ARCH 569 - The Invented Landscape of Southern California

Units: 3
Term—Day—Time: Spring TBD
Location:
Instructor: Brian Tichenor
Office Hours: upon appointment
Contact Info: brian.tichenor@usc.edu, brian@tichenorandthorp.com

Course Description
Southern California has a unique place in the history of landscape design and urbanism. The effects of rapid multi-cultural development, as expressed in both the built environment and the images promulgated in Art, Film and Literature, have, at each stage of the region’s history, projected a model to the rest of the world of a landscape of seemingly limitless possibility, both hopeful and dystopian. Through an analysis of the successive stages of land planning, garden design, and plant introductions, along with a careful consideration of the diverse writings informed by the distinct landscape of the area, the course will critically assess the cultural arena from which these strong images emerge, and what role designers have played, successfully and unsuccessfully, in molding the built environment.

Learning Objectives
- Become familiar with the general history of Southern California landscape history
- Understand the unique challenges of understanding and working with historic landscapes.
- Master basic historical research skills, including archival exploration, site study, and alternative documentation.
- Understand the urban context of the environment in which they study and currently practice.

Grading Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>% of Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading responses</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cultural Landscape Assessment</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary Case Study abstract/fact sheet</td>
<td>25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Case study (paper)</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation/discussion</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
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Assignment Submission
Assignments will be submitted via Blackboard unless otherwise noted

Attendance
Students are required to attend all classes. Absence without instructor approval will impact your grade.
Readings
All readings will be available via Blackboard. Readings will be derived from


Davis, Mike, *City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles*, Verso, 2006

Desmond, Jane, *Staging Tourism: bodies on Display from Waikiki to Sea World*, University of Chicago Press, 1999


Dobyns, Winifred, *California Gardens*, Macmillen, 1931

Eckbo, Garrett, *Landscape for Living*, Architectural Record, 1950


Jackson, J.B., *The Necessity of Ruins*, University of Massachusetts Press, 1980

Kipen, David, *Dear Los Angeles: The City in Diaries and Letters, 1542 to 2018*, Modern Library, 2018


Murmann, Eugene, *California Gardens*, Stats, 1914


Rindge, Frederick Hastings, *Happy Days in Southern California*, The University Herald Press, 1898


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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Schedule</th>
<th>Topics/Daily Activities</th>
<th>Readings and Homework</th>
<th>Assignment Dates</th>
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<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Authenticity and Artifice</td>
<td>What is relevant about the study of Southern California as a developing landscape? How have the dynamics of cross-cultural influences and aesthetics played across the rapidly transforming environment? How have the various amplifications of film, literature, music, and art reinforced and augmented the mythification of the area in the eyes of the world? How much is this place a blueprint, for better or worse, for other rapidly developing urban landscapes?</td>
<td>Reading Response 1</td>
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<td>Week 2</td>
<td>Mediterranean Climate and the Pre-Columbian landscape</td>
<td>An examination of the attributes of the physical environment, and an assessment of the unique horticultural nature of the place. What were the patterns of settlement and the methods of landscape utilization among the large pre-Columbian population? What were the effects of the first wave of invasive plants? A discussion of the Spanish and Mexican imprint on the urban and garden heritage of the area, with an emphasis on the long cross cultural heritage of this inherited aesthetic.</td>
<td>Excerpts from The Cattle on a Thousand Hills: Southern California 1850-1880; The First North Americans: An Archaeological Journey; The Chumash World at European Contact; The First Angelinos: The Gabrielino Indians of Los Angeles</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Victorian Eden to the Bungalow Culture</td>
<td>A look at the imposition of the eastern American ideologies on the landscape, and at the mythification of Southern California via the Ramona story. The Arts and Crafts movement and the importance of Asian influences on the developing region. The arc of boosterism and the development of the California outdoor culture, along with the rise of water politics.</td>
<td>Excerpt from California Gardens; Landscapes of Desire: Anglo Mythologies of Los Angeles</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
<td>The Spanish and the Italian Influence</td>
<td>A discussion of the origins and expression of ‘appropriate’ European design languages on the developing regional style, with considerations for both the aesthetic and horticultural dimensions of the trend.</td>
<td>Excerpt from Inventing Autopia: Dreams and Visions of the Modern Metropolis in Jazz Age Los Angeles;</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
<td>Early Modernism and High Picturesque</td>
<td>An exploration of the first great synthesis of garden design in Southern California—its protagonists, its materials and what it has to tell us: also, how was this movement expressed in both high and low culture, and in the public sphere.</td>
<td>Excerpt from Landscapes of Desire: Anglo Mythologies of Los Angeles</td>
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<td><strong>Week 6</strong> GW Smith &amp; Lockwood de Forest: The Santa Barbara Synthesis</td>
<td>How these two brilliant designers, along with a host of others, created the one of the great landscape cultures of the twentieth century. An in-depth look at several significant gardens to analyze the salient features of the style.</td>
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<td><strong>Week 7</strong> The Image of Hollywood</td>
<td>How has the peculiar phenomenon of the artifice of the Hollywood screen image of the region actually created the reality of the designed landscape? Also, a detailed consideration of the career of Florence Yoch.</td>
<td>Excerpt from <em>Landscaping the American Dream</em></td>
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<td><strong>Week 8</strong> Campuses and Regional landscapes</td>
<td>Examination of the planning dynamics of Southern California, looking at the Pan Pacific Exhibition, the Olmsted plan, the Santa Barbara Rebuilding program, and the flourishing of University Campus Plans.</td>
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<td>Cultural Landscape Assessment: Assignment #1: written description and images due (Abstract/ fact sheet, in the parlance of the Mark Francis Case Study Method)</td>
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<td><strong>Week 9</strong> The Modern Garden, Version #1</td>
<td>Frank Lloyd Wright, Lloyd Wright and the integration of architecture and landscape. Schindler, Neutra, and the invention of the modern California garden.</td>
<td>Excerpt from <em>The Schindler Terrace</em>, an early modern garden: a case for conservation</td>
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<td><strong>Week 10</strong> Sunset Magazine and Arts and Architecture Magazine</td>
<td>The popularity of the modern suburban garden can be understood through a consideration of the influence of these two popular magazines. The post-war building boom and the populist enthusiasm for outdoor living had both high and low cultural expressions</td>
<td>Excerpt from <em>Tastemaker: Elizabeth Gordon, House Beautiful and the Postwar American Home; Holy Land: A Suburban Memoir</em></td>
<td>Reading Response 4</td>
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<td><strong>Week 11</strong> Eckbo and the Rise of Corporate Landscape Architecture</td>
<td>A detailed assessment of the career of this pivotal landscape architect, and a look at the origins and expansion of the Corporate Landscape Firm phenomenon.</td>
<td>Excerpt from <em>Landscape for Living</em></td>
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<td><strong>Week 12</strong> Halprin, Noguchi, and the Public Landscape</td>
<td>An exploration of the emerging designed public landscape, with a close look at the works of Halprin and Noguchi. Also, in the succeeding generation, the rise of the integrated public art programs, and the broad range of installations that resulted.</td>
<td>Excerpt from <em>City Choreographer Lawrence Halprin in Urban Renewal America</em></td>
<td>Reading Response 5</td>
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<td><strong>Week 13</strong> FIELD TRIP: Modernism in downtown Los Angeles</td>
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<td><strong>Week 14</strong></td>
<td><strong>Artscape and Dystopia</strong></td>
<td><strong>Excerpt from The Architecture of Four Ecologies</strong></td>
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<td>In the sixties and beyond, the nature of the landscape was increasingly seen as a broken dream: a dystopian world had replaced the edenic vision of an earlier generation. We will look at how an emerging generation of artists cross-fertilized with Landscape designers to create a new paradigm for Southern California.</td>
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<td><strong>Week 15</strong></td>
<td><strong>Southern California Landscape in the 21st Century</strong></td>
<td><strong>Excerpt from Land of Sunshine: An Environmental History of Metropolitan Los Angeles</strong></td>
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<td>An assessment of some outstanding and noteworthy projects, a consideration of the current state of landscape design in Southern California, and a discussion of how the design community is addressing the challenges of the evolving and, in many cases, degraded environment.</td>
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<td><strong>FINAL</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Final Project: Cultural Landscape Assessment: (Full Case Study, in the parlance of the Mark Francis Case Study Method)</strong></td>
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Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling
Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org
Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298
equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu
Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298
usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report
Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776
dsp.usc.edu
Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710
campussupport.usc.edu
Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101
diversity.usc.edu
Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu
Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call
dps.usc.edu Non-emergency assistance or information.