

## **Themes in Contemporary European Architecture**

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This course is designed as a series of thematic lectures on some historic and current European architecture that are complemented by site visits in Barcelona and environs to illustrative works. This class begins by posing the question: If American and European architects now occupy the same intellectual space, in international journals, schools, forums and competitions, then how can we define European architecture today? Issues of urban history and politics, density, center vs. periphery, public space, transportation networks and public housing are some aspects of European architecture that are markedly different from their US counterparts and that will be explored. At the same time, European architecture now approaches an Americanized urbanism and building with globalized sites, enormous cultural containers, enclaves of consumption and theme parking. The selection of weekly readings assignments will explore these issues.

**Meeting time:** Fridays 9:30-1:30. The 10 classes will meet 4 hours weekly during the semester, with lectures alternating with site visits. The last session will be final presentations of projects by the students. Emphasis will be put on field itineraries in order to gain first hand experience of contemporary architecture and urbanism in the city.

**The cost of field study entry fees for each student is approx 20 euros.**

**Evaluation:** Students will work in pairs to create a 20- 25 page research paper and presentation on works of architecture in Barcelona in relation to urban projects with broader implications. The instructor will aid the students in finding study sources and developing their projects. Work must be handed in hard copy as well as a digital copy on a CD.

In the first session, pairs of students will be assigned a project  
For the Midterm evaluation students must have visited the works and have begun compiling information and research. I will be meeting with each group, individually to review and direct the work.

### **Evaluation will be based on:**

Attendance and participation in class discussions 20%

The development of the paper by Midterm 20%.

The Presentations 20%

The final work will be worth 40%.

### **Session 1: Introduction and Old City Visit.**

**January 15**

Raval and Sant Antoni areas. The aim of this visit is to underscore the public programs that have regenerated the area and the creation of new institutions within historic and new buildings.

### **Session 2: Visit to Hospital San Pau and Sagrada Familia**

**January 22**

**Entry fee: 10 euros**

### **Session 3: Modernisme**

**January 29**

The theoretical framework for turn of the century architecture and its manifestation and variations across Europe (Art Nouveau, Arts and Crafts, Secessionism). Special focus will be given to the work of Antoni Gaudi and other exponents of modernisme in Barcelona

**Reading:** William Curtis Chapter 3. The Search for New Forms and the Problem of Ornament. Pages 53-71. Modern Architecture since 1900 . Phaidon 3<sup>rd</sup> edition 1996

### **Session 4: Visit to Colonia Güell**

**February 5**

Visit to the factory town and crypt designed by Gaudi.

**Entry fee: 3.75 euros**

**Session 5: Visit to Montjuic and public spaces in Sants** **February 12**  
The itinerary will include the German Pavilion, Caixa Forum, the Botanical Garden, the Olympic Ring and three of the first public space making projects in Barcelona's recent past.  
**Entry fee: Botanic garden 2.50 euros Mies van der Rohe Pavillion: 2.50 euros**

**Session 6: Spanish Architecture and Midterm Review** **February 19**  
Survey of Spanish architecture as seen through important figures and their works.

**Readings:** Kenneth Frampton Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance  
Pages 16-31. Postmodern Culture. Edited by Hal Foster Pluto

Ignasi de Solà-Morales. Weak Architecture 1987 Architecture Theory since 1968 edited by Michael Hays  
MIT Press

**Session 7: Visit to Forum 2004/ Diagonal Mar Park/  
Poble Nou park and 22@** **February 26**

**March 5: Travel**

**Session 8: Urban triggers 1: Containers , Events, Infrastructures** **March 12**

In the last 20 years Paris, Berlin, Barcelona and other European cities have experienced major urban transformations in relation to political programs. An examination of architectural works as generators of redevelopment:

**Reading :** Ignasi de Solà-Morales Introduction. Present and Futures ACTAR 1996

**Session 9: Visit: Laberinth, Park Central Nou Barris** **March 19**  
**Entry fee laberinth park: 2.20 euros**

**Session 10: Presentations** **March 26**

**Session 11: Contemporary themes and figures.** **April 9**  
Explores some of the major European practitioners today and the theoretical and constructive basis of their work.

**Reading:** Rem Koolhaas Life in the Metropolis or the Culture of Congestion, 1977 Architecture Theory  
since 1968 edited by Michael Hays MIT Press

Bigness or the Problem of Large pages 495-516 SMLXL with Bruce Mau

**All work must be handed in in digital format and hard copy.**

### **Study Resources**

**Coac Architecture Library** [www.coac.net](http://www.coac.net) biblioteca

Arcs, 1-3 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor check hours on the website

Students must pay a small fee for entry. You cannot borrow books but you can consult them there, make photocopies and scan and send images to your email.

### **Architecture School Library ETSAB**

Av. Diagonal 649 Mon-Friday 9:00-21:00 L3 Metro Green Line to Zona Universitaria.

### **Centre of Documentation. Center of Contemporary Culture of Barcelona, CCCB**

Montalegre, 5 [www.cccb.org](http://www.cccb.org)

### **General Bibliography On Architecture and Urbanism in Barcelona**

Busquets, Joan. Barcelona the Old City. Ajuntament de Barcelona.

Busquets, Joan. Barcelona: The Urban Evolution of a Compact City. Harvard. 2005

Fernández-Galiano, Luis. editor Spain Builds. AV Monografias 113. Madrid 2005

Gausa, Manuel, Cervello, Marta and Pla, Maurici. BCN. Barcelona: Guide to Modern Architecture 1860-2002. ACTAR, 2002.

Hughes, Robert. Barcelona. Vintage, 1992

Marshall, Tim. ed Transforming Barcelona. Routledge, London 2003.

Mateo, Josep Lluís ed. Contemporary Barcelona, 1856-1999. Barcelona: CCCB, 1996.

Pizza, Antonio, editor. G.A.T.C.P.A.C. 1928-1939 : una nova arquitectura per a una nova ciutat . A new architecture for a new city, Barcelona : Museu d'Història de la Ciutat : Col.legi d'Arquitectes de Catalunya, 2006

Riley, Terence. On-site : new architecture in Spain . New York : Museum of Modern Art, 2005.

Rowe, Peter. Building Barcelona . Barcelona Regional 2006

### **Web Sites**

[www.coac.net](http://www.coac.net) itineraris

Different architecture itineraries and descriptions of the buildings and projects.

[www.bcn.es](http://www.bcn.es) City website with useful information.

Art Public: historical and contemporary information about public art in Barcelona

Urban Planning: different current projects

Environment: LOCAL AGENDA 21

Also see city websites: 22@

[www.bcn.es/publicacions](http://www.bcn.es/publicacions) revistes on line Metropolis Mediterrània and barcelona escultores

Web publications with English translations and information about recent projects.

[www.bcn.es/parcsijardins](http://www.bcn.es/parcsijardins) Website on Barcelona's gardens and parks

[www.bcnregional.com](http://www.bcnregional.com) Regional planning information about Metropolitan scale projects

[www.barcelona2004.org](http://www.barcelona2004.org) Official site of the Forum

<http://urban.cccb.org> Urban library for texts about public space

[www.proeixample.com](http://www.proeixample.com) Organization that is creating public spaces in the Eixample

[www.ub.es/escult/1htm](http://www.ub.es/escult/1htm) Sculptures and public art in Barcelona

[www.bcn.es/urbanisme/barcelona\\_progres/](http://www.bcn.es/urbanisme/barcelona_progres/) online exposition of current and future projects

[www.bcn.es/urbanisme/catala/model\\_urba.htm](http://www.bcn.es/urbanisme/catala/model_urba.htm)

<http://olympicstudies.uab.es> Information about Barcelona's Olympic projects.

[www.observatoribarcelona.org](http://www.observatoribarcelona.org) economic indicators and quality of life revue of the city that are related to the urban regeneration projects and their economic outcome.

## **Paper and Presentation Topics:**

There are two types of topics that will be given in this class.

Firstly, there will be a series of projects that deal with the direct relation between works of architecture and urban design initiatives.

The second type of project deals with the investigation of the works of an important architect from Barcelona that is lesser known in an international context.

Working in pairs, students will be assigned one of the topics listed below. Papers should be 20-25 pages long + image + bibliography.

### **For each project dealing with architecture works within a larger urban initiative:**

1. Study the urban context and history as well as the larger regeneration project
2. Analyze the most significant architecture projects.
3. Visit and document the works photographically
4. Make a critical analysis.

### **For the topics dealing with the work of a local architect:**

1. Study the architect and their professional trajectory and design philosophy.
2. Analyze the significant architecture projects in relation to the architect's large vision
3. Visit and document works photographically
4. Make a critical analysis.

### **Important dates:**

#### **Midterm review: February 19.**

**20% of the grade**

After the lecture session, I will meet with each group, individually to review the progress of the work. At this time you should have visited at least one of the works and documented it. You should also have been to the library to collect basic information. At this review you should show the research that you have collected up to that moment and the beginning premise of the paper. I will work with you to guide the project.

#### **Final Presentation: March 26.**

**20% of the grade**

Each group will present their topics to the class. Students will receive feedback on the structure and content and be given suggestions for perhaps improving or adding to the final written work.

#### **Handing the final work: April 9.**

**40% of the grade**

Students must hand in a hard copy and digital document during the last class.

## **Urban Projects:**

**1. Urban Context:** Regeneration in the Raval

**Architecture Projects:** The North Raval: MACBA; CCCB, FAD.

**2. Urban Context:** Ribera and Santa Caterina neighborhoods

**Architecture Project:** Santa Caterina Market in the Ribera

**3. Urban Context:** Montjuic World Exposition 1929

**Architecture Projects:** Mies van der Rohe Pavillion and Spanish Village

**4. Urban Context:** The Eixample plan and the Proeixample initiative

**Architectural Projects:** RCR Arquitectes Center for the Elderly and Library

Carrer del Comte Borrell, 44-46 (Sant Antoni Barcelona) RCR

**Josep Llinas: Fort Pienc Community Center, Library, market, Daycare, School, and Assisted Living for the Elderly**

Centre Civic Ateneu Fort Pienc C. de Ribes 2000-2003 Josep Llinás

**5. Urban Context:** Waterfront redevelopment Olympic era

**Architectural works:** Olympic Port and village. Masterplan by MBM

**6. . Urban Context:** 22@

**Architectural works:** Jean Nouvel's Torre Agbar, Cloud 9, and Poble Nou Park

**7. Urban Context:** Forum 2004

**Architecture works:** Herzog and De Meuron Forum building and Map Architects

Congress Center, Abalos & Herreros Ecopark and Garbage Recycling

## **Architects:**

**8. Josep Lluís Sert**

**Works with the GATCPAC:** Casa Block and Spanish Pavillion.

**Late Works:** Miro Foundation

**9. Jose Antonio Coderch**

**Works:** Barceloneta Housing, Trade Building, Raset Housing, Architecture School addition

**10. Ricardo Bofill and Taller de Arquitectura, early works.**

**Works:** Walden 7, speculative project The city in Space.