UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH

Course guide
210769 - PP - Design and Thought

Last modified: 14/12/2023

Unit in charge: Barcelona School of Architecture
Teaching unit: 756 - THATC - Department of History and Theory of Architecture and Communication Techniques.

Degree: MASTER'S DEGREE IN ADVANCED STUDIES IN ARCHITECTURE-BARCELONA (Syllabus 2015). (Optional subject).
MASTER'S DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE (Syllabus 2015). (Optional subject).

Academic year: 2023 **ECTS Credits:** 5.0 **Languages:** English

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer: ALESSANDRO SCARNATO

Others: Segon quadrimestre:
ALESSANDRO SCARNATO - Grup: CP2

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The famous article ?interpreted by the contemporaries as a manifesto- written by Adolf Loos circa 1908, ?Ornament and Crime?, will constitute the key around which the lessons will be developed.

The title of this article has been much quoted as much as it has been misunderstood, or simply not read. We can say actually that this fundamental and foundational text is ?more than 100 years after its publication- still largely unknown but, paradoxically, very influent, even today. We are interested in this paradox.

From our point of view the ?merit? of this article is that it was able to link architecture with its great enemy: a modernity that no longer needs the traditional eloquence of architecture, precisely ?-that is to say that doesn?t need ornament in the broad sense that Alberti and other classic authors gave it, but only self publicity ?the modern succedaneum or alibi of eloquence-, mainly based in photography ?and more particularly published and manipulated photography.

We will study some of the most notable and contradictory cases of interpretation of the binomial ?ornamentation-desornamentation? through the work of Gaudí, Loos, Le Corbusier and Mies, and under the light ?black light, of course- of ?Ornament and Crime?.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

The idea of â□□â□□architectural heritage acquires its current form after the French Revolution and has survived the profound critical revision imposed by the Modern Movement. At present, the habitual oscillation of the debate between conservationism and interventionism (heir of the opposition between Ruskin and Viollet-le-duc) is evolving towards a more active, dynamic and broad reflection of the concept of heritage.
Technical and material considerations are integrated with others of a social, urban and ecological nature, within the framework of a more sustainable vision of the reality of our cities and landscape, seen as a story that never reaches a defined ending and to which the project does nothing but add another layer.
The subject proposes a theoretical journey through the most recent evolution of the debate, with specific approaches on concrete architecture and public space projects in the Barcelona area.

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Hours large group	15,0	12.00
Self study	80,0	64.00
Hours small group	30,0	24.00

Total learning time: 125 h

CONTENTS

The

Description:
CALENDAR (note: movies and visits can be changed under previous note)
The course will be divided as follows:
- First session: presentation of contents, definition of the theoretical framework, formation of workgroups and clarification of logistic doubts.
- First block, PAST:
o Theoretical lecture: the notion of heritage; History vs Time; Past vs. Memory; relation between materiality and the theory of heritage; Past as matter of project.
o Movie: Alejandro Amenábar The Others, 2001.
o Visit: Ciutat Vella, the old center of Barcelona.
o Architectural lecture: Carlo Scarpa in Verona; the old Sassi in Matera; architecture and punishment, the prisons.
o Presentation of the first exercise: topic and location.

- Second block, FUTURE:
o Theoretical lecture: how the Future arrived in our lives; the Futurism avant-gardes; the world of the possible world; the promise of a better world between imposition and opportunity; "in the long term, we're all dead".
o Movie: Stanley Kubrick 2001, A Space Odissey, 1969.
o Visit: the former power station in Sant Adrià (Les tres xemeneies).
o Architectural lecture: Boullé and the visionary ideas of Enlightenment; dystopia, or the future turned out bad; comics and movies as playground for design.
o Presentation of the second exercise: topic and location.

- Third block, DESTRUCTION:
o Theoretical lecture: fire as the maximum purifier; big disasters in history: Chicago, Lisboa, Tokyo; some wiped out city: Beirut, Dresden, Coventry; destruction as a project; aggressive urban planning; Speer, Piacentini, Haussmann; martyr architecture?
o Movie: Peter Greenaway The Belly Of An Architect, 1987.
o Visit: the area of the Sants railway station in Barcelona.
o Architectural lecture: the disturbing appeal of destruction; movies and books celebrating the lost of cities and architectures; Hiroshima, WTC, Chernobyl.
o Presentation of the third exercise: topic and location.

- Forth block, CONSTRUCTION:
o Theoretical lecture: to build is a superior task; the never ending overlap of time and material; construction, a game of possibilities; is possible to think in terms of an ideal city?
o Movie: Michelangelo Antonioni The Passenger, 1975.
o Visit: the park of Plaça De Les Glòries and the "22@" District.
o Architectural lecture: to build is an endless task; old buildings still alive, examples from interventions on Roman ruins; scenography and landscape; military and engineering for a better future; the convenient ambiguity between real and virtual architecture: heritage as a tool of mass distraction.
o Presentation of the forth exercise: topic and location.

Last session: presentation of the final exercises of the participants. Other professors from the Master will be invited.

Specific objectives:
Information not provided

Full-or-part-time: 125h
Theory classes: 15h
Laboratory classes: 30h
Self study : 80h

GRADING SYSTEM

The first lessons will be ?master?s lessons? divided in two parts. In the first one the professor will present a topic ?-as indicated in the schedule below. In the second one a debate between the professor and students will be open, starting on the base of the topic of the day and of the readings proposed for the occasion ?see also the schedule. The involvement of students in this dialogue will be valued as part of the course qualification.

During the rest of the lessons each student should propose and present their own original topic related to problems studied before, and discuss them with the rest of the class, leading class discussion.

Continuous telematic evaluation
In online teaching situations, continuous assessment will be carried out synchronously and asynchronously by the means established by the University and the School, with a periodic record of academic activity through submissions, forums, questionnaires or any other means facilitated by the Atenea platform, or the alternatives provided to the teaching staff. In the situations in which this telematic teaching is a product of face-to-face teaching that has already begun, or for questions of extra-academic order, the changes in the weightings or regular control systems of the teaching will be communicated in detail to all students by the Athena of each subject.

Telematic final evaluation
If the continuous telematic evaluation is not positive, a second evaluation can be carried out, which will consist of a final test of a global nature in telematic format that will be established in accordance with the criteria of the professor responsible and the media and ICTs provided by the University or School.

The measures for adaptation to non-classroom teaching will be implemented in accordance with the criteria of ICT security and personal data protection to ensure compliance with the legislation on Personal Data Protection (RGPD and LOPDGDD)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:
- Loos, A. Ornamento y delito y otros escritos. Barcelona: Gustavo Gili, 1972.