 1948-56," 118-143.
- April 13** **Radically Rethinking Living: Williams, Acosta, and Bernardes**
 Gianni Rigoli, "The Work of Amancio Williams," 36-73; Luis E. Carranza, "Transgressing Function: Excess and Pleasure in the Work of Wladimiro Acosta," 65-72.
- April 20** **Self-Made Housing: Previ/Elemental**
 Sharif S. Kahatt, "PREVI-Lima's Time: Positioning Proyecto Experimental de Vivienda y Peru's Modern Project," 22-31; selections from *Elemental: Incremental Housing and Participatory Design Manual*.
- May 8** **Project Presentations and Booklets Due**

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Class Participation (20% of grade) - Each class will consist of a careful examination and in-depth discussion of the issues raised in the texts, presentations, etc. As such, attendance and active participation are obligatory as well as intensive reading and preparation of the material assigned. *If you can't be in class, please send me an email letting me know.*

Reading Assignments - The reading assignments are required and must be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned. You are expected to read and prepare to discuss the required readings in order to facilitate a collective discussion of all of the material.

With some exceptions, all of the readings will be on-line [REDACTED]. Books can be purchased and, in most cases, are available at the Avery Library and/or as electronic resources. For class, make sure to bring any notes and/or copies of materials to class for reference purposes during the lectures and discussions.

Final Booklets (80% of grade) - This final paper is really considered to be a collaborative work of two students and is intended to be an academic and individualized research into a topic of the students' interest. The investigation should be centered on examining works from the twentieth century produced in Latin America; not covered in class. The research should focus on the relationship and development of ideas of housing from the domestic dwelling to a collective one or from a Latin American and a foreign one (European, North American, Asian, African, etc.) For this, you should look holistically at the architect(s); their works, ideas, projects, etc.; the typological, theoretical, formal, material, etc. issues and experimentation addressed in their work; the historical and cultural context and their effects on the forms, ideas, decisions, etc.; the intended objective, experience, etc. of the works; etc. The goal is to develop a small booklet that addresses these concerns: presenting the particularities of the works within their historical, cultural, and art/architectural contexts both textually, photographically, analytically (though diagrams, drawings, overlays, marginalia, etc.). In any case, make sure you talk to me about potential topic(s) that you are interested before starting. Finally, I am completely open to anyone who is interested in working on something related to the material of the class on your own or following a different presentation/research model; however, we would need to talk about this at length and find an agreeable topic and final product.

In order to avoid repetition of topics, there will be a Google Docs sign-up sheet; this means that the topics will be chosen/selected on a first come first served basis. In this way, at the end of the semester, we will have a very complete set of investigations centered on the theme of the class.

The booklet should be approximately 40 pages long (without including bibliography). Of the 80% final grade for the Final Paper, 20% will be based on an annotated bibliography (due March 9), 20% will be based on an outline, preliminary draft, and research notes (due April 6). The final booklet is due on May 8, 2019 – with the intention of having some brief presentations of the research and outcomes. The booklet should be turned in both in its physical form and as a PDF document.

The instructor reserves the right to modify this syllabus and requirements as needed.

Patricio del Real, "Simultaneous Territories" in Mariana Leguía, ed., *AD: Latin America at the Crossroads* (May/June 2011), 16-19.

Dolores Hayden, "The Ideal Community" in *Seven American Utopias: The Architecture of Communitarian Socialism, 1790-1975* (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1976), 8-31.

Charles Fourier, "The Ideal Community" in *The Utopian Vision of Charles Fourier* (Boston: Beacon Press, 1971), 233-264.

Zaire Z. Dinzey-Flores, "Temporary Housing, Permanent Communities: Public Housing Policy and Design in Puerto Rico," *Journal of Urban History* Vol. 33, No. 3 (March 2007), 467-492.

Anahí Ballent, "Unforgettable Kitsch: Images around Eva Perón" in Matthew B. Karush and Oscar Chamosa, eds., *The New Cultural History of Peronism: Power and Identity in mid-Twentieth-Century Argentina* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2010), 143-170.

Luis E. Carranza, ed., *(Radical) Functionalism in Latin America* (New York: GSAPP, 2020).

Pablo Lazo, "Dislocating Modernity: Two Projects by Hannes Meyer in Mexico," *AA Files* 47 (Summer 2002), 57-63.

Le Corbusier, "Brazilian Corollary... which is also Uruguayan" in *Precisions on the present state of architecture and city planning* (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1991), 233-245.

Ana Luiza Nobre, "Guinle Park: A Proto-Superquadra" in Farès el-Dahdah, ed., *CASE: Lucio Costa, Brasilia's Superquadra* (Munich: Prestel, 2005), 33-39.

Sigfried Gideon, "Affonso Eduardo Reidy and Contemporary Brazilian Architecture" in *The Works of Affonso Reidy* (New York: Praeger, 1960), 7-11.

Miquel Adrià, "Mario Pani and Collective Housing," *Arquine* 35 (2006), 74-87.

George F. Flaherty, "Uncanny Tlatelolco, Uncomfortable Juxtapositions" in Rita Eder, ed., *Defying Stability: Artistic Processes in Mexico, 1952-1967* (Mexico: UNAM, 2012), 401-417.

Juan Antonio Zapatel, "Regarding the Superquadra: An Interview with Lucio Costa" and "Unidade de Vizinhança: Brasilia's 'Neighborhood Unit'" in Farès el-Dahdah, ed., *CASE: Lucio Costa, Brasilia's Superquadra* (Munich: Prestel, 2005), 19-24 and 41-48.

Josep Lluís Sert, "The Neighborhood Unit: A Human Measure in City Planning" in Eric Mumford, ed., *The Writings of Josep Lluís Sert* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2015), 11-32.

Yolanda Bravo Saldaña, "The Civilized Cave of Carlos Lazo," *Arquine* 39 (April 2007), 84-93.

Francisco González de Canales, "The Mask House: Juan O'Gorman, House in the Pedregal de San Angel, Mexico 1948-56" in *Experiments with Life Itself: Radical Domestic Architectures between 1937 and 1959* (Barcelona: Actar, 2012), 118-143.

Gianni Rigoli, "The Work of Amancio Williams," *Zodiac* 16 (1966), 36-73.

Luis E. Carranza, "Transgressing Function: Excess and Pleasure in the Work of Wladimiro Acosta," *Journal of Romance Studies* Vol. 2, No. 3 (2002), 65-72.

Sharif S. Kahatt, "PREVI-Lima's Time: Positioning Proyecto Experimental de Vivienda y Peru's Modern Project," Mariana Leguía, ed., *AD: Latin America at the Crossroads* (May/June 2011), 22-25.

Alejandro Aravena, et. al., *Elemental: Incremental Housing and Participatory Design Manual* (Ostfildern: Hatje Cantz, 2012).