



US/AH375 - EVOLUTION OF THE MODERN CITY: URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND ARCHITECTURE:

IES Abroad Berlin

DESCRIPTION:

Berlin is justifiably recognized as a city whose development has been profoundly affected by the principal political, economic, technological, and aesthetic trends of the last two hundred years, and as a laboratory of radical modern European architecture in the 20th century. In this course, we shall examine Berlin's complicated and often turbulent material evolution, taking advantage of our presence in the city to explore its urban landscape firsthand, and ask whether the forces that have forged Berlin's built identity are the same that have been at work in other cities, both European and non-European. Students in the course will visit many of the city's iconic architectural sites, and in class compare them to other key built environments in cities across the world. How have absolutist ideas, whether monarchic or totalitarian, found reflection in the city's architecture? How have periods of powerful economic growth, whether spurred by the Industrial Revolution or the "economic miracle" of the post-war *Wirtschaftswunder*, determined urban growth? How have the 20th century's primary competing ideological systems—democratic market capitalism and communism—altered the course of design and city development in Europe? How have specific aesthetic and/or social movements in Berlin (such as Garden City, modernism, postmodernism, Critical Reconstruction, or New Urbanism) arisen, and why have some lost favor? What role does the monument play in a topography so charged by history, much of it grim? Berlin offers a unique opportunity to examine these questions in a rare location where they have all played a vital role. The course seeks to address one key question in particular: What is the relationship between architecture and the evolution of the modern city? We will seek to find out how the former constitutes and provides signification for the latter, and how, as culture inevitably transforms the city, its structures either shed their previous meaning, or add new layers that in turn require new methods of decipherment.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: English

PREREQUISITES: none

ADDITIONAL COST: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- In-class lectures with visual content
- discussions
- site visits
- Moodle will be used to enhance students' learning experiences

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

Final grades will be based on:

- Participation - 10%
- Case Study - 15%
- Midterm Exam - 20%
- Research Paper - 30%
- Final Exam - 25%

Participation

Students must complete the assigned readings, participate in class discussions, and attend all field trips. The grading rubric for participation is available in the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle.

Case Study

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A short case study (ca. 1,500 words) on a topic (e.g. building, monument, urban development, aesthetic movement) will be submitted before the midterms week (at the end of week 5).

Midterm Exam

A written exam (90 minutes in class) consisting of a series of image comparisons and short essays will be given to test the students' understanding of the themes discussed during the first half of the semester. The exam will be given in the midterms week (week 6).

Research Paper

Students will identify and pursue a research topic for a paper (ca. 3,000 words) related to the course themes during the semester. The research topic will be agreed with the course instructor by the end of week 12 and will be submitted at the end of the finals week (week 14).

Final Exam

An exam (90 minutes in class) consisting of a series of image comparisons and short essays will be given to test the students' understanding of the themes discussed during the second half of the semester. The final exam is given in the finals week (week 14).

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be:

- Familiar with the historical framework of Berlin's modern architectural and urban evolution and with the theoretical concepts that have influenced that evolution
- Able to understand the varieties of architectural transformation in other cities, having used Berlin as a comparative model.
- Aware of the principal forces that drive contemporary urban design at various scales.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

For our up-to-date attendance and exam policy, see: <https://moodle.iesabroad.org/mod/page/view.php?id=1004317>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Academic Integrity Code. Assigned papers need to be properly and amply foot-noted where appropriate, with all sources attributed, including images. Poorly written and grammatically sloppy papers will be judged more severely. Suspicious papers may be checked with plagiarism-detecting software.

CONTENT:

Session	Content	Readings and Assignments
Session 1: Absolutism and the Origins of the Modern European City: Berlin (1815-1850) I:	Introduction Baroque Legacies—Classical Impulses	*Stanford Anderson, "Schinkel, Behrens, an Elemental Tectonic, and a New Classicism," in <i>Karl Friedrich Schinkel: Aspects of his Work</i> , Susan Peik, ed. (Stuttgart: Edition Axel Menges, 2001). P.116-124.
Session 2: The Master Planner in an Age of Revolution (1850-1914) I:	Industrial Revolution, the Berlin <i>Mietskaserne</i> , and the Expanding City	*Georg Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life" ("Die Großstadt und das Geistesleben," Dresden, 1903) in <i>The Sociology of Georg Simmel</i> , Kurt H. Wolff, trans. and ed. (New York, 1950). P.30-45. Feargus O'Sullivan, "How Berlin's <i>Mietskaserne</i> Tenements Became Coveted Urban Housing," Bloomberg <i>CityLab</i> , January 13, 2020.

Session 3: The Master Planner in an Age of Revolution (1850-1914) II:	“Haussmannization” in Paris	*Walter Benjamin, “Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century,” in <i>Reflections: Essays, Aphorisms, Autobiographical Writings</i> , Peter Demetz, ed. (New York: Schocken, 1986). P.146-162. Rupert Christiansen, “Marvels of the New Babylon,” in <i>City of Light: The Making of Modern Paris</i> (New York: Basic Books, 2018). P.63-87.
Session 4: The Master Planner in an Age of Revolution (1850-1914) III:	The Vienna Ring	*Karl E. Schorske, “The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism,” in <i>Fin-de-Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture</i> (New York: Vintage, 1981). P.25-62. *Adolf Loos, “Ornament and Crime,” originally published in 1908, in <i>Ornament and Crime: Selected Essays</i> (Riverside: Ariadne Press: 1998). P. 167-176. Philip Ursprung, “Working with ‘Ornament & Crime’,” in <i>Adolf Loos: Our Contemporary</i> , Yehuda E. Safran, ed., Columbia University Press, 2012. P.71-75.
Sessions 5-6 (Field Trip): Absolutism and the Origins of the Modern European City: Berlin (1815-1850) II:	Karl Friedrich Schinkel’s <i>Mitte</i> —Defining the “Parvenupolis” Site visit: Neue Wache; Schauspielhaus; Altes Museum; Friedrich-Werder-Kirche; Bauakademie.	*Julius Posener, “Schinkel’s English Diary”, in <i>From Schinkel to the Bauhaus</i> , The Architectural Association, Paper Number 5 (London: Lund Humphries, 1972). P.11-15. Jean-François Lejeune, “Schinkel’s <i>Entwürfe zu städtischen Wohngebäuden: Living All’Antica</i> in the New Bourgeois City,” in <i>The Classicist No.9</i> , Institute of Classical Architecture and Art, New York, 2001. P.7-25.
Session 7: The Birth of Modernism: Berlin (1914-1930) I:	The Weimar Avant-Garde	*Barbara Miller Lane, “The New Architecture and the Vision of a New Society,” in <i>Architecture and Politics in Germany 1918-1945</i> (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1968). P. 41-68. Sabine Hake, “Constructing the New Berlin,” in <i>Topographies of Class: Modern Architecture and Mass Society in Weimar Berlin</i> (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2008). P.104-112.
Session 8: Models of Totalizing Design: Berlin and New York City (1930-1945) I:	Hitler, Speer, and the Vision of “Germania”	*Albert Speer, “The Greatest Assignment,” in <i>Inside the Third Reich, Memoirs</i> (New York: Macmillan, 1970). P. 71-83. Gastón Gordillo, “Nazi Architecture as Affective Weapon,” in <i>The Funambulist Papers</i> #47, Paris, February 2014.

Sessions 9-10 (Field Trip): The Birth of Modernism: Berlin (1914-1930) II:	The <i>Siedlung</i> and the Refutation of 19th-Century Living Site visit: Bruno Taut, Hugo Häring <i>Onkel-Toms-Hütte Siedlung</i> (1926-32)	*Bruno Taut, "The Earth is a Good Dwelling" (1919) and "The New Dwelling: The Woman as Creator" (1924), in <i>The Weimar Republic Sourcebook</i> , Anton Kaes, Martin Jay, and Edward Dimendberg, eds., (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994). P.456-460; 461-462. Nike Bätzner, "Housing Projects of the 1920s: A Laboratory of Social Ideas and Formal Experiment," in <i>City of Architecture/Architecture of the City: Berlin 1990-2000</i> , Thorsten Scheer, J. P. Kleihues, Paul Kahlfeldt, eds. (Berlin: Nicolai, 2000). P. 149-160. Peter Blundell Jones, "Bruno Taut: Onkel Tom Housing, Berlin-Zehlendorf," in <i>Modern Architecture Through Case Studies</i> (Oxford: Architectural Press: 2002). P.85-98.
Session 11: Models of Totalizing Design: Berlin and New York City (1930-1945) II:	Skyscraper and Expressway—Building the Empire State	*Robert A. Caro, "Wait until the Evening," in <i>The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York</i> , (New York: Vintage, 1975). P.1-21. Phillip Lopate, "Rethinking Robert Moses," <i>Metropolis</i> , August/September 2002. Kenneth T. Jackson, "Robert Moses and the Rise of New York: The Power Broker in Perspective," in <i>Robert Moses and the Modern City: The Transformation of New York</i> , Hilary Ballon and Kenneth T Jackson, Eds., (New York: W.W. Norton, 2007). P. 67-72. <u>Case study due at the end of this week (Friday midnight)</u>
Midterm Exam		<u>Written exam (90 minutes in class)</u>
Session 12: Postwar Polemics: Berlin and Los Angeles (1945-1989) I:	Tabula rasa?—Planning in Ideological Opposition	*Josef Paul Kleihues, "From the Destruction to the Critical Reconstruction of the City: Urban Design in Berlin after 1945," in <i>Berlin-New York: Like and Unlike: Essays on Architecture and Art from 1870 to the Present</i> , Josef Paul Kleihues and Christina Rathgeber eds. (New York: Rizzoli, 1993). P. 395-407. Florian Urban, "Recovering Essence through Demolition: the 'Organic' City in Postwar West Berlin," <i>Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians</i> , Vol.63, No.3 University of California Press, September 2004.
Session 13: Postwar Polemics: Berlin and Los Angeles (1945-1989) III:	Dissolution and Defense in the City of Angels	*Reyner Banham, "Architecture III: The Exiles," from <i>Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies</i> (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971). P. 160-181. William Fulton, "The Collapse of the Growth Machine," in <i>The Reluctant Metropolis: The Politics of Urban Growth in Los Angeles</i> (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001). P.1-21.

Sessions 14-15: Postwar Polemics: Berlin and Los Angeles (1945-1989) II:	Socialist Utopias—Stalinalee Site visit: Housing and commercial buildings on the Karl-Marx-Allee	*Alan Colquhoun, "On Modern and Postmodern Space," in <i>Architecture, Criticism, Ideology</i> (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Architectural Press, 1985). P. 102-117. Eli Rubin, "Amnesiopolis: From <i>Mietskaserne</i> to <i>Wohnungsbauserie 70</i> in East Berlin's Northeast," <i>Central European History</i> , Vol. 47, Issue 2, Cambridge University Press, 2014.
Session 16: New World Order?—Bloat, Shrink, or Sprawl (1989 to the present) I:	"Critical Reconstruction" and other Controlling Strategies	*Hans Stimmann, introduction to <i>The City in Black: The Physionomy of Central Berlin 1940-2010</i> (Berlin: Nicolai, 2002). P. 17-26. Sebastian Schmalig, "Masked Nostalgia, Chic Regression: The 'Critical Reconstruction' of Berlin," <i>Harvard Design Magazine</i> #23, Fall 2005/Winter 2006. P. 24-30.
Session 17: New World Order?—Bloat, Shrink, or Sprawl (1989 to the present) II:	The Continental Cusp and the Expanding Periphery: Istanbul	*Le Corbusier, "Constantinople," in <i>Journey to the East (1911)</i> , edited and annotated by Ivan Zaknić, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1989). P.83-100. İlhan Tekeli, "Bridging Histories," in <i>Living in the Endless City</i> , Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic, eds. (London: Phaidon Press, 2011). P. 206-217.
Session 18: New World Order?—Bloat, Shrink, or Sprawl (1989 to the present) III:	Empire of Signs: Tokyo	*Maki Fumihiko, "The Japanese City and Inner Space" from <i>Japan Echo</i> , Vol. VI, No. 1, 1979 (transl. from "Nihon no toshi-kukan to <oku>" in <i>Sekai</i> , December 1978). P. 150-167. André Sorensen, "Introduction," in <i>The Making of Urban Japan: Cities and Planning from Edo to the Twenty-First Century</i> (Oxford: Nissan Institute/Routledge Japanese Studies Series, 2004). P.1-11.
Sessions 19-20 (Field Trip): Postwar Polemics: Berlin and Los Angeles (1945-1989) IV	From Center to Edge to Center—Kulturforum <u>Site-visit:</u> Mies van der Rohe, Neue Nationalgalerie (1965-68); Hans Scharoun, Philharmonie (1960-63), Staatsbibliothek (1967).	*Alan Balfour, "Kultur Forum," in <i>Berlin: The Politics of Order, 1737-1989</i> (New York: Rizzoli, 1990). P. 210-229. Peter Blundell Jones, "Ludwig Mies van der Rohe: Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin," in <i>Modern Architecture Through Case Studies</i> (Oxford: Architectural Press: 2002). P.203-215. <u>Research topics due at end of this week (Friday midnight)</u>
Session 21: New World Order?—Bloat, Shrink, or Sprawl (1989 to the present) IV	Millennial Challenges and the Design of the Future	*Manuel Castells, "The Reconstruction of Social Meaning in the Space of Flows," originally in <i>The Informational City</i> (1989), in <i>The City Reader</i> , Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, eds. (London: Routledge, 1996). P. 493-499. Richard Sennett, "Time's Shadows," in <i>Building and Dwelling: Ethics for the City</i> (London: Penguin Books, 2019). P. 267-291.

Session 22:	Final discussion and wrap-up, student presentations, exam preparation, paper consultation	
Final exam		<u>Written exam (90 minutes in class)</u> <u>Research paper due at the end of this week</u>

A Note on Required Readings: Readings marked with an asterisk (*) above and below are either classic or benchmark texts on the subject. Those without an asterisk are supplementary texts for deeper (or even occasionally revisionist) examinations of the subject.

REQUIRED READING

- *Anderson, Stanford: "Schinkel, Behrens, an Elemental Tectonic, and a New Classicism," in *Karl Friedrich Schinkel: Aspects of his Work*, Susan Peik, ed. (Stuttgart: Edition Axel Menges, 2001). P.116-124.
- *Balfour, Alan: „Kultur Forum“, in *Berlin: The Politics of Order, 1737-1989* (New York: Rizzoli, 1990). P.210-229.
- *Banham, Reyner: „Architecture III: The Exiles“, in *Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1971). P. 160-181.
- Bätzner, Nike: „Housing Projects of the 1920s: A Laboratory of Social Ideas and Formal Experiment,“ in *City of Architecture/Architecture of the City: Berlin 1990-2000*, Thorsten Scheer, J. P. Kleihues, Paul Kahlfeldt, eds. (Berlin: Nicolai, 2000). P. 149-160.
- *Benjamin, Walter: „Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century,“ in *Reflections: Essays, Aphorisms, Autobiographical Writings*, Peter Demetz, ed. (New York: Schocken, 1986). P. 146-162.
- Christiansen, Rupert: "Marvels of the New Babylon," in *City of Light: The Making of Modern Paris* (New York: Basic Books, 2018). P.63-87.
- *Manuel Castells, "The Reconstruction of Social Meaning in the Space of Flows," originally in *The Informational City* (1989), in *The City Reader*, Richard T. LeGates and Frederic Stout, eds. (London: Routledge, 1996). P. 493-499.
- *Colquhoun, Alan: "On Modern and Postmodern Space," in *Architecture, Criticism, Ideology* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton Architectural Press, 1985). P. 102-117.
- *Caro, Robert A.: „Wait until the Evening,“ in *The Power Broker: Robert Moses and the Fall of New York*, (New York: Vintage, 1975). P. 1-21.
- Fulton, William: "The Collapse of the Growth Machine," in *The Reluctant Metropolis: The Politics of Urban Growth in Los Angeles* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001).
- Gordillo, Gaston: "Nazi Architecture as Affective Weapon," in *The Funambulist Papers #47*, Paris, February 2014.
- Hake, Sabine: "Constructing the New Berlin," in *Topographies of Class: Modern Architecture and Mass Society in Weimar Berlin* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2008). P.104-112
- Jackson, Kenneth T.: "Robert Moses and the Rise of New York: The Power Broker in Perspective," in *Robert Moses and the Modern City: The Transformation of New York*, Hilary Ballon and Kenneth T. Jackson, Eds., (New York: W.W. Norton, 2007). P. 67-72.
- Jones, Peter Blundell: "Bruno Taut: Onkel Tom Housing, Berlin-Zehlendorf," in *Modern Architecture Through Case Studies* (Oxford: Architectural Press: 2002). P.85-98.
- Jones, Peter Blundell: "Ludwig Mies van der Rohe: Neue Nationalgalerie, Berlin," in *Modern Architecture Through Case Studies* (Oxford: Architectural Press: 2002). P.203-215.

- *Kleihues, Josef Paul: „From the Destruction to the Critical Reconstruction of the City: Urban Design in Berlin after 1945,” in *Berlin-New York: Like and Unlike: Essays on Architecture and Art from 1870 to the Present*, Josef Paul Kleihues and Christina Rathgeber eds. (New York: Rizzoli, 1993). P. 395-409.
- *Le Corbusier: “Constantinople,” in *Journey to the East (1911)*, edited and annotated by Ivan Zaknić, Cambridge: MIT Press, 1989). P.83-100.
- Lejeune, Jean-François: “Schinkel’s *Entwürfe zu städtischen Wohngebäuden*: Living *All’Antica* in the New Bourgeois City,” in *The Classicist* No.9, Institute of Classical Architecture and Art, New York, 2001. P.7-25.
- *Loos, Adolf: “Ornament and Crime,” originally published in 1908, in *Ornament and Crime: Selected Essays* (Riverside: Ariadne Press: 1998). P. 167-176.
- Lopate, Phillip: “Rethinking Robert Moses,” *Metropolis*, August/September 2002.
- *Maki, Fumihiko. “The Japanese City and Inner Space” from *Japan Echo*, Vol. VI, No. 1, 1979 (transl. from “Nihon no toshikukan to <oku>” in *Sekai*, December 1978). P. 150-167.
- *Miller Lane, Barbara: „The New Architecture and the Vision of a New Society,” in *Architecture and Politics in Germany 1918-1945* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1968). P. 41-68.
- O’Sullivan, Feargus: “How Berlin’s *Mietskaserne* Tenements Became Coveted Urban Housing,” *Bloomberg CityLab*, January 13, 2020.
- *Posener, Julius: „Schinkel’s English Diary,” in *From Schinkel to the Bauhaus*, The Architectural Association, Paper Number 5 (London: Lund Humphries, 1972). P. 11-15.
- Rubin, Eli: “Amnesiopolis: From Mietskaserne to Wohnungsbauserie 70 in East Berlin’s Northeast,” *Central European History*, Vol. 47, Issue 2, Cambridge University Press, 2014.
- Schmalting, Sebastian: “Masked Nostalgia, Chic Regression: The ‘Critical Reconstruction’ of Berlin,” *Harvard Design Magazine* #23, Fall 2005/Winter 2006. P. 24-30.
- *Schorske, Karl E.: “The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism,” in *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture* (New York: Vintage, 1981). P. 25-62.
- Sennett, Richard: “Time’s Shadows,” in *Building and Dwelling: Ethics for the City* (London: Penguin Books, 2019). P. 267-291.
- *Simmel, Georg: “The Metropolis and Mental Life,” (“Die Großstadt und das Geistesleben,” Dresden, 1903) in *The Sociology of Georg Simmel*, Kurt H. Wolff, trans. and ed. (New York, 1950). P.39-45
- Sorensen, André: “Introduction,” in *The Making of Urban Japan: Cities and Planning from Edo to the Twenty-First Century* (Oxford: Nissan Institute/Routledge Japanese Studies Series, 2004). P.1-11.
- *Speer, Albert: „The Greatest Assignment,” in *Inside the Third Reich, Memoirs* (New York: Macmillan, 1970).P.71-83.
- *Stimmann, Hans: Introduction to *The City in Black: The Physionomy of Central Berlin 1940-2010* (Berlin: Nicolai, 2002). P. 17-26.
- *Taut, Bruno: “The Earth is a Good Dwelling” (1919) and “The New Dwelling: The Woman as Creator” (1924), in *The Weimar Republic Sourcebook*, Anton Kaes, Martin Jay, and Edward Dimendberg, eds., (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994). P.456-460; 461-462.
- Tekeli, Ilhan: „Bridging Histories,” in *Living in the Endless City*, Ricky Burdett and Deyan Sudjic, eds. (London: Phaidon Press, 2011). P. 206-217.
- Urban, Florian: “Recovering Essence through Demolition: the ‘Organic’ City in Postwar West Berlin,” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol.63, No.3 University of California Press, September 2004.
- Ursprung, Philip: “Working with ‘Ornament & Crime’,” in *Adolf Loos: Our Contemporary*, Yehuda E. Safran, ed., Columbia University Press, 2012. P.71-75.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED READING

Ladd, Brian: *The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1997).

RECOMMENDED READING

In addition to the required reading above (in the reader and Moodle), the following texts, among others, can be found in the IES library:

- Balfour, Alan: *Berlin: The Politics of Order, 1737-1989* (New York: Rizzoli, 1990).
- Clay Large, David: *Berlin* (New York: Basic Books, 2000).
- Gay, Peter: *Weimar Culture: The Outsider as Insider* (New York: Harper and Row, 1968).
- Mumford, Lewis: *The City in History* (New York: Harcourt Brace, 1961).
- Rossi, Aldo: *The Architecture of the City* (Cambridge: The MIT Press, 1985).
- Rykwert, Joseph: *The Seduction of Place: The City in the Twenty-First Century* (New York: Pantheon, 2000).

FIELD TRIPS

- Karl Friedrich Schinkel's Mitte and Museum Island: 19th-century city architecture in Berlin (Sessions 5+6)
- Waldsiedlung Zehlendorf (Onkel-Toms-Hütte, Bruno Taut et al.): example of 1920s housing projects in Germany, social ideas and formal experiment (Sessions 9+10)
- Karl-Marx-Allee (former Stalinallee): „Socialist Utopias“ in postwar (East) Berlin (Sessions 14+15)
- Kulturforum: public space and modern architecture in postwar (West) Berlin (Sessions 19+20)

(01/2023)