

**READING ASSIGNMENT** for Lecture No.3: **TECTONICS** on Fri. Feb. 2, 2007

Readings on Studio Website

(Warning: e-files may contain more pages than actually assigned):

Semper, Gottfried. The Four Elements of Architecture (1851, 1989) read pp.**102-104, 126-128, 254-255**.

*Questions to think about:* What are the four elements of architecture as described by Semper? What are the four technical skills associated with the elements? What is the relationship of weaving, textiles and carpets to architecture? What is the relationship of “dressing” (or masking) and “structural form” in Greek architecture? What practical applications does Semper dictate for current (1851) architecture?

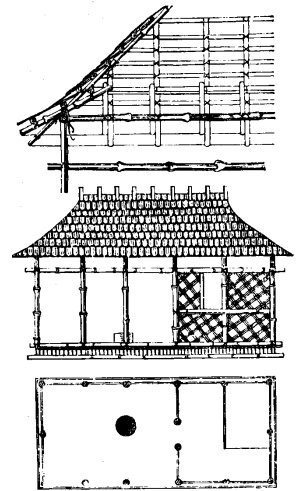
Frampton, Kenneth. Excerpt from “Rappel a l’Ordre, the Case for the Tectonic,” in Charles Jencks, ed., Theories and Manifestoes of Contemporary Architecture (1997), read as much as possible, but definitely the intro on the front page and pp.**254-255**.

[Originally published in Architectural Design 60:3-4 (1990); republished in Kate Nesbitt, ed. Theorizing a New Agenda for Architecture (1996), pp.516-528.]

*Questions to think about:* What parts of Semper’s argument does Frampton highlight? How does Frampton relate “order” to “tectonics”? What is Frampton’s architectural “goal” with this article?

LeCuyer, Annette. “Radical Tectonics: Making and Meaning,” in Radical Tectonics (2001) pp.**15-23**.

*Questions to think about:* What is “radical tectonics”? How is it different from “regular tectonics”? How is related to “craft”?



3.29  
Gottfried Semper, illustration from *Der Stil in den technischen und tektonischen Künsten*, 1860–1863. The Caribbean hut in the Great Exhibition of 1851.