

AR-424(c)

Theories of Postmodern Architecture

Petit Emmanuel

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture	MA2, MA4	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	Oral
Workload	90h
Weeks	12
Hours	2 weekly
Courses	2 weekly
Number of positions	

Summary

Investigation of theoretical underpinnings of postmodernism in the 1970s and 1980s, analyzing the many conceptual exchanges between architectural design, architectural theory and the humanities. Attention given to critical themes of language, narrative, criticism, autonomy, power, and deconstruction

Content

The seminar series investigates major theoretical underpinnings of postmodernism in architecture in the 1970s and 1980s. Through the reading of primary and secondary texts, we will re-evaluate the intellectual trajectory of this specific period of architectural discourse and analyze the many conceptual exchanges between architectural theory and other humanities like literary theory, criticism, and philosophy.

While zooming in on a particular moment of history, every week's session will give specific attention to one of the following themes, which are fundamental to postmodernism's critical discourse: "language" (Rorty, Eco, Jencks, Hollein, Venturi), "narrative" (Baudrillard, Lyotard, Koolhaas, Tigerman), "criticism" (Tafuri, Cacciari, Rossi), "autonomy" (Rowe, Rossi, Ungers, Hays, Eisenman), "power" (Jameson, Benjamin, McLeod, Johnson, Deleuze), and "deconstruction" (Derrida, Heidegger, Wigley, Kipnis, Nancy, Eisenman, Libeskind, Prix).

Students will read the defining treatises and manifestoes of the period in relation to their critical reception in journals such as *Oppositions*, *Perspecta*, *Architectural Design*, *Assemblage*, *ANY*. The topics will be analyzed in direct relation to the built architectural artifacts with the intention to stress the mutual interdependence of physical object and metaphysical idea.

Students will come away from this seminar with a good understanding of the intellectual history of postmodernism and deconstruction, and acquire conceptual tools of formalist and critical theory.

Keywords

Architecture – théorie – philosophie – formalisme - théorie critique - déconstruction.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Comprendre les centres d'intérêt et thèmes de la pensée théorique en architecture.
- Connaitre l'histoire de l'architecture postmoderne.
- Analyser différents discours d'architectes.
- Mettre en relation des idées abstraites et objets physiques.

Teaching methods

Présentation de cours académiques.
Discussion en groupe.

Expected student activities

Curiosité intellectuelle.
Préparation de questions et commentaires.
Courte présentation en classe.
Rédaction d'un mémoire de 2500 mots.

Assessment methods

Présentation en classe et participation aux discussions (20%).
Rédaction mémoire 2500 mots (50%).
Défense orale (30%).