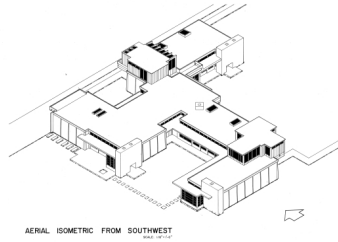


COURSE SYLLABUS



R.M. Schindler - Kings Road House - isometric drawing

INTRODUCTION

The first semester design studio is an introduction to the discipline of architectural design. The course will focus on the critical architectural analysis of a single precedent— R. M. Schindler's seminal Kings Road House. Through orthographic architectural plans, sections, and elevations, students will both reverse engineer the design strategies and reimagine the spatial construction of this house, using it as a creative springboard for projective architectural designs.

Through analysis projects of varied scale and increasing complexity, students will address fundamental lessons of geometry, proportion, scale, formal organization, spatial definition, light, sequence, movement, and the related disciplinary paradigms of architectural design. The study of these disciplinary concepts and relevant design precedents and will focus conceptual and critical understanding. Design processes are intended to advance technical skills, awareness of spatial conventions, and, most importantly, to stimulate critical thinking and creativity by interpreting and reimagining architectural systems. Students will develop the ability to use drawings and physical models to not only conceive, organize and develop habitable, three-dimensional space, but to participate in the disciplinary tradition and evolution of architectural representation.

In each design problem, diagrams and digitally produced orthographic drawings will be the primary instruments of design inquiry and the iterative development of formal solutions. Physical models (interim design studies and refined final versions) will support visualization and the testing of ideas in three dimensions. Students will develop refined graphic and verbal presentations to successfully communicate their design intent for each project.

ASSIGNMENTS

Requirements for projects will be issued in studio presentations and in writing. Daily or weekly assignments may be given verbally and may differ from section to section. Full completion of all assigned work is critical to success in this course. Assignments that do not reflect adequate progress or completion will not be discussed during desk crits, pin-ups, and reviews.

DESK CRITS and PIN-UPS

Individual desk critiques and pin-ups are the primary instruments of design instruction and will occur regularly in class. The success and quality of these one-on-one dialogues with the studio instructor are highly contingent upon the student's preparation and timely production, as well as the student's ability to absorb, understand, and apply critical feedback.

REVIEWS

Scheduled reviews are designed to provide students with varied perspectives and insights from a jury of instructors and invited critics. Juror comments, design criticism, and discussion provide valuable insight and constructive feedback on a student's work and that of colleagues. Full attendance, active participation, and engagement are expected for the duration of all reviews and are a significant aspect of the "participation" component of grade evaluation (see below).

LECTURES

Throughout the semester, first year instructors and guest critics will address the entire first year class in order introduce projects or lecture on design concepts, precedents, and techniques. Typically these will occur in the Watt 1 lecture hall. Technical skill-building, including software demonstrations, will be provided in lectures and small group discussions with the aid of class assistants. Attendance is mandatory at all lectures. It is imperative that all students are on time and take notes.

RESEARCH and ANALYSIS

Study of design precedent is an essential component of each studio assignment. Students are expected to regularly use the library and other resources (not just the internet) to investigate ideas and projects relevant to the course. Notes, drawings, diagrams and other materials pertaining to this research are to be incorporated into the design notebook (see below).

COURSE SCHEDULE (DRAFT)

PROJECT

1A: PLAN

22 Aug (M)	Course/Project 1 Introduction Lecture 1: Plan as Generator - Proportion, Order, Module, Dimension, Structure, Space, and Circulation in the Schindler House Distribute and collect field trip permission slips
25 Aug (Th)	Arch 105 during regular 102a studio time
26 Aug (Fri)	Site Visit: Proportion, Module, Order (2:30pm) Location: Schindler House 835 North Kings Road, West Hollywood, CA 90069
29 Aug (M)	Lecture 2: Situating the Schindler House: A Critical Reading of the Plan Guest Lecturer: Gary Paige
01 Sep (Th)	Project 1A Due and Review
02 Sep (M)	Exhibition: Schindler House Plans

PROJECT

1B: SECTION

05 Sept (M)	Labor Day (no class)
06 Sept (T)	2 section cuts due in class for CAs : 1 longitudinal section in 1/16"=1'-0" scale and 1 transverse section in 1/8" =1'0" scale
08 Sept (Th)	Lecture: Cutting the Section Revised sections with projection and 1 section analysis diagram due
12 Sept (M)	Project 1B due and review

MIDTERM

12 Sept (M)	Midterm Introduction
15 Sept (Th)	Lecture: The Model; Analytical Drawings due 1st draft Design Drawings due; in-progress models
19 Sept (M)	Site-Scale and Building-Scale Study Models due
22 Sept (Th)	Complete draft of all drawings and models due
26 Sept (M)	Midterm Final Review Redlines and Final Models Due
29 Sept (Th)	MIDTERM REVIEW room location TBA

PROJECT

1C: ELEVATION

29 Sept (Th)	Project 1C Assignment Part I Issued: Sun Shading
03 Oct (M)	Lecture on Elevation; Sun Shade Assignment Reviewed Part II of Assignment issued. Progress review and Analysis Development.
06 Oct (Th)	Review of all existing elevations of the Schindler House (as outlined in Part I) and all sun shade drawings. Desk crits with instructors to finalize analytical elevation drawings.
10 Oct (M)	Pinup and review of elevation assignment. Introduction to paraline drawing.

PROJECT

1D: PARALINE

10 Oct (M)	Introduction to paraline drawing/Part I of assignment issued.
13 Oct (Th)	Lecture on Paraline/ Review of Part I/ Part II of assignment issued.
17 Oct (M)	Desk crits with instructors.
20 Oct (Th)	Pinup and review of Part II/ Part III of assignment is issued.
24 Oct (M)	Desk crits with instructors.
27 Oct (Th)	Pinup and review of Project 1D: Paraline.

FINAL PROJECT

31 Oct (M)	Final Project issued
29 Nov (T)	Final Project Due
1 Dec (M)	Final Presentation

PORTFOLIO

1 Dec (M)	Project Issued & Portfolio Lecture
12 Dec (M)	Portfolio Due (Spiral-bound printed hard copies and PDF file)

SUPPLIES and EQUIPMENT

Please refer to the welcome letter and *First Year Computer Recommendations and Supply Requirements List* that you received this summer. You will also need to purchase additional model making materials during the course of the semester. Material requirements will be outlined in the assignment handouts and/or by studio instructors.

READINGS

Relevant readings will be assigned in Arch 114 and discussed in studio throughout the semester. They must be completed in depth, not skimmed. Informed intellectual discourse is expected in the studio environment.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Print editions of the most recent edition of the following texts are required for this course:

Design Drawing, Francis DK Ching

Analysing Architecture, Simon Unwin

Digital Drawing for Designers: A Visual Guide to AutoCAD, Douglas R. Seidler

STUDIO NOTEBOOK

Students are required to maintain a design notebook. It is meant to be a thorough and well-organized record of and instrument for critical inquiry and design process. The notebook is to include (freehand and/or digitally produced) generative diagrams and design sketches, weekly process drawings, notes/diagrams/sketches from desk crits, graphic analysis of relevant precedents, class/lecture/reading notes, as well as any other material relevant to design exploration in this course. Date and label all entries clearly and in a consistent manner. Notebooks will be collected and graded periodically during the semester.

PORTFOLIO

Each student will be required to submit a printed, bound portfolio at the end of the semester. The content should be thoughtfully presented in a letter size (8.5"x11") portfolio. All assignments must be included in the portfolio, so students are advised to regularly document all work.

EVALUATION AND GRADING

Work will be evaluated periodically so that you have an indication of your progress. Unsatisfactory performance warnings will be issued to students whose work does not meet minimum requirements.

Studio projects will be assigned with percentage values for a total course grade. The grading system will be presented in studio this term. Final presentations and portfolio will be awarded the highest grade percentage. Active and regular participation in studio discussions is an essential part of the grade, as is regular and thoughtful maintenance of your studio notebook.

A minimum grade of 'C' is required to continue on to the next semester in the studio sequence. Consult University policies for IN (incomplete) grades and deadlines for withdrawal ('W' grade).

University guidelines on plagiarism pertain to original design work. Students are expected to do all of their own design and presentation work. Substantial assistance in the form of model construction and drawing preparation, or deliberate appropriation of the design work of others will be considered non-original work and will be treated as plagiarism. See "Academic Integrity" section below for more information.

ATTENDANCE

It is essential and required for all students to be on time and present for all studio meetings, class lectures, field trips and reviews. Lateness and absences will be recorded and can seriously affect course grades.

A maximum number of two absences are allowed without direct impact to the student's grade. A student's overall semester evaluation may be lowered by up to a full letter grade for each additional absence. Any student not in class within the first 10 minutes of class is considered late. Three instances of lateness equal one absence. Any student absent for more than 1/3 of any class period (in any form including lateness, sleep, technological distraction, bathroom break, etc.) will be considered absent. Excused absences must be in writing and must be approved by the studio instructor. It is always the student's responsibility to seek the means and make up for work missed due to any type of absence.

Dates called out in the syllabus as review dates are considered examination periods. Absences on project review dates may lead to automatic failure of the assignment unless pre-approved by the instructor. Such an absence may only be due to personal illness, family emergency or religious observance.

The University recognizes the diversity of our community and the potential for conflicts involving academic activities and personal religious observation. See: <http://orl.usc.edu/religiouslife/holydays/>

STUDIO PROTOCOL

Apart from lectures, reviews and trips, instructors will meet with their sections in studio. It is imperative to respect the quality of this unique creative environment and the work of others, during and outside of class hours.

- Work Area – Students are to immediately set up and maintain a fully operational work space for drawing and model-making. *It is strongly encouraged that students make studio their primary work space for this and all other courses, so that they may fully participate in and benefit from the productive exchange of ideas, informal discussions and critical dialogs that are central and unique to the studio environment.*
- Hours – Apart from lectures, reviews and trips, students are expected to be present in studio and productively engaged in studio work for the duration of the class meeting time (2 - 6pm Mondays and Fridays). Students should budget a minimum of two hours of work time outside of class hours for each hour spent in class.
- Food – Studio is not a café. Meals are to be scheduled outside of class hours and outside of the studio. Food and drink in studio are strongly discouraged as accidental spills can easily destroy equipment and hours of work on models.
- Music, Noise and Cell Phone Use – Studio is a shared work environment. Students shall demonstrate courtesy to others by always wearing headphones when listening to music, and by keeping voices low. Ringers are to be turned off and phones put away during class. Absolutely no calls, texting, tweeting, Facebooking or emails during class, lectures or reviews. Outside of class hours, students are to keep ringers on low and take all calls outside of studio.
- Computer Use – Apart from software demonstrations, there will be limited computer use during class time. All assigned work is required to be printed in time for (i.e. well before) the beginning of class.
- Digital Resources – A limited number of desktop computers, printers and a plotter are provided in studio, for work and digital output. Additional machines are available in other studios and in digital labs on campus. Time management and consideration of others is strongly advised in the use of these shared, finite resources.
- Access - Swipe card access to studio with a USC ID is provided as a safeguard for students and their possessions. DO NOT PROP OPEN STUDIO DOORS. As a general precaution, students are to be mindful of their surroundings and watch for suspicious activity or unfamiliar faces. Students may contact the University's Department of Public Safety at (213) 740-4321 to report suspicious activity and/or request security personnel.
- Clean-up, Trash and Recycling –Trash and recycling bins are located throughout the studio. Students are advised to make use of them by sorting and disposing of trash in the appropriate receptacles and to keep their studio spaces clean.
- Knife Blades - Used knife blades pose a danger to University cleaning staff and others. DO NOT place used knife blades directly into the trash bins or leave them on the ground or work surfaces. Collect used blades in a sealed container and then discard.

- Graffiti, Defacement of Property – Defacement of property belonging to the school or others will not be tolerated. Make use of provided butcher paper for messy tasks. NEVER SPRAY INDOORS. All aerosol sprays (glue, paint, etc.) must be used outside in conjunction with drop cloths to contain overspray.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

USC seeks to maintain an optimal learning environment. General principles of academic honesty include the concept of respect for the intellectual property of others, the expectation that individual work will be submitted unless otherwise allowed by an instructor, and the obligations both to protect one's own academic work from misuse by others as well as to avoid using another's work as one's own. All students are expected to understand and abide by these principles.

Scampus, the Student Guidebook, contains the Student Conduct Code in Section 11.00, while the recommended sanctions are located in Appendix A: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/SCAMPUS/gov/>

Students will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs and Community Standards for further review, should there be any suspicion of academic dishonesty. The Review process can be found at: <http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/>

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Students requesting academic or physical accommodations based on disability are required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. Letters of verification for approved accommodations from DSP must be delivered to your instructor at the beginning of the semester. DSP is located in STU 310 and is open 8:30am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. Phone DSP at (213) 740-0776

SUSTAINABILITY INITIATIVE

The School of Architecture has adopted the 2010 Initiative for Sustainability. Solutions to design problems must engage the environment in a way that dramatically reduces or eliminates the need for fossil fuel.

NAAB ACCREDITATION

The USC School of Architecture's five year B.Arch degree and the two year M.Arch degree are accredited professional architecture degree programs. All students can access and review NAAB Conditions of Accreditation (including student performance criteria) on the NAAB website: http://www.naab.org/accreditation/2009_Conditions.aspx