AR/US 353 ARCHITECTURE, URBAN PLANNING, AND DEVELOPMENT IN MODERN TOKYO
IES Abroad Tokyo

DESCRIPTION:
This course provides an introductory overview of Tokyo's architectural history and explores some of the recent questions that architects, urban planners, and scholars have raised to understand its phenomenon. To this end, the course covers the development of building technologies, urban planning, and architectural thinking from the Meiji period to the present, surveys a number of important architectural projects and contemporary topics, and conducts fieldworks that encourage students observe, probe, and produce a set of portfolio documenting their analyses.

CREDITS: 3

CONTACT HOURS: 45

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION: English

PREREQUISITES: None

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:
- Lectures
- Class discussion
- Course-related trips
- Student presentations

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:
Class participation, presentation, weekly response papers - 40%
Course-related trip reports - 10%
Midterm paper - 15%
Final research project - 30%

LEARNING OUTCOMES:
By the end of the course students will be able to:
- Look at a building and evaluate the significance of its design intents and urban context
- Analyze actual buildings and articulate what those buildings say about Japanese societies and the urban fabric of Tokyo
- Speak skillfully through required in-class presentations
- Demonstrate the ability to use primary sources (i.e., the built environment) to construct an intelligent argument

ATTENDANCE POLICY: Regular class attendance is considered mandatory, according to the Academic Policy Guidelines. Following the attendance policy of IES Abroad Tokyo, attendance of all classes is required including course-related excursions. The three-hour format for classes makes missing a single class equivalent to missing a full week during a regular semester. Unexcused absences will therefore result in significant grade penalties. The first unexcused absence will result in a penalty of one-third of a letter grade from students' final grades; additional unexcused absences will result in a penalty of one letter grade for each additional absence. That is, one missed class turns an A into an A-, two missed classes turns it into a B-, three turns it into a C-, and so on. An absence is considered "excused" only if it is unavoidable due to documented illness or other health conditions, or for other reasons approved by the instructor in advance. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Assignments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td>Revisiting Tokyo 1: Meiji Beginnings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Course-related trip: Identifying “Styles” at Ueno Park)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>We will survey the museums at Ueno Park, a repository of architectural works that encompass some of the major turning points in Tokyo's modern history. The projects we will examine include Watanabe's (originally Conder's) Tokyo National Museum, Katayama's Hyokeikan, and Le Corbusier's National Museum of Western Art, his only existing work in East Asia.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Readings:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended Readings:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>What is Japanese Architecture?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>What is Japanese architecture? What does it mean for an architect to embrace or reject his/her Japanese identity today? In this session, we will go over the “traditional” elements of Japanese architecture and examine some of the recent narratives over “Japaneseness,” with a particular focus on Arata Isozaki.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required Readings:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommended Readings:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Weatherhill, 1990.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Week 5 | **Revisiting Tokyo 2: Japanese Modernism and the Modern Life in Prewar Tokyo**  
In this session, we will go over major turning points in the development of prewar Japanese architecture, including modernism, Bunri-ha, and the imperial crown style. In addition, we will look at Ginza and Asakusa to understand the development of sakariba (roughly translated as “amusement quarters”) and the development of a new mass culture in prewar Tokyo. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended Readings:</strong></td>
<td>• Selections from “Tokyo and the Beginnings of Modernism” (pp. 90-106) and “Rationalism and Lifestyle” (p.107-163) in Stewart.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Week 6** | **Revisiting Tokyo 2, continued: Japanese Domesticity**  
(Course-related trip: Surveying Japanese Dwellings at Edo-Tokyo Open Air Museum)  
We will examine a series of actual residential works of the prewar period such as that of Horiguchi and Maekawa side by side with preserved dwellings from earlier times in Japanese history. On-site exercise will direct the eyes to the specific material, form, tectonics, and design intentions that characterize each building. |
| **Week 7** | **Midterm Student Presentations** |
**Week 8**

**Revisiting Tokyo 3: Tange, the Metabolist Movement, & Utopian Visions, 1950&1960s**

This session will survey the works and arguments made by Tange and the Metabolist Group as a response to the structural changes Tokyo faced during the earlier postwar years. Discussion will focus on the World Design Conference (1960), the proposals made by Kikutake, Kurokawa, Otaka, and Maki, and the Osaka Expo (1970).

**Required Readings:**
- “Ins and Outs of Postwar Urban Rhetoric” (pp.164-185) and “Technology, Metaphor, and the Resurgence of Japanese Space” (pp.219-236) in Stewart.

**Recommended Readings:**

**Week 9**

**Contemporary Tokyo I: Urban Restructuring and Mega Projects**

(Course-related trip: Experiencing Mega Scale at Tokyo Bay Waterfront (Shinonome, Toyosu, Tsukishima))

The course-related trip will place in context some of the major postwar urban restructuring, reclamation, and development schemes, built and unbuilt, in the postwar years: Tange’s 1960 Plan for Tokyo, Tokyo Teleport Town, Yokohama Minato Mirai 21 (MM21), and private sector projects as Roppongi Hills.

**Required Readings:**

**Recommended Readings:**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Contemporary Tokyo II: Personapolis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>How does today's consumption culture and the “cult” of individual taste in Tokyo manifest itself in the built form? This session will examine the phenomenon of Akihabara and the interplay between popular culture and architecture in modern Tokyo.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Readings:**

**Recommended Readings:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Future Tokyo: Aging and Urban Shrinking</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Far from the modernist vision of growth and progress, cities today around the world are now “shrinking” due to political and demographic changes. This week's session will take up the case of Japan by looking at the two unique characteristics of its “shrinkage”: aging and post-suburb migration. We will then cover some of the major debates that have surfaced over the fate of the shrinking city, as well as the design solutions proposed by Japanese architects today.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required Readings:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 12</th>
<th>Final Student Presentation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For the final, you will pick your best discovery, expand on it, and present your first-hand analysis to class. The presentation should be 10 minutes long and must reference academic sources in the reading list (required and/or recommended), the books at the IES Abroad Tokyo library, the English section of your local library, etc. Wikipedia and other unreliable Internet sources are not allowed. A PowerPoint or slideshow presentation is preferred, but a video/audio/pin-up/installation is also acceptable.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:

- Identifying “Styles” at Ueno Park
- Surveying Japanese Dwellings at Edo-Tokyo Open Air Museum
- Experiencing Mega Scale at Tokyo Bay Waterfront (Shinonome, Toyosu, Tsukishima)

REQUIRED READINGS:

Please complete all weekly readings and come to class prepared for discussion. Note: It is impossible to complete your assignments and on-site exercises without having reflected on them in advance!

- Selections from “Tokyo and the Beginnings of Modernism” (pp. 90-106) and “Rationalism and Lifestyle” (p.107-163) in Stewart.
- “Ins and Outs of Postwar Urban Rhetoric” (pp.164-185) and “Technology, Metaphor, and the Resurgence of Japanese Space” (pp.219-236) in Stewart.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

• “Ins and Outs of Postwar Urban Rhetoric” (pp.164-185) and “Technology, Metaphor, and the Resurgence of Japanese Space” (pp.219-236) in Stewart.