Modernism Elsewhere
Modern and Contemporary Architecture outside the West

This new survey course introduces to students major architectural movements, discourse, and edifices from the late-19th to the 21st century outside the traditional centers of the West. While focused on the territories between the India Subcontinent and North Africa, it also explores several cases of modernism in Latin America and the Communist Block.

The question of modernity, modernism, and modernization are examined through the lens of (post)colonial politics of domination and resistance. The lectures look at how modernism in architecture has been (re)interpreted in different localities and has served a wide range of ideological, symbolic, and artistic functions. Western colonial politics of center-periphery is discussed in creating architectural forms, discourses, and practices in the postcolonial world. The course poses such questions as how identity and power politics have come to give different form and function to modern architecture and architects in metropolitan centers outside the West. How is modernism defined and redefine in the face of much larger political struggles and social ills? How the West, as a hegemonic cultural entity, has been appropriated, re-appropriated, and revolted against thought modernistic architectural discourses and practices? Modern architecture outside the West, either practiced by famous European or American architects – including Frank L. Wright, Walter Gropius in Iraq, Le Corbusier in Algeria and India, Louis Kahn in East Pakistan, SOM and Henning Larsen in Saudi Arabia, Zaha Hadid and Jean Nouvel in the United Arab Emirates, I.M. Pei in Doha – or local architects – including Hassan Fathy in Egypt, Kamran Diba in Iran, Sadad Eldem in Turkey, B. V. Doshi in India – the language and discourse of modern architecture was always deployed in order to attempt to solve larger social problems and provide a solution to the modernist question of an appropriate style for modern life. Ultimately, what is the relationship between modern architecture and the making and image of a colonial/postcolonial world? How does modernist architecture today continue to reinforce or resist a benign image of imperial intention?

Class lectures, class discussions, case study projects led by students, a model-building project, and a self-guided field trip will complement the interactive nature of this critical and analytic course. Active student participation and critical thinking during the various projects, pin ups, class discussions, and field trips are central to the experience and expectation of this course.
REQUIREMENTS

Grading 50% Exams 25% Model Project 25% Case Study
Grading scale follows standard Brandeis scale. Because of privacy considerations, all grades will be posted directly on the blackboard. Please do not discuss with me your grades in public. If you have any questions regarding your grade that has a private nature, I will be happy to see you in my office.

Exams 50% Two exams divide the semester into two separate parts. Because of their format and images, exams must be taken when scheduled: no make-up unless there is an extreme emergency. Each exam will have four parts: identifications; comparisons; terminology; and essay. We will have review sessions prior to each exam during which details will be provided.

Model Project 25% A research paper (1,500 words) with images and drawings, accompanied by a three-dimensional model will be displayed and reviewed in class. Teams or individuals will present their projects to the class. Papers must include drawings and sketches and must be uploaded on the class blackboard before the deadline. Emailed, handwritten, or incorrectly formatted papers will be disregarded and given no grade.

Case Study 25% Student teams or individual will present to the class the history of modernism in the specific nations listed in this syllabus. These will include examples in the modern history of non-western architecture and will serve as case studies complementary to the lectures. Details will be provided at the beginning of the semester.

Readings Readings assigned must be done prior to the start of the week under which they appear in this syllabus. The books listed below are required; I encourage you to buy and keep these books. Articles and book-chapters outside these required books are posted on the blackboard under “Reading” file. All handouts, exam reviews, lecture notes, instructions, and assignments are also posted on the blackboard under the appropriate file (“Lecture Notes”, “Readings”, “Handouts”, etc.). Lectures will NOT be posted. You must attend class to benefit from them.

Textbooks Sandy Isenstadt & Kishwar Rizvi, eds. Modernism and the Middle East: Architecture and Politics in the Twentieth Century (Seattle: University of Washington Press 2008)
Recommended Talinn Grigor, Building Iran (New York: Periscope 2009)
William Glover, Making Lahore Modern: Constructing & imagining a colonial city (Minneapolis 2008)
Sibel Bozdogan, Modernism and Nation Building (Seattle: University of Washington Press 2001)
These books are available at the university bookstore.

Conduct Regular attendance and participation in course related activities are mandatory. Engagement with the instructor, lectures, readings, and course projects and field trips will impact your final grade. Please refrain from using your phone, laptop, tablet or any other electronic devise in class. They should be termed off and stowed away in class.

My Availability I am an email away, please email me whenever you would like to see me and we will arrange to meet in my office at Mandel Center 207. I also encourage you to speak to me right before and after lectures in class for short answer questions. If you think your question might interest other students, ask it in class for the benefit of others. I will make time for in-class discussions. Please know that I am available to speak to for any difficulties that you might be facing as my student.

Miscellaneous I expect my students to abide by the academic honor code. I count on their integrity, honesty, and hard work to create a pleasant, productive, and intellectually stimulating class environment. Students with special needs, see me at the beginning of the semester. This syllabus, the schedule of courses, and requirements for the class will be strictly followed; in cases of unforeseen exceptions, all these are subject to change at my discretion.
Jan 13  Welcome to Elsewhere  
  Choi, D. ‘Non-Western architecture and the roles of the history survey,’ *Fresh Air* (Mar 2007)

Jan 16  Where is Elsewhere?  

Jan 20  When has been Modernism?  

Jan 23  Colonial Meddling: Algeria  
  Celik, Z. ‘Le Corbusier, Orientalism, Colonialism,’ *Assemblage* 17 (April 1992)  

Jan 27  (post)Colonial Strategies: British Raj, India, Bangladesh  
  Prakash, V. ‘Chandigarh’s Le Corbusier: The struggle for modernity in post-colonial India’ (Seattle 2002) opt.  

Jan 30  Case Study: Morocco  
  Rabinow, P. ‘France in Morocco: Technocosmopolitanism and middling modernism,’ *Assemblage* 17 (Apr 1992) 53-57

Feb 3  Socialist Experimentations: Soviet Union & Yugoslavia  
  Kulica, V. ‘”East? West? Or both?” Foreign perceptions of architecture in Socialist Yugoslavia,’ *Journal of Architecture* 14/1 (Feb 2009) 129-47  
  Lenin, Stalin, & Gorbunov. ‘Decree “On monuments of the republic”,’ (1918) opt.  
  Trotsky, L. ‘Communist policy toward art’ (1923) opt.

Feb 6  Case Study: Egypt & Libya  
  McLaren, B. ‘Modern architecture, preservation, and the discourse on local culture in Italian colonial Libya,’ in *Modernism & the Middle East* (Seattle 2008) 61-78

Feb 10  Ancient Revival: Prewar Iran  
  Grigor, T. ‘The (inter)national of an uneven modernity: Architectural politics in Pahlavi Iran,’ *Docomomo* 35 (Sept 2006) 36-41  
Feb 13        Exam 1 Review
Feb 17-20    University holiday
Feb 24        Film: Citizen Architect: Samuel Mockbee And The Spirit Of The Rural Studio
Feb 27        Exam 1

Mar 3        National Assertion: Postwar Iran
             Grigor, T. Building Iran (Prestel 2009) chaps. 4-5, opt.

Mar 5        Public Lectures: Portuguese Cultural Heritage in South Asia
             Usdan International Lounge, 5:30-7:00, participation is mandatory

Mar 6        Model Project Due
             Be prepared to display and discuss your project in class

Mar 10       Mandated Laboratory: Iraq
             Al-Khalil/Makiya. The Monument (Berkeley 1991) 68-77 & 116-34

Mar 13       Case Study: Iraq
             Bernhardsson, M. ‘Visions of Iraq: Modernizing the past in 1950s Baghdad,’ in Modernism & the Middle East (Seattle 2008) 81-96
             Pyla, P. ‘Baghdad's urban restructuring, 1958: Aesthetics and the politics of nation building,’ in Modernism & the Middle East (Seattle 2008) 97-115

Mar 17       High Modernism: Turkey
             Bozdogan, S. ‘Nationalizing the modern,’ Modernism and Nation Building (Seattle 2001) 240-93
             Bozdogan, S. ‘Democracy, development, and the Americanization of Turkish architectural culture in the 1950s,’ in Modernism & the Middle East (Seattle 2008) 116-38

Mar 20       Case Study: Israel
             Wharton, A. ‘Jerusalem remade,’ in Modernism & the Middle East (Seattle 2008) 39-60
             Kozlovsky, R. ‘Temporal states of architecture: Mass immigration and provisional housing in Israel,’ in Modernism & the Middle East (Seattle 2008) 139-60
Mar 24  Managing the Poor: Slums
   Taragan, H. ‘Architecture in fact and fiction: the case of the New Gourna village in Upper Egypt’, 169-78, see latte
   Curtis, W. ‘Towards an authentic regionalism,’ *MIM-AR* 19 (1986) 24-31

Mar 27  Case Study: Brazil
   Holston, J. *The modernist city: An anthropological critique of Brasilia* (Chicago 1990) 3-30

Mar 31  Oil Architecture: Saudi Arabia & Gulf States
   Alsayyad, N. ‘From modernism to globalization: the Middle East in context’, in *Modernism & the Middle East* (Seattle 2008) 255-66

Apr 3-10  University holiday

Apr 14  Debate & Donut
   Each student is to bring in a newspaper clipping or YouTube clips or a photograph or an advertisement or some form regarding an issue related to contemporary architecture outside the West. The class will divide into groups and debate the concerns brought on the table

Apr 17  Exam 2 Review

Apr 21-24  Self-guided Field Trip
   MIT’s Brain and Cognitive Sciences Complex, Charles Correa, Cambridge, 2005
   MIT’s Stata Center, Frank Gehry, Cambridge, 2004
   MIT’s Kresge Auditorium, Eero Saarinen, Cambridge, 1955
   MIT’s Kresge Chapel, Eero Saarinen, Cambridge, 1955
   MIT’s Baker Dormitory, Alvar Aalto, Cambridge, 1947
   Boylston Tower Records, Frank Gehry, Back Bay, 1989

Apr 25  Mandel Symposium: *World War One and the Aesthetics of Empire*
   Mandel Center for Humanities, TBA, participation is mandatory for the art history panel

Apr 28  Exam 2