

Sacred Space & Cultural Studies
studio
Bermudez / Crosbie VAS

PHASE ONE STUDIO PREPARATION

STARTS Monday 31 August
DUE Friday 11 September at 2:15PM (oral and graphic presentation)

"In a city, grace just falls all over the place."
Sara Miles, *City of God: Faith in the Streets*

OBJECTIVE This studio is an invitation to you to learn about the shifting landscape of spirituality taking place in the U.S. and abroad, and to reflect on what it means for the future of sacred space. The first part of the studio will introduce you to statistical data on people's changing attitudes toward organized religion, how these changes are expressed in personal ideas concerning spirituality, and how these social shifts are having an affect on the creation of sacred space. Bound up within these cultural developments are two other factors: the connection between spirituality and sustainability (seeing the stewardship of the earth as an element of belief, as recently expressed by Pope Francis in his papal encyclical); and the concentration of human population in urban contexts (for the first time in the history of the world, more people now live in cities than in rural areas). Exposure to these developments and new ideas in spirituality will prepare you to design two studio projects, one dealing with the concept of "situational" sacred space, and the other the creation of a sacred place outside of the conventional notions of "church," both set within an evolving, thriving urban neighborhood

PROCESS For the first two weeks of studio, you will read and reflect upon a range of materials regarding: the shifting landscape of spirituality; ideas about "situational" and "substantive" sacred space; demographic changes in organized religion; the place of the city as the context for sacred space; the creation of "safe places" for exploring one's spirituality beyond the walls of religious buildings; the notion of living "in cathedral" within a city. Many of the demographic changes in spiritual belief are being led by Millennials, those between the ages of 18 and 34—in other words...you! In Part 1 you should reflect upon your own experiences regarding organized religion, the contours of your own spiritual life, and the "search" you may be engaged in with others. You should incorporate these views into your reflections on the readings, and express them in your September 11 presentation. You should consider the studio a "safe place" in which to present your views and how you might respond architecturally to these societal changes in organized religion and spirituality. The design studio work you will undertake is very important for two reasons: it is an opportunity to address new attitudes about belief that

are being led by your own generation; you will explore a realm of design that has few if any architectural precedents—you can be among the first to give form to these new frontiers of belief

READINGS/VIEWINGS

Voluntary Simplicity / Simple Living

Bermudez, Julio. *The VAS Manifesto* (2003-2013). URL: see course website

Bermudez, Julio. *Choosing Being* (2003-2014). URL: see course website

Elgin, Duane. *Voluntary Simplicity* (New York: William Morrow, 1993). First two chapters

de Graaf, John; Wann, David, and Thomas Naylor. *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic*, (San Francisco, CA : Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2001)

<http://www.affluenza.org/>

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPm7vI_cdbw

Encyclical *LAUDATO SI'. On Care for our Common Home*

Pope Francis, Vatican 2015. URL: see course

The Shifting Landscape of Belief

“A closer look at America’s rapidly growing religious ‘nones.” Pew Research Center for Religion and Public Life,” May 13, 2015.

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2015/05/13/a-closer-look-at-americas-rapidly-growing-religious-nones/>

“America’s Changing Religious Landscape.” Pew Research Center for Religion and Public Life,” May 12, 2015.

<http://www.pewforum.org/2015/05/12/americas-changing-religious-landscape/>

Barna Group. “Making Space for Millennials: Facilities.” (2015)

http://www.cogun.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Chapter-4_Sample-PDF.pdf

Evans, Rachel Held. “Want Millennials back in the pews? Stop trying to make church ‘cool.’” *The Washington Post*, April 30, 2015.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/jesus-doesnt-tweet/2015/04/30/fb07ef1a-ed01-11e4-8666-a1d756d0218e_story.html

McCraken, Brett. “Can hipster Christianity save churches from decline?” *The Washington Post*, July 27, 2015.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/acts-of-faith/wp/2015/07/27/can-hipster-christianity-save-churches-from-decline/>

Sacred Space / City Space

Anderson, Keith. “The Digital Cathedral: Distributed and Situational Sacred Space.” *Faith & Form*, Volume 47, Number 3 (2014), pp. 25-26

Anderson, Keith. "God on Tap: At the Intersection of Life and Faith," in *The Digital Cathedral* (New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2015)

Anderson, Keith. "Everyday Sacred: Locating God in Daily Life," in *The Digital Cathedral* (New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2015)

Anderson, Keith. "Make Your Neighborhood Your Cathedral," in *The Digital Cathedral* (New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2015)

Berghoef, Bryan. *Pub Theology: Beer, Conversation, and God* (Eugene, OR: Cascade Books, 2012, selected excerpts provided)

Cox, Harvey. ACS 5 Lecture: "The Monastery, the City, and the Human Future."
URL: course website (other)

Crosbie, Michael J., "The Sacred in the Secular City: A Conversation with Harvey Cox." *Faith & Form*, Volume 47, Number 3 (2014), pp. 6-7.

Kilde, Jeanne Halgren. "A Method of Thinking About Power Dynamics in Christian Space," in *Sacred Power, Sacred Space: An Introduction to Christian Architecture and Worship* (Oxford: University Press, 2008, discusses the concept of "situational" sacred space)

Miles, Sara. *City of God: Faith in the Streets* (New York: Jericho Books, 2014, selected excerpts provided)

PRODUCT	You will make a graphic and verbal presentation to the studio class that reflects your thinking on the readings regarding the various social and religious developments in the landscape of contemporary belief. Please include your own views, in first person, as a member of the Millennial generation and its spiritual orientation. You should speculate on how architecture might respond to these new circumstances.
MODALITY	This phase demands students to operate in groups of 2 (or 3) individuals.
GRADE	5 % of the course grade