

University of Southern California
School of Architecture

ARCHITECTURE 106x – WORKSHOP IN ARCHITECTURE (2 UNITS)
Spring 2019, course 11430, Wednesdays 12:00 pm - 1:50 pm, WAH B7

Faculty: Susanna Woo Seierup Contact: seierup@usc.edu
Office hours: Fridays 9:00-10:00 am, by appointment

This course utilizes Blackboard online. Log in using your USC username and password at: <https://blackboard.usc.edu/>

Introduction and Purpose

This course is an introduction to the processes involved in the creation and understanding of architecture. The workshop, is a project-based laboratory involving drawing and model making, with no previous design or drawing experience needed.

The course is structured around projects executed in class throughout the semester, a series of readings and responses, lecture/discussions and a term paper.

In this class, you will develop:

- A preliminary architectural vocabulary
- Basic 2D and 3D technical and freehand drawing skills
- Basic model making skills
- An understanding of the methods through which architecture communicates ideas and intentions
- An understanding of the role which architectural history plays in shaping the work of contemporary architects
- An understanding of how the architect conceives, creates and executes a project

Most of the learning in this course happens in class, through workshop projects and through exchange of ideas with your instructor and classmates. Therefore, participation and engagement in class are required. There is a natural progression to the classes; projects and readings build upon each other. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to contact me for instructions and materials to complete the missed assignment before the next class.

Course Requirements and Grading

Evaluation of workshop projects is based on effort, following instructions, exploration of course concepts, critical engagement in the process, neatness and care in execution of the projects.

General grade criteria:

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| A | Work that shows excellence in every aspect described above |
| B | Good quality work that may be deficient in some areas |
| C | Satisfactory work with obvious deficiencies |
| D | Minimal work necessary to pass |
| F | Failing work, not passing |

Final course grade breakdown:

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| Workshop projects | 50% |
| Final (writing or drawing) | 20% |
| Term paper | 20% |
| Class participation and homework | 10% |

Phase 2: Architectural program and orthographic drawing

- Week 04, 1/30: **LECTURE 1:** Observing Architecture: Program and Purpose
READING for Week 05: Leland M. Roth, *Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History and Meaning*, Chapter 2: "Firmness": Structure, or How Does the Building Stand Up? pp. 25-54
- Week 05, 2/6: **WORKSHOP 4a:** Sticks and Planes Model: Exploring Architectural Program
READING for Week 06: Leland M. Roth, *Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History and Meaning*, Chapter 4: "Delight": Seeing Architecture, pp. 67-102.
- Week 06, 2/13: **WORKSHOP 4b:** Sticks and Planes Model: Exploring Architectural Program
READING for Week 07: Jonathan Friedman, *Creation in Space: Fundamentals of Architecture*, "Projecting", pp. 38-39 and "Planimetrics", pp. 150-151. Have available for reference at the next two class sessions.
- Week 07, 2/20: **WORKSHOP 5a:** Orthographic Drawings: the Plan
READING for Week 08: Steen Eiler Rasmussen, *Experiencing Architecture*, Chapter V: Scale and Proportion, pp. 104-126.
- Week 08, 2/27: **WORKSHOP 5b:** Orthographic Drawings: the Section and Elevation
DISCUSSION OF TERM PAPER REQUIREMENTS
READING for Week 09: Leland M. Roth, *Understanding Architecture: Its Elements, History and Meaning*, Chapter 7: Architecture: Part of the Natural Environment. pp. 136-151.

Phase 3: Integrating program and site; perspective drawing

- Week 09, 3/6: **FILM and in-class response**
READING for Week 10: None.

3/11/18 – 3/15/18: Spring Recess

- Week 10, 3/20: **LECTURE 2:** Observing Architecture: Site and Surroundings
READING for Week 11: Francis D. K. Ching, *Architecture: Form, Space and Order*, Chapter 4: Organization, pp. 176-189. (This is the final reading assignment of the term.)
- Week 11, 3/27: **WORKSHOP 6a:** Final Project: Designing with Site and Program
- Week 12, 4/3: **WORKSHOP 6b:** Final Project: Designing with Site and Program
- Week 13, 4/10: **WORKSHOP 7a:** Perspective Drawing
- Week 14, 4/17: **WORKSHOP 7b:** Perspective Drawing
- Week 15, 4/25: DUE: Term Paper via Turnitin, by 12:00 p.m.

Final Project turn-in:
Friday, May 3, 2019, 11:00 a.m.