

**PLAN 499 Experiencing Historic Architecture
Fall 2006**

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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

CB # 1090
The Giles F. Horney Building
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Office Hours: By appointment

Field Trips: Mordecai House and Historic Park
Raleigh, North Carolina

Downtown Hillsborough
Hillsborough, North Carolina

UNC Campus

Seminar Time: 2:00 PM to 3:15 PM, Tuesday and Thursday

Seminar Place: 102 New East

Course Description

"I like a man who can appreciate a good barn as well as a good tragedy."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Experiencing Historic Architecture is a brief architectural history survey designed to introduce, familiarize and hopefully interest students in the historic built environment that surrounds all of us. Its intent is to introduce the forms, spaces, and stylistic traits of historic American architecture, how this idiom has evolved through the years, and how technological evolutions and innovations that have occurred in the United States have influenced it. This course traces architectural developments from before the arrival of the European settlers to North America through the Post-Modernist Developments of today.

Students will become familiar with the major components and features of architectural form. They will also become familiar with significant construction techniques found in American architecture and the overall form and detailing of architectural style in America. Students will consider how government, technology and the economy (both nationally and regionally) influenced how the built environment looks and work. This seminar will encourage students to consider broad cultural patterns in their evaluations of both individual and groupings of historic buildings. We use both the Carolina campus and the surrounding area as our "laboratory" in learning how these architectural ideas evolved.

Most of the buildings in North America from 1550 to 1860 are vernacular, buildings not designed by architects; however, from the advent of the twentieth century to today most commercial and institutional buildings and places are likely to have been designed by architects. For that reason, the interpretation of most buildings in this seminar will reveal their time, place, technological features, details, designers, materials and building techniques.

This seminar will focus on the following themes:

- How early vernacular buildings were influenced by the cultures of the settlers that inhabited the country, notably English, Spanish, German, Dutch, French and African.
- How colonial gentlemen architects influenced American architecture and embraced Palladian and Baroque forms and spaces.
- How the American governmental structure influenced both the architectural and urban form of both towns and cities, i.e. “the Court House Town.”
- How vernacular style buildings were influenced by “high style” architecture and how they influenced and related to each other during the nineteenth century.
- How the railroad and the automobile influenced architectural and urban form, i.e. the railroad and main street towns.
- Industrialization of buildings and the influence of modernism.
- The influence of the Interstate Highway System on the built environment.
- Current trends in architecture today.

Learning Objectives

- To develop a familiarity with vernacular and high style architecture that is around us, most notably on the Carolina campus and the surrounding region.
- To define and use common architectural terms employed by architects, historic preservationists and architectural historians.
- To apply concepts introduced in this course to the analysis of buildings and landscapes.
- To be able to write coherently about buildings and landscapes.
- To be able to participate in discussions about buildings and their context.

Grading

A. Grading Scale

A= 90-100 percent
B= 80-89 percent
C= 70-79 percent
F= below 70 percent

Graduate Students Scale

B. Expectations

- A. Attend all seminar meetings, complete all assigned readings, and demonstrate knowledge of the seminar topics. **(25%)**
- B. Write an interpretative essay on the historic north campus at UNC. **(25%)**

- C. Complete a mid-term examination on ***** that will cover all readings, lectures, and discussions as of that date. **(25%)**
- D. Write and present an interpretative essay on a historic building, a grouping of buildings or a significant space in Chapel Hill. This will be a “team and/or group” project. (Final project) **(25 %)**

Required Texts

Bishir, Catherine W., Charlotte V. Brown, Carl R. Lounsbury and Ernest H. Wood, III. *Architects and Builders in North Carolina, A History of the Practice of Building*. Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Press, 1990. **(On reserve)**

Glassie, Henry. *Vernacular Architecture*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2000.

Handlin, David P. *American Architecture*. London: Thames and Hudson, 2000. **(Purchase at Bookstore)**

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1992. **(Purchase at Bookstore)**

Scully, Vincent. *American Architecture and Urbanism*. New Haven, CT.: Yale Univ. Press, 1988. **(On reserve)**

Maynard, W. Barksdale. *Architecture in the United States, 1800-1850*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002. **(On reserve)**

Plan 110 Selected Readings **(On Blackboard)**

Recommended Texts

Allcott, John V. *The Campus at Chapel Hill*. Chapel Hill, NC: Chapel Hill Historical Society, 1986.

Benjamin, Asher. *The Carpenter’s Companion*. New York: Dover Publications, 1996.

Bishir, Catherine W. *North Carolina Architecture*. Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Press, 1990. (UNC Press intends to republish this book in a smaller, paperback version.)

Downing, Andrew Jackson. *The Architecture of Country Houses*. New York: Dover Publications, republished 1969.

Jackson, John Brinkerhoff. *Discovering the Vernacular Landscape*. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1984.

Lay, K. Edward. *The Architecture of Jefferson Country, Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 2000.

Lounsbury, Carl. *An Illustrated Dictionary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Peterson, Charles. *Early American Building*. Philadelphia: New Line Press, 1980.

Pierson, William H. *American Buildings and their Architects, Volumes I and II*. New York and Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 1970.

Reps, John W. *Town Planning in Frontier America*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1969.

Sanders, John L. and Davis, Edward. *Alexander Jackson Davis in North Carolina*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press. 2000.

Stilgoe, John R. *Common Landscape of America 1580-1845*. New Haven, CT.: Yale Univ. Press, 1982.

Swain, Douglas, ed. *Carolina Dwelling, Towards Preservation of Place in Celebration of the North Carolina Vernacular Landscape*. Chapel Hill, NC: UNC Press, 1978.

Upton, Dell, ed. *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*. Athens, GA.: Univ. of Georgia Press, 1986.

Ware, William R. *The American Vignola, A Guide to the Making of Classical Architecture*. New York: Dover Publications, 1994.

Whiffen, Marcus and Fredrick Koeper. *American Architecture, Volumes I and II*: Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1984.

Seminar Sessions

Thursday August 24: Introduction to the Seminar
Objectives

Tuesday August 29: Architectural Terms, Construction Features and General Terminology.

Reading

Ware, William. *The American Vignola, The Five Orders*, pp.5-11.

Howard & Kapp. *Stewardship of Historic Buildings*. pp. 17-28.

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp. ix-xv, 4-20.

Thursday August 31: Spanish-American Architecture and Indigenous Architecture

Reading

Scully, Vincent J. *American Architecture and Urbanism*, pp. 9-28.

Handlin. *American Architecture* . pp. 7-15.

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp. 21-31, 129-138.

Pierson, William H. *American Buildings and Their Architecture: The Colonial and Neoclassical Styles*. Chapter I: "The Background to the Architecture of Colonial America," pp. 1-21. Chapter V: "Other Colonial Manifestations: Baroque Transformations in the American Southwest," pp. 157-201.

Tuesday September 5: Construction Techniques and Practices in Colonial North Carolina and the Mid-Atlantic Region.

Reading

Bishir, Lounsbury, Brown and Wood. *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*. Chapter 1: "The Plague of Building: Construction Practices on the Frontier," pp. 9-47.

Bishir, Catherine. *North Carolina Architecture*, Chapter 1, The Colonial Period, 1680-1776.

Handlin. *American Architecture*. pp 16-38.

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp. 33-57.

Thursday, September 7: No Class (see Field Trip)

Saturday, September 9: Field Trip: Mordecai House and State Park Tour
Raleigh, N.C.

Tuesday, September 12: North Carolina and Southern Folk Housing Types and Construction Techniques

Reading

Swaim, Douglas, *Carolina Dwelling*. North Carolina Folk Housing. pp 28-44.

Handout: Building in Wood

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp. 75-87.

Thursday, September 14: The Court House Town

Reading

Price, Edward T. *Common Places*. The Central Courthouse Square in the American County Seat. pp-30-60.

Peters, Margaret O. *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*. Chapter 1, The Colonial Courthouses. pp 5-26.

Tuesday, September 19: Field Trip to Hillsborough (Meet at the Old Orange County Courthouse, corner of Churton and King Streets, Downtown Hillsborough)

Reading

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp. 89-128, 139-167.

Thursday, September 21: Jefferson.

Reading

Pierson, William H. *American Buildings and Their Architects, Volume 1*. American Neoclassicism, The Idealistic Phase, Thomas Jefferson. pp 286-334.

Handlin. *American Architecture*. pp. 39-70.

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp. 169-175.

Tuesday, September 25: The College Campus in America

Reading

Ayers Saint, Gross. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill 2002 Master Plan

Assignment Due: Interpretative Essay on the North Campus

Thursday, September 28: Campus Tour (Meet at Chapel Hill Post Office)

Reading

Allcott, John V. *The Campus at Chapel Hill*. pp Preface and 5-49.

Tuesday, October 3: William Nichols and Alexander Jackson Davis in North Carolina

Reading

Peatross, C. Ford. *William Nichols, Architect*. pp 1-60.

Sanders and Davis. *A.J. Davis in North Carolina*.

Thursday, October 5: Pattern Books and the Influence of Asher Benjamin and Minnard Lafever

Reading

Smith, Thomas Gordon. *Practice of Architecture, The Builder's Guide*. Introduction.

Tuesday, October 10: Churches

Reading

Davidson, Eliza. *Carolina Dwelling*. North Carolina Country Churches: Exploration in the Mountains and the Tidewater`

Thursday, October 12: Italic Style and the Beginnings of Industrialization, Review for Mid-term Exam.

Reading

Lounsbury, Carl. *North Carolina Builders*. The Wild Melody of Steam pp. 193-239.

Handlin. *American Architecture*. pp. 70-99.

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp.178-237.

Tuesday, October 17: Mid-term Exam

October 18-23: Fall Break

Tuesday, October 24: The Queen Anne Style

Reading

Handlin. *American Architecture*. pp.100-131.

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp 241-317.

Thursday, October 26: The City Beautiful and the American Renaissance

Reading

Handout

Handlin. *American Architecture*. pp. 132-149.

Tuesday, October 31 : The Arts and Crafts Style

Reading

Lancaster, Clay: *Common Places: The American Bungalow*. pp 79-104

Handlin. *American Architecture*. pp. 150-166.

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp. 409-464.

Thursday, November 2: Campus Field Trip: Polk Place to South Road Campus (meet at Old Well)

Reading

Handlin. *American Architecture*. pp. 167-196.

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp. 379-386.

Tuesday, November 7: Frank Lloyd Wright

Reading

Scully. *American Architecture and Urbanism*. pp. 139-179

Thursday, November 9: Modernism, the International Style.

Reading

Handlin, *American Architecture*, pp. 197-230.

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp. 465-473.

Tuesday, November 14: Campus Field Trip, “FedEx” New Global Education Building to Ramshead Complex.

Reading

Handlin. *American Architecture*, pp. 232-267.

Scully. *American Architecture and Urbanism*. pp. 180-293

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp. 475-485.

Thursday, November 16: The State of American Architecture Today

Reading

Handlin. *American Architecture*. pp. 268-274

McAlester. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. pp. 487-499.

Handout.

Tuesday, November 21: Class Presentations

Thursday, November 23: No Class, Thanksgiving Holiday

Tuesday, November 28: Class Presentations

Thursday, November 30: Class Presentations

Wednesday December 5: Class Presentations