

AR-347

**Under construction**

Nichols Sarah

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture	BA6	Obl.
HES - AR	E	Obl.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	2
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	During the semester
Workload	60h
Weeks	12
<b>Hours</b>	<b>2 weekly</b>
Courses	2 weekly
<b>Number of positions</b>	

**Summary**

This theory course considers the building as a material thing, focusing on the process and matter of architecture to examine how buildings come into being and stay (or don't) in place: through discourse, through their site, through industries, and through the labor of workers.

**Content**

Module I: Construction Becomes Modern, 1850-1939

Week 1

Enclosure: A World Interior

Week 2

Performance: Changing Materials and Empiricisms

Week 3

Proprietary: Immaterial Frames

Module II: Abundance and Scarcity, 1950-1989

Week 4

En Masse: Building the Territory

Week 5

Tolerance: The Agency of Political Structures

Week 6

Dumb Boxes: Proliferation and Subversion

Module III: New Fundamentals, 1990-2020+

Week 7

Envelope: Reflection and Lightness

Week 8

Disassembly: Refusing Glue

Week 9

Renovation: Cheapness as Politics

Week 10

Individual Meetings

Week 11  
Final Presentations

Schedule provisional and subject to minor changes

### Learning Outcomes

- Describe architecture's relation to a larger culture of construction
- Assess / Evaluate assess the implications and politics of a building's material assembly
- Contextualise assumptions about construction and materiality in contemporary practice today within the discourse history of the discipline
- Explain the historiography of the role of the architect in relation to construction

### Transversal skills

- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
- Access and evaluate appropriate sources of information.
- Take account of the social and human dimensions of the engineering profession.
- Summarize an article or a technical report.

### Assessment methods

Performance in the course is continually assessed on a basis of exercises completed at home before class and a semester project. There is no final exam.

Reading responses, written (10 weeks, 4% each) 40%

Glossary Project, glossary entries + justification statement 60%

### Supervision

Office hours	Yes
Assistants	Yes