ARCH 454 | Spring 2021 USC Architecture
Contemporary Asian Architecture
Syllabus

FACULTY: Yo-ichiro Hakomori (hakomori@usc.edu - 310-413-3605)

SCHEDULE Tuesday and Thursdays 6:00pm – 7:40pm

PREREQUISITES None

COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES: This course is an introduction to the critical study of Asian architecture in China and Japan. We will also be looking at the importance of understanding architecture in the context of urban phenomena, and within this context, how it can evolve over time and react to forces of change. The development of contemporary architecture in China is, without a doubt, in continual flux which parallels its economic growth and globalization. On the other hand, Japan has been an integral part of the modern movement since post-World War II modernization and economic development. Japanese modern architecture hit the international scene with its inception of Metabolism, and has been a part of the global dialog of modernism since that time.

Historically, Japan derived much of its culture from China with the arrival of Buddhism c 550. Japanese culture adopted architecture, planning, methods of writing, governmental structure, among other things from China, but ultimately established a hybrid culture between Buddhism and their Shinto beliefs. Architecturally, one only needs to reference Ise Shrine to understand the relationship between the built artifact and nature, which pervades the zeitgeist of Japanese contemporary architecture in terms of the fluidity of its spaces and connection to nature, while non-referential to traditional forms. While today the momentum of rapid change rests with China, Japan has been incubating constant refinement of its contemporary architecture as a continual lineage that can be traced back to the early 20th century. Kenzo Tange legitimized Japan and its modern architecture and was the founding figure of the Metabolism movement. From this movement spawned countless architect disciples, and we are witnessing today a burgeoning of creativity in the younger generation of architects in Japan. China also has a strong ingrained tradition of building with topological and morphological reference to the traditional courtyard typology. As many young Chinese architects go abroad to receive their education, many return to China to practice architecture that is rooted in the Chinese culture and landscape. Its contemporary architectural evolution is perhaps moving away from nonsensical architectural expression that pervaded Chinese Mega-Cities in the last 20 years. Leading avant garde Chinese firms are creating architecture that is morphologically grounded with traditional use of materials, and is moving towards a critical regionalism, that is both global in its inspiration and local in its execution.

One can also not ignore the urban morphology of many of the great cities in China and Japan and its relationship to architectural expression. It speaks of the physical existence of cities as overlays of urban syntax of which architecture is a layer. As such, in order to fully comprehend architecture, we must not stop at learning from its physical qualities but must also engage in understanding the mental and social complexities as phenomenologically driven, experiential narratives. It is valuable to look at Japan and China together as a comparative study and analysis between the two. It is within this context that this course will begin to introduce you to contemporary architectural direction and manifestations in these two countries.

COURSE STRUCTURE: The course will consist of 4 primary activities: Lectures, Readings with discussion and written synopsis, a research and documentation project, and a mid-term and final essay exam. Lectures will be given by the instructor and visiting USC faculty. The second component of the course will be readings, with discussion and written synopsis. Required reading(s) each week are outlined in the schedule below. Please come prepared to discuss the articles and topics covered in the reading(s). We ask each student to complete a written reading response or synopsis of 300-500 words for each required reading(s) and will be submitted before the beginning of the class for when the reading is due. Research, documentation, and analysis of contemporary housing in Asia will proceed throughout the semester with 4 progress reviews and 1 final review and turn-in. An 11” x 17”
template for presentation of the housing analysis will be provided on Black Board. Finally, we will have a mid-term blue-book essay exam on Japanese contemporary architecture, and a final blue-book essay exam on Chinese contemporary architecture. Please review the semester schedule carefully as it outlines the item(s) we will be doing for each class period for the course over the semester.

**ATTENDANCE:** Attendance is required for all studio sessions and lectures. Students are expected to join sessions on time and participate during the entire time class is in session. Any absence must have a written explanation, and all absences for illness or medical emergency should have a doctor’s explanation. If you are ill, please go to your doctor or to Student Health Services. In case of illness, please call the School of Architecture office by 12:30PM on the day of your class and leave a message for your studio instructor. You should also contact your studio instructor directly. If you miss a class, you are responsible for finding out about any assignment(s), obtaining lecture notes, etc. The maximum number of allowable absences is (3). AFTER (3) absences, your semester grade may be lowered by up to one full letter per additional absence. Leaving studio or field trips early, or excessive tardiness, will count as an absence. Unexcused absences result in a zero for the missed in-studio work and cannot be made up. Work missed as the result of an excused absence may be made up.

**RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS:** The University recognizes the diversity of our community and the potential for conflicts involving academic activities and personal religious observation. The University provides a guide to such observances for reference and suggests that any concerns about lack of attendance or inability to participate fully in the course activity be fully aired at the start of the term. As a general principle, students should be excused from class for these events, if properly documented and if provisions can be made to accommodate the absence and make up the lost work. Constraints on participation that conflict with adequate participation in the course and that cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of the faculty and the student need to be identified prior to the drop/add date for registration. After the drop/add date, the University and the School of Architecture shall be the sole arbiter of what constitutes appropriate attendance and participation in a given course. Any student concerned about missing class for a recognized religious holiday should bring this matter up with your instructor in the first week of classes. A list of recognized religious holidays may be found at: http://orl.usc.edu/religiouslife/holydays/.

**EVALUATION AND GRADING:** Each design project will be evaluated on its own merit and graded by the studio faculty both individually and collectively using common procedures consistent with the intentions of the curriculum. Your semester grade will be based on a weighted evaluation of the following interrelated factors: class participation and preparation, comprehensive exercises, midterm project development, final design and presentation, and the final portfolio. To enable a fair, studio wide grading process the comprehensive design grading checklist will be used as a basis for all grades. Students are encouraged to use the checklist to achieve their grade goals.

Course evaluation is based on the following:
Each part of the semester’s work will be evaluated and graded based on the following distribution:

- **Class Participation & Preparation:** 10%
- **Readings and Reading Synopsis:** 20%
- **Final Essay Exam:** 40%
- **Study of Contemporary Asian Housing:** 30%

A - Excellence in every way
B - Good quality work that may be deficient in some areas
C - Average work that is satisfactory with some obvious deficiencies
C- or below - Unsatisfactory/failing work, not passing

Unsatisfactory performance reports will be issued to students whose work is not satisfactory. Remember that an incomplete grade (IN) is limited by University policy to cases of extended documented illness or family emergency involving a passing-level student in the last weeks of the semester. University guidelines relative to plagiarism pertain to original design work. You are expected to do all of your own drawings, presentation, and research work. Assistance received, in the form of drawing or presentation preparation, will be considered as non-original work and will be treated as plagiarism.
ACCREDITATION STATEMENT: The USC School of Architecture’s five-year Bachelor of Architecture program and the two-year Master of Architecture program are accredited professional architectural degree programs. All students can access and review the NAAB Conditions of Accreditation (including the Student Performance Criteria) on the NAAB Website, http://www.naab.org/accreditation/.

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 Section 11, Behavior Violating University Standards http://scampus.usc.edu/1100-behavior-violating-university-standards-and-appropriate-sanctions/. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct/.

Discrimination, sexual assault, and harassment are not tolerated by the university. You are encouraged to report any incidents to the Office of Equity and Diversity http://equity.usc.edu/ or to the Department of Public Safety http://capsnet.usc.edu/department/public-safety/online-forms/contact-us. This is important for the safety of the whole USC community. Another member of the university community – such as a friend, classmate, advisor, or faculty member – can help initiate the report, or can initiate the report on behalf of another person. The Center for Women and Men http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/cwm/ provides 24/7 confidential support, and the sexual assault resource center webpage sarc@usc.edu describes reporting options and other resources.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS: A number of USC’s schools provide support for students who need help with scholarly writing. Check with your advisor or program staff to find out more. Students whose primary language is not English should check with the American Language Institute http://dornsife.usc.edu/ali, which sponsors courses and workshops specifically for international graduate students. The Office of Disability Services and Programs http://sait.usc.edu/academicsupport/centerprograms/dsp/home_index.html provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange the relevant accommodations. If an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible, USC Emergency Information http://emergency.usc.edu/ will provide safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued by means of blackboard, teleconferencing, and other technology.

Student Counseling Services (SCS) – (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention. engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

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

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) – (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call
Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm. engemannshc.usc.edu/rsvp

Sexual Assault Resource Center
For more information about how to get help or help a survivor, rights, reporting options, and additional resources, visit the website: sarc.usc.edu

Office of Equity and Diversity (OED)/Title IX Compliance – (213) 740-5086
Works with faculty, staff, visitors, applicants, and students around issues of protected class. equity.usc.edu

Bias Assessment Response and Support
Incidents of bias, hate crimes and microaggressions need to be reported allowing for appropriate investigation and response. studentaffairs.usc.edu/bias-assessment-response-support

The Office of Disability Services and Programs
Provides certification for students with disabilities and helps arrange relevant accommodations. dsp.usc.edu

Student Support and Advocacy – (213) 821-4710
Assists students and families in resolving complex issues adversely affecting their success as a student EX: personal, financial, and academic. studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssa

Diversity at USC
Information on events, programs and training, the Diversity Task Force (including representatives for each school), chronology, participation, and various resources for students. diversity.usc.edu

USC Emergency Information
Provides safety and other updates, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible. emergency.usc.edu

USC Department of Public Safety – UPC: (213) 740-4321 – HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24-hour emergency or to report a crime.
Provides overall safety to USC community. dps.usc.edu