

STRUCTURAL RATIONALISM: VIOLLET

Tu. Nov. 1

Required Readings:

- * Viollet-le-Duc, Eugene-E. Excerpts "Anticipating a Modern Architecture," Chs.5-9 in The Architectural Theory of Viollet-le-Duc, ed. M. Fil Hearn (1990), pp.169-253

Questions to think about: What are Viollet's ideas about materials? Rational planning? Ornament? Style? Structural honesty? Gothic architecture? How is Gothic functional? How are his views different from Pugin's or Ruskin's love of Gothic?

Frampton, Kenneth. "Greco Gothic and Neo Gothic: The Anglo French Origin of Tectonic Form," in Studies in Tectonic Culture (1995), Ch.2 = pp.29-59

Assigned Readings:

Bergdoll, Barry. "The *Dictionnaire raisonné*," in Foundations of Architecture (1990), pp.1-30

Questions to think about: Discuss the significance of the "Dictionary" as a theory type.

H.F. Mallgrave, Architectural Theory: Vol.1: An Anthology from Vitruvius to 1870 (2006), pp.505-528

Questions to think about: In your handout summarize the main points of each of the authors, and then attempt to answer what is "rationalism," and "what is "eclecticism," and what is "realism."? How were these terms used differently in relation to this French 19thC material than today or conventionally?

Hugo, Victor. "This will Kill That," and "A Bird's-eye View of Paris" in Notre Dame de Paris (1831), Bk.III,Ch.2, Bk.V,Ch.2

Questions to think about: What are the main points of Hugo's essay? How does it define a "theory of architecture"? What influence did Hugo have on F.L. Wright and modern architecture?

Levine, Neil. "The Book and the Building: Hugo's Theory of Architecture and Labrouste's Bibliotheque Ste. Genevieve," in The Beaux-Arts and 19th-century French Architecture ed. R. Middleton (1982) Ch,8 = pp.138-173.

Questions to think about: What is Hugo's theory of architecture, and how did it effect the design of Labrouste's library? What is important about Labrouste's library, in terms of theory?

Bressani, M. & M. Grignon, "The Bibliotheque Ste. Genevieve and 'Healing' Architecture," in Henri Labrouste. Structure Brought to Light eds. Belier, Bergdoll and Le Coeur (2013) pp.95-122.

Questions to think about: How did Labrouste's ideas about architecture intersect with ideas about healing, social regeneration, and science?

Banham, Reyner. "Predisposing Causes: Academic and Rationalist Writers," in Theory and Design in the First machine Age (1960), pp.14-34

Questions to think about: How do the Ecole professors Guadet and Choisy set the stage for modern architecture, according to Banham? What is distinctly new or modern about their ideas, compared to what came before? How were they also old-fashioned and conservative?

Collins, P. "Rationalism," in Changing Ideals in Modern Architecture (1965) pp.198-217.

