**ARC 308** Spring 2022

**Architecture and Society**  Course Description

**Instructor:** Larry Speck

**Office Hours:** TTh 10:00-11:00am in GOL 4.142B

**Email:** lspeck@austin.utexas.edu

**Class Time:** TTh 12:30-2:00pm

**Prerequisites**

None. Required course for architecture majors. This course may be used to fulfill the Visual and Performing Arts component of the university core curriculum and addresses the following four core objectives established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board: communication skills, critical thinking skills, teamwork and social responsibility. This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of non-U.S. cultural groups, past and present.

**Educational Objectives**

1. To establish a perspective of the role and influence of architecture in society

and vis-a-vis other disciplines in the arts and science.

2. To develop an understanding of how architecture is shaped by and reflects

cultural values and social organization.

3. To present a broad picture of issues and factors which influence architectural

design.

4. To understand how global cultures create environments that both reflect and

shape their values.

**Educational Approach**

For the first two weeks the lecture portion of the course will be covered partly by a series of “talks” that are pre-recorded and can be accessed asynchronously. During the scheduled lecture time there will be a short “check-in” online**.** For the rest of the semester,this will be an in-person reading/looking/listening/thinking course. It will follow a lecture format supplemented by related outside reading and required participation in discussion sections that hone skills in critical thinking, communication and teamwork. Students will also give oral presentations on their research in discussion sections

**Evaluation**

There will be three tests in the course. Each test will count 15% of your final grade.

Tests will include building identification and multiple-choice questions as well as essay questions analyzing buildings on campus or nearby to demonstrate understanding of material covered in lectures and reading over a five- to seven-week period. Participation in class (in the form of question responses due in most class periods) will count 20%, and participation in sections will count 10%. The remaining 25% of your grade will be based on a series of five short analytical exercises that you will do through the semester. Analytical exercises will be dealt with primarily in sections.

**Required Texts**

Readings will be assigned from the following three texts:

Rasmussen, Steen Eiler. *Experiencing Architecture.*

Heschong, Lisa. *Thermal Delight in Architecture.*

Moore, Charles, et al. *The Place of Houses*.

Website: [www.larryspeck.com](http://www.larryspeck.com)

ARC 308–Architecture and Society Spring 2022

Instructor: Larry Speck Handout #2

**Course Outline**

I. **Introduction**

Jan 18 - Course Description

Jan 20 - Architecture and Society–Overview

Jan 25 - Architectural Values/Philosophy/Principles/Prejudices/Theory

II. **Form in Architecture**

Jan 27 - Architecture as Sensual/Visual Experience

Feb 1 - Architecture as an Intellectual/Artistic Experience

Feb 3 - Systems and Order

Feb 8 - Session to be replaced by campus tours Feb 12-13

Feb 10 - Numbers/Mathematics/Geometry as Inspiration of Form

Feb 15 - Nature/Biology/Organisms as Inspiration of Form

[Reading in *Experiencing Architecture* to be completed by Feb 15]

Feb 17 - Synthesis – Form

Feb 22 - *Sketches of Frank Gehry* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o49mPHHEiZ4

Feb 24 - Test #1

III. **Physical Considerations in Architecture**

Mar 1 - Buildings and Land

Mar 3 - Geography/Topography/Ecology

Mar 8 - Structure and Materials

Mar 10 - Construction/Tectonics

Mar 22 - Architecture in Response to Climate

[Readings in *Thermal Delight in Architecture* to be completed by Mar 22]

Mar 24 - Synthesis – Physical Considerations

Mar 29 - Test #2

IV. **Human Factors in Architecture**

Mar 31 - Designation and Organization of Use

Apr 5 - Architectural Determinism

Apr 7 - Humanism at the Personal Scale

Apr 12 - Humanism at the Scale of Organizations/Communities/Bureaucracies

Apr 14 - Meaning in Public Buildings

[Readings in *The Place of Houses* to be completed by Apr 14)

Apr 19 - Synthesis – Human Factors

Apr 21 - *Citizen Architect* https://vimeo.com/ondemand/citizenarchitect

Apr 26 - Test #3

V. **Combinations and Synthesis**

Apr 28 - Technology as a Source of Beauty

May 3 - Perfection and Compromise

May 5 - A Few Good Buildings

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**Policies and Information**

Make-up exams will only be given to students with satisfactory justification for excused absences.

Excused absences can be justified in one of three ways:

1. Absence due to illness–Student Health Center can document even minor illness quickly and easily. A note from them is satisfactory for absence due to illness.

2. Absence due to family emergency which requires travel out of town–A note from a

parent or other responsible family member can document such required absence.

3. Absence due to student observance of a religious holiday. Arrangements must be made

in advance with instructor or TA.

ALL REQUESTS FOR MAKE-UP EXAMS MUST BE SUBMITTED **IN WRITING** WITHIN ONE WEEK OF THE MISSED EXAM ALONG WITH PROPER DOCUMENTATION.

-A notice regarding academic dishonesty.  UT Honor Code (or statement of ethics) and an explanation or example of what constitutes plagiarism is located at the following link: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/the-university/#universitycodeofconduct>)

-See the following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

-Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside. Please familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy.  Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.   Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.   In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.   Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Students with disabilities request accommodation at <http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd/> or call 512-471-6259. Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL):  512-232-5050  .

No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may not be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have the instructor’s explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University’s Student Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course. Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

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| To help preserve our in person learning environment, the university recommends the following.   * Adhere to university [mask guidance](https://t.e2ma.net/click/fuzy1f/f6kviib/3gdvdxc). * [Vaccinations are widely available](https://t.e2ma.net/click/fuzy1f/f6kviib/j9dvdxc), free and not billed to health insurance. The vaccine will help protect against the transmission of the virus to others and reduce serious symptoms in those who are vaccinated. * [Proactive Community Testing](https://t.e2ma.net/click/fuzy1f/f6kviib/z1evdxc) remains an important part of the university’s efforts to protect our community. Tests are fast and free. * Visit [protect.utexas.edu](https://t.e2ma.net/click/fuzy1f/f6kviib/fufvdxc) for more information |

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Instructor: Larry Speck Handout #4

**Poll**

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 2. Age \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Classification\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Major \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Hometown \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. Father's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Mother's Occupation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. Give the name and address of the high school teacher who helped you the most. (Their school address is fine. Give special weight to any teacher who might have helped you develop an interest in architecture.)

7. Do you know the names of architects whose work you admire? List as many as you can.

8. Please list a few of your favorites (if such exist) in each of the following categories:

Books:

Authors:

Artists:

Films:

Musicians:

9. What major cities or regions of the U.S. or of foreign countries have you visited?

10. What do you expect to like the most about studying architecture?

11. What do you expect to dislike most about studying architecture