

The Studio

PART 01 : THEORETICAL FOUNDATION: YOUR MANIFESTO

DUE PPT, Oral Presentation & Paper submission: Monday 13 Sept @ 2:00 PM

OBJECTIVE This first part offers you the opportunity to become familiar with (1) the philosophy and architecture championing minimal attitudes and responses towards the challenges of today and (2) the central role of spirituality and sacred space in such plight. The objective is to produce *your* Architectural Manifesto. A manifesto is a document that makes public a fundamental, often controversial, position addressing art, architecture, politics, the environment, etc. Its goal is to establish a benchmark from which a new movement critiques the status-quo, explains its intentions, attracts followers and guides its future development. Manifestos are synthetic, memorable, and clear expressions of an ideal, a set of beliefs that define a new practice, approach, or viewpoint.

Once written, your Manifesto will be the hypothesis (not dogma) guiding your design process throughout the semester. Hence, make it simple, straight-forward and prescriptive, yet open enough to accept improvements. Eventually, you will submit a revised version of this Manifesto along with your final design at the end of the term, once you have had time to test it in practice and make the necessary adjustments.

PROCESS You will engage the 2 tracks comprising the balanced professing of architecture. By studying the philosophical track you will define the mindscape wherein your **VAS** work takes place. This conceptual realm has clear environmental, political, socio-cultural, behavioral, and technological axiologies. You will need to extract the heuristics behind them and, critically, adopt, transform or reject them. At the same time, you will be investigating concrete 'exemplars' (i.e., exemplary buildings) embodying **VAS** and produced by historical and contemporary master architects. This work should provide you with empirical evidences of how highly theoretical principles become realized in the here and now, and how in turn, they help to define the **VAS** paradigm. Furthermore, given the fundamental role that spirituality and sacred space play in human affairs (and, arguably, its repression or neglect is one of the major reasons for today's crisis), you will need to address this matter in your manifesto. This will demand you to organize your research both at the group and individual levels. In other words, you will to establish a research methodology.

READINGS Your investigation will cover three areas. While there are required readings and links to be seen, the rest of the references are provided as a guide. Depending on your particular approach, you may decide to add or delete sources.

Voluntary Simplicity. Simple Living. Contemporary World, Etc.

Elgin, Duane (1993) *Voluntary Simplicity*. New York: William Morrow Co. **(required)**
 Foster, Hal (1996) *The Return of the Real*. The MIT Press, Cambridge MA
 de Graaf, John; Wann, David, and Thomas Naylor, (2001) *Affluenza: The All-Consuming Epidemic*. San Francisco, CA : Berrett-Koehler Publishers.
 Guggenheim, Davis (2006) *An Inconvenient Truth* (Film)
 Orr, David (1994) *Earth in Mind*. Washington D.C.: Island Press
 Sabato, Ernesto (2000). *La Resistencia*. Barcelona, Spain: Seix Barral
 Toffler, Alvin (1980) *The Third Wave*. New York: Bantam Books (Chapters 2, 4, and 24)

Links:

Affluenza: <http://www.affluenza.org/>
<http://www.linktv.org/programs/affluenza> **(required)**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hPm7vI_cdbw
 Climate Crisis: <http://www.climatecrisis.net/>
 Duane Elgin: The Living Universe **(required)**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NY196iEya9E>

Minimal Architectures & VAS

A.D. 139 (1999) *Aspects of Minimal Architecture II*
 A.D. 110 (1994) *Aspects of Minimal Architecture*
 Benedikt, Michael (1987) *For an Architecture of Reality*. Lumen Books. New York
 Pawson, John (1998) *Minimum*. London, England: Phaidon Press Ltd. **(required)**
 Silvestrin, Claudio (1999) *Claudio Silvestrin*, Basel, Switzerland: Birkhäuser **(strongly suggested)**
 Zumthor, Peter (1998) *Thinking Architecture*. Berlin: Birkhause Publishers

Links:

Bermudez, Julio. The VAS Manifesto: **(required)**
<http://faculty.arch.utah.edu/people/faculty/julio/abstracts/vas-manifesto.htm>
 Bermudez, Julio & Robert Hermanson (1996 & 2000). "Tectonics After Virtuality. Returning to the Body", in *Proceedings of ACSA International Conference*. Copenhagen, Denmark: Royal Academy of Fine Arts: ACSA Press; pp.66-71
<http://www.arch.utah.edu/people/faculty/Julio/tecto.pdf> **(required)**
 James Turell: Roden Crater **(required)**
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzfzsNvyAo4>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWekIcZaKns>
 James Turrell: The Wolfsburg Project **(required)**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-m_4MoKwjQ

Spirituality/Sacred Space

Eliade, Mircea. *The Sacred and the Profane* (New York: Harper , 1961) **(required)**
 Merton, Thomas. *No Man is an Island* (New York:Fall River Press, 1955,1983) **(required)**
 Merton, Thomas. *The Wisdom of the Desert*, (New York: New Directions, 1960)
 Merton, Thomas. *Zen and the Birds of Appetite*, (New York: New Directions, 1968)

Jung, Carl. *Memories, Dreams, Reflections* (New York:Vintage,1963) (**strongly suggested**)

Links:

Architecture, Culture & Spirituality Forum: <http://faculty.arch.utah.edu/acs/>

Joseph Campbell: The Power of Myth (**required**)

http://www.veoh.com/browse/videos/category/faith_and_spirituality/watch/v17348445sRzEyGZM

The World Village: <http://www.gdrc.org/uem/1000-village.html> (**required**)

Examples (Embodiments)

You will study two relevant buildings of each one of the following groups of architects (assigned by Lottery) + an exemplary, ancient sacred space:

- (1) Mies Van der Rohe + Claudio Silvestrin + Steven Holl + Hatshepsut Temple (Luxor)
- (2) Rafael Moneo + Rick Joy + Kasuyo Sejima + the Pantheon
- (3) Tadao Ando + Dominique Perrault + Louis Kahn + the Chartres Cathedral
- (4) Peter Zumthor + Luis Barragan + Craig Hartman + the Mosque of Ibn Tulun (El Cairo)
- (5) John Pawson + Le Corbusier +Yoshio Taniguchi + Ryoanji

Other architects you may want to check: Glenn Murcutt, John Pawson, Herzog de Meuron, Gluckman Mayner Architects, Aldo Rossi, Shigeru Ban, Yoshio Taniguchi, Alberto Campo Baeza, and (always) Le Corbusier!

Your analysis of buildings should include at least one large building for each architect (i.e., over 20,000 sq.ft.). The other building may be small. Again, the objective here is to extract general yet concrete architectural design rules, principles, methods, strategies, ideas, technologies, etc. that provide insights as to how embody VAS architecture. In particular, look at work of those architects that could fit a wider interpretation of ‘sacred’ or spiritually inspiring.

PRODUCT You will present your Manifesto in a 20 minutes PPT lecture. This presentation should include evidences (i.e., analysis, logic) supporting your claims. There will be a 10 minute discussion afterward. You are also to submit a 3-5 page long paper (1,500-2,500 words). This document will be your Manifesto and cover (1) philosophical arguments in dialectic relationship to (2) architectural manifestations and (3) sacred space and spirituality. Graphics are necessary and should be used meaningfully. Alternative formats are possible but need to be negotiated with the instructor. You will electronically submit both the paper and PPT presentation.

TEAM 4/5 students

GRADE 10 % of the course grade

