

**DEPARTMENT OF ART  
ART HISTORY & ART  
CONSERVATION**

ARTH 292/3.0  
Architecture from 1900  
to the Present

Prof. Katherine Romba

Fall 2020

Remote delivery with no  
synchronous meetings



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**CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:**

An examination of architecture in the western world, from 1900 to the present.

*Prerequisites:* Level 2 or above or permission of the Department.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This year our course will examine the impact of western cultural ideals and economic aims on architecture globally, in the twentieth century and into the twenty-first. We will look at the ways in which architectural style, structure, materials, spatial design, and larger urban schemes often reflect a western ideology of Enlightenment values (reason, individual freedom, progress, empirical knowledge) and free-market capitalism. Our goal is to understand: Why do buildings today look the way they do? Why does architecture look increasingly the same, regardless of where we are in the world? Our lectures will take us from Paris, New York, London, and Berlin to Chandigarh, India; Beijing, China; San Paolo, Brazil; and Casablanca, Morocco—among many other places in the world.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

Students will write six short weekly essays (500 words maximum for each), analysing how a particular building case study can be understood according to the economic, political, and cultural ideals of the western ideology. Your analysis of the case study will benefit from lecture material and from our course textbook: Robert Adam's *The Globalisation of Modern Architecture: The Impact of Politics, Economics and Social Change on Architecture and Urban Design since 1990* (2012).

Our final requirement for the course will be your choice from a range of assignments, some creative, some analytical, some factual. These assignments will be described in the syllabus.