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course title: Early American Architecture
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ARH 351/551: Early American Architecture

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Office Hours: 2 to 4 on Tuesdays

Scope: This class will examine American architecture from the seventeenth century into the early nineteenth century. The class will cover a wide range of buildings, from institutional, public buildings to kitchen buildings and slave quarters. Rather than a traditional chronological narrative woven along stylistic trends, the course will concentrate on major themes that cut across geographies and ethnicities. Through a series of readings, lectures, and class fieldwork, students will also be introduced to the interpretive methods that characterize the study of early America. Themes covered in this survey include the adaptation of European building patterns to the new world, the materials and technology of traditional building, house planning, regionalism, religion, acculturation, emergent professionalism, and the design process. As a period with few architects in the modern sense of the term, our conversations will focus more on the social and cultural implications of the materials, forms, and finishes employed by the traditional cultures that constituted the early American landscape. The class will conclude with lectures that consider the architectural formation of American national identity. Although we will become familiar with the well-known examples of early American architecture, this class is designed to introduce the student to the questions and interpretive methods that have dominated the field over the last few decades.

Field Trip: There will be a half-day Saturday field trip to the Frontier Culture Museum near Staunton, Virginia. This museum has a collection of traditional Scotch-Irish, English, and German farmsteads and a nineteenth-century Virginia farmstead. It presents the unique opportunity to visit buildings from the “Old” and “New” worlds in the same day. There will be a nominal admission fee for this trip. Students are required to attend.

351 Requirements: Students in this class are expected to complete all the readings and attend all the lectures. Do not assume that lectures and readings will overlap. You will need to depend on both to succeed in the class. Students are expected to complete four A/S/R statements, write four short in-class essays, and write a research paper.

751 Requirements: In addition to the above, 551 students are expected to read four books, one for each unit, and prepare a two-page review of the book.

Class Requirements:	351	751
4 A/S/R statements:	10% each*	n/a
4 In-class Essays:	10% each*	5% each
4 Book Reviews:	n/a	10% each
Research Paper:	30%	40%

* the lowest grade from the A/S/R statements or the In-Class essays is dropped

Required Text:

Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture, eds. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Georgia, 1986)
Upton, *America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups the Built America*, (National Trust, 1986)
Brillig Books Reader for ARH 351

Recommended Texts:

Donna Rilling, *Making Houses, Crafting Capitalism: Builders in Philadelphia, 1790-1850* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2000)
Dell Upton, *Holy Things and Profane: Anglican Parish Churches in Colonial Virginia* (1986)
Gretchen Bugglen, *Temples of Grace: The Material Transformation of Connecticut's Churches, 1780-1840* (New England, 2002)
Henry Glassie, *Vernacular Architecture* (Indiana, 2000)
James Deetz, *In Small Things Forgotten* (Doubleday, 1977; reprint 1996)

ASSESSMENT/SUMMARY/REVIEW STATEMENTS:

Students will notice that the semester is broken into four units: Architecture and Ethnicity; Politics and Religion; Houses and Social Order; and Revolutionary Changes. The student is to write for each unit an Assessment/Summary/Review statement (hereafter A/S/R). The A/S/Rs are 500-word statements that assess, summarize and/or review the readings and lectures for that unit. Each A/S/R should address one or more of the following questions:

- Are there common interpretive *themes* (not *subjects*) that seem to run through the literature of this unit?
- Do the various authors make common assumptions or ask similar questions of the buildings they study?
- Where is there consensus among the authors?
- Are any authors at odds with one another?

Each A/S/R is to be narrative, by which I mean it is a cohesive and well-written statement broken into paragraphs and unburdened with the restatement of the questions or subject headings. These statements are a test of the student's ability to distill essential information, assess the quality of a scholarly argument, and recognize that scholarly articles are in dialogue with one another. The statements are to be NO MORE than 500 words. Part of your charge is to distill the central point(s) and communicate it clearly and concisely. The best A/S/R statements will be honed down to 500 words from much longer. If you turn in your first draft, do not expect to do well on the A/S/R. **These are to be written independently and submitted via email before class on the due-date. They will not be accepted late.**

To prepare for the A/S/R, I recommend that each student write a one-paragraph assessment of each article and lecture. Make this a habit; it will serve you well as you prepare the 4 A/S/Rs and as you review for the in-class essays. The assessment should summarize the essential factual information and, more importantly, should summarize the

article or lecture's central argument. This is an exercise that is usefully done in groups and students are free to do so if they wish. In completing this exercise, students learn to distill essential information and to write concisely.

IN-CLASS ESSAYS:

Students will complete four short (30 minute) in-class essays. Each of the four units will end with one of these essays. For the essays, students will be shown two buildings that they have never seen before. Selecting **ONLY ONE OF THE TWO**, students will be asked to discuss that building in two ways. First, the student should make their best effort to situate the building in the context of the subjects covered in that unit. Does it relate to some group of buildings discussed in the lectures and/or readings? What information in the image leads you to make the associations that you do? The best answers will relate the building on the screen to specific buildings covered in the lectures or readings. In the second portion of the essay, the student will be expected to discuss the building in light of one or more of the class readings: Who might have discussed this building? What would they have said about it?

RESEARCH PAPER:

A complete discussion of the format and expectations for the research paper appear in a separate document. **Final Papers Due by scheduled final exam time: Wed , Dec 12 at 2:00.**

751 BOOK REVIEWS:

Those students enrolled in 551 will also read one book for each unit and produce a scholarly review of that book. These reviews will not only summarize the content, but will focus on distilling the central arguments and contributions of the book. Reviews might also comment on the book in light of the other readings assigned for that unit. Each review must also address the book's weakest point(s). Students may wish to consult the book reviews found in JSAH or the Vernacular Architecture Newsletter for examples of scholarly book reviews.

Weekly Schedule

* can be found on ARH 351 Toolkit
+ on reserve shelf in Kimball Library
in the reader

UNIT 1: ARCHITECTURE AND ETHNICITY

ARH 751 book review options:

James Deetz, *In Small Things Forgotten*
Henry Glassie, *Vernacular Architecture*

Week 1: Introduction

Aug 29: Introduction and Native American prehistory

Week 2: English Traditions

Cary Carson, et. al. "Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies" *Winterthur Portfolio* 16 no. 2/3(summer/autumn1981): 135-96*#

Robert Blair St. George, "'Set Thine House in Order:' the Domestication of the Yeomanry in Seventeenth-Century New England," in *Common Places*, 336-364+

Abbott Lowell Cummings, "Inside the Massachusetts House," in *Common Places*, 219-239.+

Upton, *America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups the Built America*, 16-41, 55-61+

Sept 3: The Seventeenth-Century South

Sept 5: Seventeenth-Century New England

Week 3: German and Dutch Traditions

Weaver, "The Pennsylvania German House," *Winterthur Portfolio*, 21 (1986): 234-264*#

Jeroen van den Hurk, "The Architecture of New Netherland Revisited," in *Building Environments: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture X* (Tennessee), 133-152.+#

Upton, *America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups the Built America*, 68-74, 48-54+

Sept 10: Pennsylvania Germans

Sept 12: Dutch Architecture in the Americas

Week 4: French and Spanish Traditions

Jay D. Edwards, "Cultural Identifications in Architecture: the Case of the New Orleans Townhouse," *Traditional dwellings and Settlements Review* 5 (Fall 1993): 16-32*#

Charles Peterson, *Colonial St. Louis: Building a Creole Capital* (Tucson: Patrice Press, 1993), 1-31 and 86-147.+

Upton, *America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups the Built America*, 62-67, 86-99+

Sept 17: French Architecture

Sept 19: Spanish Architecture

Sept 22: Saturday Field Trip to the **Frontier Culture Museum**

Week 5: African American Traditions

Leland Ferguson, *Uncommon Ground: Archaeology and Early African America, 1650-1800* (Washington DC: Smithsonian, 1992), 63-81+*

John Michael Vlach, "The Shotgun House: An African Architectural Legacy," In *Common Places: readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, 58-78.+

Upton, *America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups the Built America*, 43-47+

Sept 24: The African Architectural Experience

Phase I of the research paper is due in class

Sept 26: The African-American Architectural Experience

UNIT 2: RELIGION AND POLITICS

ARH 751 Book review options:

Dell Upton, *Holy Things and Profane*

Gretchen Bugglen, *Temples of Grace*

Carl Lounsbury, *The Courthouses of Early Virginia*

Week 6: The Established Church

Marc Treib, "An Architectural Footprint on the Northern Frontier," in *Sanctuaries of Spanish New Mexico* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), 2-77+

Louis P. Nelson, "Sensing the Sacred: Anglican Material Religion in Colonial South Carolina," *Winterthur Portfolio* (forthcoming)

Oct 1: Catholicism

Unit 1 A/S/R due before class; In-class essay

Oct 3: Anglicanism

Week 7: Church and State

Carl Lounsbury, "The Structure of Justice: The Courthouses of Colonial Virginia." *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture III* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1989): 214-26+*#

Kevin Sweeney, "Meetinghouses, Town Houses, and Churches: Changing Perceptions of Sacred and Secular Space in Southern New England, 1720-1850" in *Winterthur Portfolio* 28 (Spring 1993): 59-93*#

Oct 8: NO CLASS: Fall Break

Oct 10: Statehouse/Courthouse

Week 8: Orthodoxy and Dissent

Catherine C. Lavoie, "Quaker Beliefs and Practices and the Eighteenth-Century Development of the Friends Meetinghouse in the Delaware Valley," in *Quaker Aesthetics: Reflections on a Quaker Ethic in American Design and Consumption* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003), 156-87+*#

Robert Blair St. George, Chapter 2 "Embodied Spaces" in *Conversing by Signs: The Poetics of Implication in Colonial New England Culture* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 116-45, 173-95+

Oct 15: Puritans and Congregationalists

Oct 17: Quakers and the Ephrata Cloisters

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UNIT 3: HOUSES AND SOCIAL ORDER

ARH 751 book review options:

Bernard Herman, *Townhouse*

John Crowley, *The Invention of Comfort*

Richard Bushman, *The Refinement of America*

Week 9: Georgianization and Landscapes of Power

Kevin Sweeney, "Mansion People: Kinship, Class and Architecture in Western Massachusetts in the Mid-eighteenth Century" *Winterthur Portfolio* 19 (1984): 231-55*#

Dell Upton, "White and Black Landscapes in Eighteenth-Century Virginia" *Places* 2, no. 2 (1985): 59-72. Reprinted in *Material Life in America, 1600-1860* ed. Robert Blair St. George (Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1988): 357-370+*#

Mark Leone, "Interpreting Ideology in Historical Archaeology: Using the Rules of Perspective in the William Paca Garden in Annapolis, MD" in Miller and Tilley, eds., *Ideology, Power, and Prehistory* (Cambridge), 25-35+*

Bernard Herman, "Embedded Landscapes in the Charleston Single House, 1780-1820" in *Exploring Everyday Landscapes: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture VII* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee, 1997): 41-57+*#

Oct 22: Georgianization

Unit 2 A/S/R due before class; In-class essay

Oct 24: Landscapes of Power

Week 10: Architecture and Cultural Change: Diffusion, Creolization and Acculturation

Edward Chappell, "Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement," in *Common Places*, 27-57+

Jay Edwards, "The Origins of Creole Architecture," *Winterthur Portfolio* 29 (Summer/Autumn 1994): 155-189*

Charles W. Joyner, *Down by the Riverside: a South Carolina Slave Community*, (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984): 203-09, 235-40+
Kniffen, "Folk Housing: Key to Diffusion," in *Common Places*, 3-26+

Oct 29: Acculturation: Germans and the Cherokee

Oct 31: Creolization: Spanish, French, African

Week 11: Climate, Comfort, and the Caribbean

John E. Crowley, "Inventing Comfort: The Piazza" in *American Material Culture: The Shape of the Field*, Ann Smart Martin and J. Richie Garrison, eds. (University of Tennessee): 277-315+*#

William Chapman, "Irreconcilable Differences: Urban Residences in the Danish West Indies, 1700-1900," *Winterthur Portfolio* 30 (Summer-Autumn 1995):129-172*#

Roger Leech, "Impermanent Architecture in the English Colonies of the Eastern Caribbean," in *Building Environments: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture X* (Tennessee), 153-168.+

Michael Mulcahey, "Building for Disaster," in *Hurricanes and Society*#

Nov 5: Architecture of the "Greater Caribbean" I

Nov 7: Architecture of the "Greater Caribbean" II

UNIT 4: REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES

ARH 751 book review options:

Donna Rilling, *Making Houses, Crafting Capitalism*

Richie Garrison, *Two Carpenters: Architecture and Building in Early New England*

Maurie McInnis, *The Politics of Taste*

Week 12: Builders and Architects

Hubka, "Just Plain Folks Designing: Vernacular Designers and the Generation of Form," in *Common Places*, 426-432+

Bishir, "Good and Sufficient Language for Building" *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture IV* (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1991): 44-53+*#

Carl Lounsbury, "An Elegant and Commodious Building: William Buckland and Prince William County Courthouse" *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* (September, 1987), 228-240*#

Donna Rilling, chapter 1, "Men on the Make" in *Making Houses, Crafting Capitalism: Builders in Philadelphia, 1790-1850* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2000), 1-39+*

J. Meredith Neil, "The Precarious Professionalism of Latrobe," *AIA Journal* (May 1970): 67-71*#

Nov 12: Traditional Building Practice and Industrialization
Unit 3 A/S/R due before class; In-class essay

Nov 14: The Professional Architect

Phase II: Rough draft due to first reader in class; first reader to deliver draft to second reader by Nov 16 at 5:00.

Week 13: The Refinement of America

Gretchen Buggeln, "Elegance and Sensibility in the Calvinist Tradition: The First Congregational Church of Hartford, Conn." in *Seeing Beyond the Word: Visual Arts and the Calvinist Tradition* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999), 429-452+*#

Mark R. Wenger, "The Dining Room in Early Virginia," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture III* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1989): 149-59+*#

Dell Upton, "Lancasterian Schools, Republican Citizenship, and the Spatial Imagination in Early Nineteenth-Century America," *JSAH* 55 (Sept 1996): 238-253*#

Nov 19: The Refinement of America

Phase II: Second reader to deliver rough draft to author in class

Nov 21: NO CLASS: Thanksgiving Break

Week 14: The Farm and the City

Bernie Herman, "Slave and Servant Housing in Charleston, 1770-1820"
Historical Archaeology 33 (1999): 88-101*#

Dell Upton, "Another City: The Urban Cultural Landscape in the Early Republic" in Hutchins, ed. *Everyday Life in the Early Republic* (Winterthur, 1989): 61-117+*#

Damie Stillman, "City Living, Federal Style" in Hutchins, ed. *Everyday Life in the Early Republic* (Winterthur, 1989): 137-174+

John Michael Vlatch, "Snug Li'l House with Flue and Oven': Nineteenth-Century Reforms in Plantation Slave Housing," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture V* (Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1995): 118-129+*#

Nov 26: Neoclassicism in America

Nov 28: The Transformation of the Farm

Dec 3: The Rise of the City

Week 15

Dec 5: Class evaluations

Unit 4 A/S/R due before class; In-class essay

Dec 12: Final Papers Due by scheduled final exam time: Wed , Dec 12 at 2:00

Books on Reserve Shelf:

Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture III (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1989)

Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture IV (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1991)

Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture V Cromley and Hudgins, eds., (Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 1995)

Exploring Everyday Landscapes: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture VII McMurry and Adams, eds. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee, 1997)

Constructing Image, Identity and Place: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture IX Hoagland, Alison K. and Kenneth A. Breisch, eds. (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2003)

Buggeln, Gretchen. *Temples of Grace: The Material Transformation of Connecticut's Churches, 1780-1840* (New England, 2002)

Deetz, James. *In Small Things Forgotten* (Doubleday, 1977; reprint 1996)

Finney, Paul Corby. *Seeing Beyond the Word: Visual Arts and the Calvinist Tradition* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999)

Glassie, Henry. *Vernacular Architecture* (Indiana, 2000)

Greene, Jack. *Pursuits of Happiness: The Social Development of Early Modern British Colonies and the Formation of American Culture* (North Carolina, 1988)

Hutchins, Catherine ed. *Everyday Life in the Early Republic* (Winterthur, 1989)

Joseph, Joe and Martha Zierden, eds., *Another's Country: Archaeological and Historical Perspectives on Cultural Interactions in the Southern Colonies* (Alabama, 2002)

Joyner, Charles W. *Down by the Riverside: a South Carolina Slave Community*, (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1984)

Kornwolf, James. *Architecture and Town Planning in Colonial North America*, 3 vols. (Johns Hopkins, 2002)

Lapsansky, Emma Jones and Anne A. Verplanck, eds. *Quaker Aesthetics: Reflections on a Quaker Ethic in American Design and Consumption* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2003)

Lounsbury, Carl. *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape* (Oxford, 1994)

Martin, Ann Smart and J. Richie Garrison, eds, *American Material Culture: The Shape of the Field.*, (University of Tennessee)

Miller and Tilley, eds., *Ideology, Power, and Prehistory* (Cambridge)

Noble, Allan, ed. *To Build in a New Land: Ethnic Landscapes in North America* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992)

- Rilling, Donna. *Making Houses, Crafting Capitalism: Builders in Philadelphia, 1790-1850* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, 2000)
- St. George, Robert Blair, ed. *Material Life in America, 1600-1860* (Northeastern, 1988)
- St. George, Robert Blair. *Conversing by Signs: The Poetics of Implication in Colonial New England Culture* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1998)
- Theresa Singleton, ed., *The Archaeology of Slavery and Plantation Life* (Academic Press, 1985)
- Treib, Marc. *Sanctuaries of Spanish New Mexico* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993)
- Upton, Dell. *America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups that Built America*, (National Trust, 1986)
- Upton, Dell. *Holy Things and Profane: Anglican Parish Churches in Colonial Virginia* (1986)
- Upton, Dell and John Michael Vlach, eds. *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, (Georgia, 1986)