

Problems in Modern Housing

ARCH 557 | Spring 2024 | NJIT

Tue 2:30 pm - 5:20 pm

Instructor: Vincent Marchetto, AIA, *Principal at MHS Architecture*



“Architecture or Revolution.”

- Le Corbusier, 1923

Course Description

Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, humanity has been sprinting toward a new way of life. The global population is exploding, technology is rapidly developing, and culture and the way we work is constantly evolving. This effort has put tremendous strain on our housing systems to grow and adapt to the unrelenting pace of the industrial revolution. This course will investigate the historical and ongoing impact that the Industrial Revolution had on housing.

Students will learn through lectures, reading assignments, and field trips and they will be required to debate the issues modernist architects confronted at the beginning of the 20th century. Students will also be assigned a case study housing project which they will be required to give a final presentation on.

The goal of the course is to give students a perspective on the issues that modern architects worked on. To understand why early modern housing projects failed. And finally, to be able to propose new housing to improve housing development.

Assignment Weights

Assignment 1	Discussion Post	10%
	Presentation	5%
Assignment 2	Discussion Post	10%
	Presentation	5%
Assignment 3	Discussion Post	10%
	Presentation	5%
Assignment 4	Discussion Post	10%
	Presentation	5%
Midterm Review	Presentation	10%
Final Project	Presentation	30%

Class Calendar

- Jan 18th** - Course Overview – What is Modern Housing?
- Jan 25th** - Lecture – Theme: Localism vs. International Style
- Feb 1st** - Presentations – Discussion posts due before class.
- Feb 8th** - Lecture – Theme: Large vs Small Scale Housing Projects
- Feb 15th** - Presentations – Discussion posts due before class.
- Feb 22nd** - Lecture – Theme: Production vs. Passion
- Feb 29th** - Presentations – Discussion posts due before class.

- Mar. 7th** - Lecture – Theme: The Curved Line vs. Right Angle.
- Mar. 21th** - Presentations – Discussion posts due before class.
- Mar. 28th** - Mid-Review
- April 4th** - Desk Crits
- April 11th** - Desk Crits
- April 18th** - Final Presentations
- April 25th** - Final Presentations

Recommended Reading

Cohen, Jean-Louis. *Casablanca: Colonial Myths and Architectural Ventures*. New York, NY: The Monacelli Press, 2002.

Corbusier, Le. *The City of Tomorrow and its Planning*. New York, NY: Dover Publications, 1929.

—. *Towards a New Architecture*. New York, NY: Dover Publications, 1923.

Curtis, William J. R. *Modern Architecture Since 1900*. London: Phaidon, 1987.

Hackmann, Oliver. *Floor Plan Manual Housing*. Basel, Switzerland: Birkhauser, 2011.

Henry-Russell Hitchcock, Philip Johnson. *The International Style*. New York, NY: W.W. Norton & Company, Inc., 1932.

Immerwahr, Daniel. *How to Hide and Empire: A History of the Greater United States*. New York, NY: Farrar, Straus, and Giroux, 2019.

Koolhaas, Rem. *Delirious New York*. New York: The Monacelli, 1994.

Leupen, Bernard. *Housing Design: A Manual*. Rotterdam, NL: NAI Publishers, 2011.

Sherwood, Roger. *Modern Housing Prototypes*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, 1978.

Smithson, Alison. *Team 10 Primer*. Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1968.

Case Studies

1. Unite d'Habitatcion, Marseilles, FR – Le Corbusier
2. Lafayette Park, Detroit, MI – Mies van der Rohe
3. Pruitt Igoe – Minoru Yamasaki
4. Habitat 67, Montreal, CAN - Moshe Safdie
5. Dymaxiom House - Buckminster Fuller
6. 8 House, Copenhagen, DK – Bjarke Ingels
7. Cube Houses, Rotterdam, NL - Piet Blom
8. Nakagin Capsule Tower – Kisho Kurokawa
9. Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village, NYC – SOM Architects
10. Casa Mila - Antonio Gaudi
11. Ricardo Bofill – La Muralla Roja
12. Robin Hood Gardens, London - Alison and Peter Smithson
13. Hansaviertel Tower – Jaap Bakema
14. Spangen Quarter, Rotterdam – Michiel Brinkman
15. Usonian Houses – Frank Lloyd Wright
16. Barbican Estate - Chamberlin, Powell and Bon.
17. The Interlace – OMA
18. Bosco Verticale – Stefano Boeri Architetti
19. Markethal – Rotterdam, NL – MVRDV
20. Trellick Tower, London – Erno Goldfinger

Statement on Academic Integrity

“Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing, or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu”

Kepler/Canvas:

Kepler is now part of Canvas. Work will be automatically archived upon uploading in the Assignments page of Canvas. Students should upload in pdf format at the file size used for presentation. Please login at: canvas.njit.edu/ Additional Instructions will be forthcoming.