Fall 2006, CMU, Arch #48-200, M/W/F 1:30-4:20

Class Website: www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/48-200

Coordinator: Kai Gutschow Email: gutschow@cmu.edu Off. Hr: M/W 12:30-1:30pm & by appt. in MM202

(7/26/06)

## 48-200 BUILDING STUDIES - SUMMER 2006

## **MINDSET**

The goal is to build on your analysis skills from 1<sup>st</sup> year, and to help prepare you for the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> year "Composition" studio by expanding your exposure to significant works of architecture. Your mission is to discover and expose the underlying compositional intentions and resultant experiences of assigned buildings so that they become part of a "visual library" of examples to learn from. This exercise is concerned with the HOW and WHY of architecture, leading to discussions on "WHAT is architecture?" A successful resolution will require intense curiosity, creative thinking, critical understanding, and above all a passion for thinking about architecture.

## YOUR WORK & PROCESS

Using any sources you can get a hold of, including the internet and your local library, research the 4 assigned houses listed below (based on last name), as well as 1 building assigned to you on the second page, and take LOTS of notes in the form of sketches (avoid words) in your sketchbook.

Think about, analyze, and seek to understand the design and composition of these building "specimens." Search for "systems" and compositional "principles" in order to discover the architectural "language," and the arrangement of important architectural elements and spaces. Investigate your building at different scales, from details and materials, to major axes and context. Imagine yourself walking up to and through the building, and how all of your senses would be stimulated.

Sketch the architecture, diagram the major ideas, spaces, and transitions. Relate these to smaller building elements and details. Look for issues of geometry, structure, site, orientation, enclosure, approach, circulation, light, materials, rhythms, and all the aspects and elements of form, space, and architecture that you explored in the 1<sup>st</sup> year. Think about material, as well as immaterial issues. Seek to understand *WHAT* the architect intended with the overall design and each detail, and *WHY* the architect "composed" it that way.



Find the best and most appropriate way of representing the unique <a href="composition">composition</a> and architectural <a href="intent">intent</a> underlying your buildings. Using a soft but sharp wood pencil, create <a href="freehand">freehand</a>, but precise drawings of the main <a href="plane">plan(s)</a>, major <a href="section(s)">section(s)</a>, principle <a href="elements">elements</a>, and ingenious <a href="details">details</a>, and how they relate to each other. Feel free to borrow from any photos, existing drawings or analytical diagrams you can find that present the most significant design qualities of each building; or create your own interpretations, being sure the representation reinforces the ideas.

Then carefully select, edit, and *compose* the most important drawings (plan & section req'd) of each building on a separate, landscape-oriented, 8.5"x11" paper. If necessary, draw at a larger scale, and then xerox reduce to the proper size. Create a cover sheet with your name, staple neatly, and submit all 6 pages (5 buildings + cover) to the 2nd year coordinator on Aug. 28. Before submitting, please also scan all pages, and create a medium resolution pdf file, which will be submitted after classes begin.

		Building Name	Architect	Location	Date
Students	1	Chiswick House	Lord Burlington	Chiswick, England	1729
with last	2	Robie House	Wright, Frank Lloyd	Chicago, IL	1909
names	3	Smith House	Meier, Richard	Darien, CT	1967
A-K	4	Koshino House	Ando, Tadao	Ashiya, Japan	1979
Students with last names L-Z	5 6 7 8	Villa Giulia Schindler-Chace Hse. Villa Stein at Garches Wall House (Bye)	Vignola, Vasari et al Schindler, Rudolf Le Corbusier Hejduk, John	Rome, Italy Los Angeles, CA Garches, France Groningen, Neth.	1550 1922 1927 1973



















