Boston University, Paris Art and Architecture Program, Summer 2011

Paris and Its Architecture: From Monument to Urban Landscape

AH383, Professors Tricia Meehan and Bernard Zirnheld

Course Description:

This course traces the development of Parisian architecture and urbanism from the Roman period to the present, with a strong emphasis on the 19th and 20th century development of the city. It is designed to offer the student a sense of the dynamic exchange between architectural form, urban development, architectural theory and the larger cultural and political history of Paris. The course prioritizes first-hand exploration of the city, which requires that students complete readings and arrive prepared to relate readings to the monuments and cityscapes we visit. The course will be divided between in-class seminars (1/3) and structured visits (2/3).

Course Logistics:

On designated mornings, 9:30-12:30. See attached schedule.
Capstone Seminar: Friday, 15 July 2011, 9:00-1:00.
Seminar room on lecture days and designated meeting points on visit days.
Office hours: By appointment.
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Bernard Zirnheld: bzirnheld@gmail.com
E-mails received after 6 pm will be treated the next business day.

Assignments

Mid-Term Exam 30%
Final Paper 30%
Visit Journals 30%
Class Participation 10%

This is an intensive course and your presence at each session is indispensable. Thus, absences and tardiness cannot be tolerated. Each unexcused absence will result in 1 point docked from your final average. Two late arrivals will count as one unexcused absence. See the Summer London-Paris Attendance Policy for more information.

Required Texts

Paris par Arrondissement, L’Indispensable. Course Reader (Two Volumes).

A course reader of required readings will be distributed in class.
Photocopies of supplemental readings will be held on reserve at the BU Center in Paris.
Those not found at BU Paris can be consulted at libraries such as: Centre Pompidou, Cité de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine, Bibliothèque Nationale de France - Francois Mitterrand.

Final Paper and Visit Journals

Final Paper

For your final paper, you may select any topic you like for your research in Paris. This might be the history of a specific building typology (e.g. prison, train station, vernacular housing, library, museum, etc.); issues of architectural theory and influence (e.g. the role of the book in architectural production,
exchange between Britain and France, etc.); or the institutions, politics and economics of urban
development. Your final paper will function as an opportunity to deepen your understanding of your
particular interest in relationship to the Parisian context.

Paper topics will be selected in consultation with professors by the end of the first week of class.
The research paper should be ten pages, with a minimum of six pages of text. A bibliography and
appropriate illustrations are required.

Visit Journals

During week 1 and week 3, you are expected to use your free time to go and visit any monument or
urban space of your choice, in the Île-de-France region, linked to the period under study. So for Visit
Journal 1 you can visit anything from Roman times up to the mid-19th century and for Visit Journal 2,
you can look at anything from the mid-19th century to today. The idea is to write a 1 page reflection
about the building that you visited that captures your observations and your experience, and puts
these in relation to the readings that we have done in class or that come from the supplemental
reading list. Sites will be selected in consultation with the professors.

Session 1. Course Introduction. From the Roman to the Medieval City

Required Reading:
E. J. Morris, History of Urban Form.

Session 2. Gothic Architecture

Visit to Sainte Chapelle, Conciergerie, Notre Dame and St. Severin.
Meeting Point: Corner of Place Saint Michel and Quai des Augustins. Métro: Saint-Michel.

Required Reading:
Abbot Suger and What Was Done in His Administration, (ca.1122),

Session 3. The Hôtel Particulier and Renaissance Urbanism

Visit to the Hôtel de Sens, Hôtel Aumont, Hôtel de Beauvais, Église St. Paul-St. Louis, Hôtel de Sully,
Place des Vosges, Le Carnevelet, Hôtel Angouleme, Hôtel Soubise.
Meeting Point: Metro Saint Paul, above ground.

Required Readings:
Anthony Sutcliffe, Paris: An Architectural History, New Haven/London: Yale University Press,
Yves Pauwels, “The Rhetorical Model in the Formation of French Architectural Language in the
16th Century: The Triumphal Arch as Commonplace”.

Session 4. The City of the Ancien Régime

Visit to Louvre, Collège de Quatre Nations, Tuileries, Place de la Concorde, Place Vendome and
the rue Saint Honoré. Meeting Point: South end of Pont des Arts. Metros: Louvre-Rivoli or Odéon.

Required Readings:
Anthony Sutcliffe, op cit.
Richard Cleary, The Place Royale and Urban Design in the Ancien Régime, Cambridge: Cambridge University

Session 5. Paris of the Enlightenment
Visit to the Panthéon, Théâtre de l'Odéon, École de Chirurgie, Ste. Sulpice (and Bibliothèque Ste Genevieve).
Meeting Point: In front of the Panthéon. Métro: Cluny la Sorbonne, Maubert-Mutualité or Cardinal Lemoine; RER B Luxembourg.

Required Readings:

**Session 6. The Romantic Generation and the Discovery of History**

Seminar.

Required Readings:

**Session 7. The Rationalized Metropolis: Napoleon, Haussmann and Beyond**

Visit to Rue de Rivoli, Palais Royal, Galerie Vivienne, Place de la Bourse, Place de l'Opéra and rue Réaumur.
Meeting Point: Steps of the Opéra. Métro Opéra.

Required Readings:
Anthony Sutcliffe, *Paris*, op. cit.,
Bergdoll, *European Architecture*, op cit

**Session 8. Spectacle, Modernity and the Metropolis**

Seminar.

Required Readings:

**Session 9. Avant-garde or Rationalist Architecture?**

Visit to the 16th Arrondissement: Palais de Chaillot, Eiffel Tower, Housing rue Franklin (Hennequet, Perret), Housing rue Raynouard (Nafilyan, Perret), Castel Beranger (Guimard), Housing rue de la Fontaine (Guimard), Villas La Roche-Jeanneret (Le Corbusier).

**Departure at 9:15.** Meeting Point: Palais de Chaillot, in front of the entry to the Théâtre national de Chaillot. Métro: Trocadero or RER C Champs de Mars/Tour Eiffel.

Required Readings:

**Session 10. Renewing the Fringe:** *Cités jardins* and *Habitations à bon marché*

Visit to the Cité Jardin of Pré-Saint-Gervais followed by a visit of the social housing around the Reservoirs de Lilas and the Parc de la Butte du Chapeau rouge.

Meeting Point: Corner of rue de Belleville and Blvd Séréyier (19th). Métro: Porte de Lilas.

Required Readings:


**Session 11. After the Future, After the Past: Back to the Present**

Seminar.

Required Readings:


**Session 12. Rethinking the Center: The Marais and Plateau Beaubourg**


Meeting Point: In front of Saint Gervais Church. Métro: Hôtel de Ville.

Required Readings:


**Session 13. Deindustrialization and the Livable City**

Visit to the ZAC of Bercy (Ministry of Economy and Finances, Palais Omnisport Bercy, Housing, Maison du Cinema, Bercy Park, Bercy Village) as well as the Passarelle Simone Beauvoir and the BNF.

Meeting Point: in front of the Palais Omnisport de Bercy, on the side facing the rue de Bercy. Métro Bercy.

Required Readings: Anthony Sutcliffe, *Paris, op.cit.,*