

# Architecture Studio: 1<sup>st</sup> Year Spring

Spring 2014, CMU, Arch #48-105, M/W 12:30-4:20  
Class Website: [www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/48-105](http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/48-105)

Coordinator: Kai Gutschow  
Email: [gutschow@andrew.cmu.edu](mailto:gutschow@andrew.cmu.edu)  
Off. Hr: by appt. in MM302

(5/14/14)

## Project 2: BUILDING ANALYSIS

**MINDSET:** The single most important source, and tool, for learning about architecture, is architecture. Experiencing and analyzing (good) buildings in person, and over an extended period of time, remains the best way to understand our complex art/profession. Proceeding from your studies of iconic houses in “48-121 Analog Media,” this semester we will analyze larger, institutional buildings that we can observe in person. Through library/web research and close personal investigation of the building as it is used, and in context, we seek to uncover and speculate on architecture’s underlying orders, compositions, constructions, and how they relate to the experiences we have. We will work to communicate these ideas through abstract, analytical, and interpretative diagrams. Particular emphasis should be placed on understanding, analyzing, evaluating, and communicating the relation of inside and outside in your building.

**LEARNING OBJECTIVES.** Through this project you will:

- Improve library and web-based research skills on buildings, architects, and their ideas
- Learn to look more closely, and become more aware of how a building “operates,” how the materials, light & users help create space, atmosphere, and experience for you.
- Learn to speculate about construction details as well as larger-scale orders that cannot be seen, but need to be intuited and communicated abstractly.
- Learn to generate sophisticated diagrams that record architectural ideas.
- Improve your ability to read, interpret, and draw coherent architectural plans
- Gain more experience working in teams, sharing work, responsibility, and success

**ASSIGNMENT #1** (Draft due Mon. 3/17 12:30pm)

- **Collaboration:** Get to know your team and your building, find out how you will work best, how to divide the work, how to insure fair distribution of work, responsibility, and credit. A team of 3-4 people can get LOTS done in a short time, if they are efficient.
- **Visit / Observe** your building with your instructor, then keep going back, recording the entire building and surrounding context. Go at various times of the day, for various amounts of time. Look more carefully than you do normally: at the building, what it is made of, how it was constructed, at the context, at the interior furnishings, at how people use the building. Guess, speculate, use all five senses, plus your sixth & seventh senses to get at immaterial and other levels of understanding. Take lots of visual notes, sketch or record the design, details, and composition of the building. Begin to focus on and locate the most interesting aspects of your building, and hone in on those.
- **Research:** do library, archival, and web-based research on your building using the list of resources below, as well as others you can dig up. Find articles about your building and its architect(s), and as many drawings as you can. Be re-source-ful. Ask architecture librarian and archivist Martin Aurand for help. At a minimum, locate detailed floor plans, and try to find a wall section or some drawings that show the construction system. Old photos can help, especially construction photos. Since you can visit the building, you do NOT need to be as comprehensive as in last year’s precedent study.
- **Read** as much as you can about the building, the campus, the architect, the time period in which it was built, the style or theoretical outlook of the building, etc. Look for movies, music, paintings, novels or politics from the same time period to get a “taste” for the time. Try to answer WHY the building looks the way it does, how it fits into its cultural epoch.

Each team member should also read at least one of the following sources on architectural analysis & composition (excerpts of all readings are avail. on Blackboard; Clark is also online through CAMEO; a copy of Hanlon and Ching are in “Studio A”):

Clark, Precedents in Architecture: Analytic Diagrams, Formative Ideas, & Partis 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (2005); Hanlon, Compositions in Architecture (2009); Ching, Architecture: Forms, Space, and Order (2007); Leupen, ed., Design & Analysis (1997).

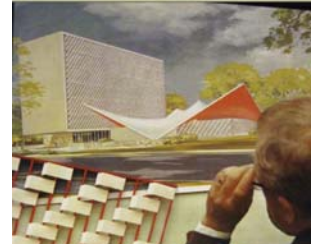
Work to understand how each of these authors discusses the most significant aspects of architectural design in a slightly different way, leading to potentially different kinds of understanding and analysis.



- **Discuss** and record how others understand, experience, and use your building. Don't just rely on your own intuition and knowledge; learn from experts. Distinguish how regular users, passer-byes, and architects/instructors each experience it differently. Consider interviewing people or mapping their activities. Remember to be professional, polite, and discrete; it may feel like a breach of privacy to record or interview people in libraries.

- **Write** a 1-page synopsis on the architectural significance of your building. Why is your building important for architects? What is "amazing" about your building, in general, and in detail? How does the architect orchestrate the transition from inside-to-outside? Why? Upload your essay to Blackboard BLOG for your studio (see "Studio Blogs" button on main menu, over email).

- **Compile** a densely packed 11x17 (landscape format) summary documentation of your building for reference purposes. Include scans of plans, sections, and other drawings, as well as a few photos of the outside and inside. Also include a brief summary of the significance, and a bibliography of important sources. Pack it FULL of info.



### BUILDINGS / ARCHITECTS / DATES

- Studio A (Arscott) Gates/Hillman, Wean Hall, CMoA Addition
- Studio B (Colvard) College of Fine Arts, Tepper/Posner, University Center
- Studio C (Calisti) Baker Hall, Purnell Center, Scaife Hall
- Studio D (Markiewicz) Wean Hall, Mellon Institute, Posvar Hall (Pitt)
- Studio E (Suhrbier) Hunt Library, Hillman Library (Pitt), Carnegie Library Main Branch

### RESOURCES

- A general architecture research guide by CMU archivist/librarian Martin Aurand: <http://guides.library.cmu.edu/architecture>
- A page dedicated to 48-105 studio research, including precedent studies: <http://guides.library.cmu.edu/48-105>
- Resources about Pittsburgh architecture: [www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/ma1f/ArchArch/PGHARCHres/index.html](http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/ma1f/ArchArch/PGHARCHres/index.html)
- A bibliography on "Pgh. Postwar" architecture (1945-85), including buildings on list: [www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/ma1f/ArchArch/postwarPGHarchbibliography.html](http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/ma1f/ArchArch/postwarPGHarchbibliography.html)
- Sources about CMU campus buildings, including links to plans of all campus buildings: <http://guides.library.cmu.edu/content.php?pid=117528&sid=1076288>
- CMU Architecture Archives, see also Martin Aurand <http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/user/ma1f/ArchArch/>

### WED. MAR 5 - CLASS SCHEDULE

Depending on your assigned building for the project, students will meet sequentially in three different locations for one hour each during studio according to the chart below:

	<u>Meet Instructors at Building at door marked on plan</u>	<u>In 4<sup>th</sup> fl. Hunt Library Archive with Martin Aurand</u>	<u>Reading Discussion in MMCH 320</u>
1:00	Hunt - Suhrbier Wean Hall - Markiewicz Wean Hall - Arscott Tepper - Colvard Scaife Hall - Calisti	Baker Hall - Calisti CFA - Colvard Mellon Institute - Markiewisz Gates-Hillman - Arscott Carnegie Library Main - Suhrbier	Hillman Library - Suhrbier Posvar Hall - Markiewicz CmoA Addition - Arscott University Center - Colvard Purnell - Calisti
2:15	Baker Hall - Calisti CFA - Colvard Mellon Institute - Markiewisz Gates-Hillman - Arscott Carnegie Library - Suhrbier	Hillman Library (Pitt) - Suhrbier Posvar Hall (Pitt) - Markiewicz CmoA Addition - Arscott University Center - Colvard Purnell - Calisti	Hunt - Suhrbier Wean Hall - Markiewicz Wean Hall - Arscott Tepper - Colvard Scaife Hall - Calisti
3:30	Hillman Library - Suhrbier Posvar Hall - Markiewicz CmoA Addition - Arscott University Center - Colvard Purnell - Calisti	Hunt - Suhrbier Wean Hall - Markiewicz Wean Hall - Arscott Tepper - Colvard Scaife Hall - Calisti	Baker Hall - Calisti CFA - Colvard Mellon Institute - Markiewisz Gates-Hillman - Arscott Carnegie Library - Suhrbier