

ARCHITECTURE LAB www.image-web.org/CSU2009/	2009-2010 ARC 401 / 403 / 405A
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SYLLABUS

professors: **Gianni Pettena (GP)**, pettena@giannipettena.it
Marco Brizzi (MB), marco.brizzi@image-web.org
Paola Giaconia (PG), paola.giaconia@image-web.org
Achille Michelizzi (AM), achille@michelizziarchitettura.com

special guest: **Cristiano Toraldo di Francia (CTF)**

schedule

Monday: 4.30pm-9.30pm

Wednesday: 9am-1pm; 4.00pm-9.00pm

course objective

The ARCHITECTURE LAB fosters an interdisciplinary approach to research in architecture and aims at promoting critical thinking on the disciplines and activities that shape our environment.

A combination of informative lectures by the instructors, fieldtrips and personal research and readings will support the development of studio projects that will exhibit a creative approach, conceptual precision and aesthetic sophistication.

course description

The Spring Semester for the ARCHITECTURE LAB at CSU Florence takes advantage of the students' design experiences in the Fall Semester, when they dealt with the urban structure of the city of Florence, its stratifications, its history, its urban complexity. The students will be led to further ripen their point of view and their abilities, and will therefore be asked to develop a much larger design assignment which involves an urban area located close to the railway station in Florence: a quite contradictory and complex context to work in.

The students will be asked to develop their project in small groups, and -during a one-week workshop at the end of the semester (tentative)- will be working side by side with students from the School of Architecture of the University in Florence. They will conclude their assignment in mid-May during the above-mentioned workshop, thanks to the collaboration of prof. Alberto Breschi, from the local faculty, and of the SESV gallery which will offer its premises in order to make it possible for the students to meet and finally presents their works in the form of an exhibition which will be open to both schools and to the general public.

Lectures by the professors and by invited guests, as well as readings on various themes related to the project topics, will be addressed to generate a common cultural ground and reinforce the multidisciplinary approach of this course. Also, a lecture series organized by Kent State University in Florence will greatly enrich the students' knowledge on the debate in contemporary architecture.

assignments

In the Spring Semester students will work on the area of the "Squadra di Rialzo delle Ferrovie" in Florence (viale Redi), for which they are asked to find proper forms of use and occupation. A one-week long workshop (tentative) will be held the second week of May during which CSU students will work alongside UniFi students. The two groups of students will finalize their designs in close collaboration, hosted by the SESV gallery where they will also present an exhibition of their works at the end of the week.

events

Kent State University's spring lecture series will have the following calendar: Spartaco Paris (www.savb.eu, Rome) on Tuesday March 2nd; Dante Donegani (Domus Academy, Milan) on Tuesday March 9th; Walter Nicolino (www.carloratti.com) on Tuesday March 23rd; Martin Rein-Cano (www.topotek1.de, Berlin) on Tuesday April 20th; Alberto Cecchetto (www.studiocecchetto.com, Venice) on Tuesday April 27th.

attendance policy

Class meets on Mondays, 3.30-8.30pm, and on Wednesdays, 9am-1 pm and 4.00-9.00pm. Attendance to all CSU architecture courses is mandatory. Two unexcused absences are allowed during the semester but more than two unexcused absences will lower your grade as follows (excused absences will be accepted for serious medical reasons or emergencies): **3** unexcused absences, lowers one letter grade; **4** unexcused absences, lowers two letter grades; **5** unexcused absences, lowers 3 letter grades. **More than five unexcused absences will result in failure of the course.**

In order not to disrupt the class, punctuality is required. Students are expected to be in class at the beginning of the class hour; any delay exceeding 30 minutes will be considered an absence.

Dates of mid-term and final crits **can not** be changed for individual travel plans or personal needs. Students should take note of the dates and hours of the midterm and final crits and plan their trips after the last crit. It is important to inform friends and relatives about these crit dates so that no tickets are purchased for you that will interfere with these crit dates. Missing the midterm or the final crit will mean failure of the course.

During the academic year photocopies and other material may be distributed in class by the instructors. Students who were not in class are responsible for getting the material from their classmates and making their own photocopies.

grading policy

Evaluation is based on daily work in studio, presentations, and quality and completeness of assignments. Grades are given by the instructors.

calendar

Feb 25	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	Presentation of assignment #4 Meeting with prof. Alberto Breschi and his students (starting at 2.30pm)	GP+MB+PG+AM
Mar 1	Monday	AM's lecture	AM
Mar 3	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits special lecture by Gaetano Di Benedetto (architect in charge of the Urban Planning Department of the Florence Municipality until 2008)	MB
Mar 8	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 15	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 17	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	MB's lecture PG's lecture	MB GP+PG
Mar 22	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 24	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits GP's lecture	MB PG
Mar 29	Monday	desk crits	AM
Mar 29 – Mar 31		one-week workshop (tentative) with UniFi students	
Mar 31	Wednesday	MID-TERM CRITS	GP+MB+PG+AM

----- **SPRING BREAK** -----

Apr 12	Monday	desk crits	AM
Apr 14	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Apr 19	Monday	desk crits	AM
Apr 21	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
Apr 26	Monday	desk crits	AM
Apr 28	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
May 3	Monday	desk crits	AM
May 5	Wednesday am Wednesday pm	desk crits desk crits	MB PG
May 10	Monday	SESV workshop with UniFi students	GP+MB+PG+AM
May 11	Tuesday	SESV workshop with UniFi students	GP+MB+PG+AM
May 12	Wednesday pm	final show with UniFi students	GP+MB+PG+AM
May 13	Thursday	FINAL CRITS	GP+MB+PG+AM