



Seminar Courses Fall 2016

Course code: 4th year: A42SEH, 5th year: A52SEH

1. Key Parts of Buildings in Context 13:00-15:00

Prof. Johan Celsing

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This course is related to, but independent of the seminar course; *Key Buildings* and *Key Concepts in Context*. This fall seminar course has 8 or 9 seminars and includes an assignment that runs parallel to the seminars. The assignment contains written as well as drawn documents.

Key Parts of Buildings in Context is intended to complement the design studies of buildings with a closer look at some of their constituent parts such as:

The Stair, the Railing, the Canopy, the Skylight, the Installations, the Socle, the Elevator, the Floor,

For an architect it is crucial to develop an understanding and knowledge of how to develop the parts that make up the building whatever its exterior treatment or appearance

Each of The Parts will be presented and discussed in many aspects. The Stair will present seminal stairs such as the Scala Reggia at the Vatican and the stair by Borromini at Palazzo Barberini. It will also, in detail, look into stairs in the Villa Mairea by Alvar Aalto as well as in works of Alvaro Siza. Contemporary examples will add width to each of the presented parts.

In the case of the Stair, some aspects could be described as: The stair- how it is integrated, or dominating, in the plan. The stair- as a meeting place, creating an atmosphere. The stair- as part of an interior landscape. The stair- the tectonic solutions. The stair- an efficient logistic device or a scenography for the public.

In the Installations seminar ancient solutions of ducts and shafts will be discussed as well as Louis Kahn's theme of "Served and Servant Spaces" that became a prominent design strategy in many of his works. Installations will be discussed in how they merge with the structure or contrast to it. Centre Pompidou will be related to other formal solutions of the installations.

Floors will be presented and discussed with works by architects such as: Bindsbøll, Pikiönis, Aalto, Asplund, Koolhaas and Shinohara.

2. The Scale of Light in the Built Environment 10:00-12:00

Dipl. Ing. Isabel Dominguez

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In the seminar course the **Scale of Light** will be observed and discussed from different perspectives and within different contexts. We will talk about perception and experience of different layers of light at city, building and room scale.

The seminar course is shaped around the topic of Daylight and Electric Lighting in the Built Environment. It should provide the students with basic knowledge about the properties of light and its influence of the quality of a space.



Lighting technologies and knowledge of the effects of daylight and electric lighting on human health and wellbeing are evolving.

The course should raise awareness of the importance of light for the users of an interior and exterior architectural space and discuss new possibilities of how lighting can be designed to better meet peoples':

- **visual needs** (how well we see)
- **biological needs** (entrainment of our bodies)
- **emotional needs** (atmosphere & aesthetics)

The overall purpose of the seminar course is to offer insights into research-based, theoretical and practical aspects of the topic light in the architectural field.

A student who has completed this seminar course should be able to

- analyse & identify existing "lightscares" in the interior and exterior space
- present a critical attitude towards the use of light
- handle basic properties of light and their influence on the quality of a space
- argue and present findings of analysis and results using texts, images, designs and/or prototypes
- demonstrate a professional attitude within the multidisciplinary field of architecture & lighting design through building up teams, collaboration and participation in group projects.

The seminar course approach is planned to be 50% theory (lectures) and 50% practice (exercises, workshops, study visits)

KEYWORDS:

Light & Humans, Perception, Daylight, Digital Light, Light & Health, Vernacular Architecture, Light & Architecture, Light in the Public Space, Sustainability, Light & Location

3. Architectural Competitions: Theory and Professional Practice 13:00-15:00

Dr. Magnus Rönn

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Europe is the hub for architectural competitions. The modern architectural competition is an over hundred fifty year old institution in Europe developing as part of the industrial era. The competition has three different uses: (a) a task for students learning architecture, (b) a professional practice and (c) a special field for research in architecture and urban design. Architects regard competitions as a professional laboratory for new thinking and experimental arena for developing innovative design solutions. Is there any truth in this statement or is it just a professional reputation without evidence in order or promote services?

The course examines contemporary architectural competitions and will investigate the following aspects:

- *Competitions rules and types of competitions – principals for steering by rules and design*
- *Competitions process – from invitation to implementation of winning design*
- *Jury assessment – how to find a winning design proposals among the entries*
- *Competitions as laboratory for knowledge production and innovation by design*

The course includes lectures & seminars and presentations by the participants. The lecture will provide both research knowledge and professional experience from competing architects. The participants will investigate competition documents in order to understand the common core in competitions and differences. A developer competition with 15 design proposals on student apartments in Stockholm will be used as a case study. The participants are going to point of five best proposals and then single out a winning design.



4. Architecture and Feminisms: 13:00-15:00 Ecologies, Economies, Technologies

Dr. Karin Reisinger & Ass Prof. Hélène Frichot karin.reisinger@arch.kth.se; helene.frichot@arch.kth.se

The seminar course *Architecture and Gender: Ecologies, Economies, Technologies* offers students the unique chance to participate in a forthcoming research event, the 13th international annual conference of the Architectural Humanities Research Association (AHRA), 17-19 November 2016 (www.architecturefeminisms.org). AHRA 2016, with the title, *Architecture and Feminisms: Ecologies, Economies, Technologies*, will be hosted by Critical Studies in Architecture, KTH School of Architecture, whose researchers will also curate this seminar course. The AHRA 2016 conference in Stockholm creates the gathering place of 150 international delegates working on the relations between economies, ecologies and technologies in the practice and culture of architecture, investigating the role architecture plays in an age of political, economic and environmental transformation, with a focus on the reengagement of feminist theories and practices in order to offer alternative approaches to our contemporary global concerns.

Students will be required to attend the AHRA conference in the KTH School of Architecture as part of their course commitments. They will also be able to gain insight into the organisational strategies that are used to convene a large international conference. In preparation for attending the conference the seminar course will frame relevant theoretical concepts and perspectives including “situated knowledge” (Donna Haraway); “cosmopolitics” (Isabelle Stengers); and “moments of disorientation” (Sarah Ahmed). Students will be introduced to contemporary discourse in architecture and related fields relevant to the main conference themes: economies, ecologies and technologies. In addition the course will engage in discussions on creative practices, domesticities and the architectural profession, all of which will be further addressed in relation to the research presented by delegates at the AHRA conference in Stockholm.

Besides gaining insights into the coming into being of an international academic conference, with its valuable intermediate stages, critically sensing the bio-politics of such a large event of academic exchange, you will be involved in the conference process in two ways:

1. Becoming part of this environment of exchange by co-shaping one of its settings.
2. Reflecting upon and documenting the research presentations you find most interesting at the AHRA conference, and delivering important impressions of the event, so that it can endure beyond the final applause.

In combination both of the tasks display the daily balancing acts of researchers and practitioners engaged in feminist thinking.



5. Thesis Booklet Seminar 10:00-12:00

Pål Røjgård Harryan

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Course Description

This course is for students who will begin their Degree project in spring 2017. The course carefully guides you through the process of formulating a thesis.

Course description

The thesis booklet serves as a preparation for the thesis.

The course focuses on the content, work process and general evaluation criteria within the formulation of the thesis. This is summarized by each participant in the end with the completion of an individual thesis booklet.

Course content

The course consists of various lectures that address current issues in conjunction to the description and presentation of the thesis. How these will be linked to the general criteria in the final jury assessment will also be reflected.

Purpose

The aim is to contribute to a structured planning and working environment supporting the process of the final thesis. Various projects will provide nuanced guidelines as link between the studies and the architectural profession.

Organization

Invited speakers are examiners, supervisors and former students who will share their experiences from the thesis, the work process and the profession as an architect.

Students will be divided into small seminar groups to discuss and report on various issues identified in the course.

Tasks

The course consists various tasks. The main task is finalizing the thesis booklet that in the end has to be approved by the respective examiner. Each student has to hand in a self-reflection related to the architectural education. Reading in on projects that will be presented at some of the lectures will sometimes be required.

Criteria

To pass, 80% attendance at lectures and submission of self-reflection.

6. Universal Architecture in the designer's eye – accessibility, usability, Universal design and the UN CRPD

10:00-12:00

Dr. Jonas E Andersson

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This seminar course has a twofold ambition:

- 1) expanding knowledge about the human being, her physiology, her cognitive and functional capacities in relation to architecture and spatial design; and



- 2) explaining frequent key words in use when it comes to concerns for people with disabilities and architectural design: accessibility, usability, universal design and the UN CRPD, United Nations' convention on the rights of persons with disabilities.

The course proceeds from field studies of exemplary models of architecture and individual experiences of space. The course relies on a six seminars:

- The human brain, spatial thinking and architecture
- The definition of accessibility, usability and social inclusion
- Experiences of space and sensuous architecture, invited lecture.
- Ad hoc study visits to various examples of appropriate and inappropriate architecture
- Coaching for writing scientific papers and making inquiry-by-design presentations)

The course contains an individual assignment, which can be executed as a written research paper with a methodological approach for assessing and evaluating various types of architectural design, drawings that present a solution for a universal design problem, or an oral presentation supported by a power-point-based slide show. The course will introduce necessary literature, available as e-books or possible to loan in the Architecture library.

7. Self Build Housing/Self Build City. The in-depth study

10:00-12:00

Jan Rydén

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There is a shortage of affordable housing in Sweden, with the situation for newly arrived immigrants serving as the most glaring and obvious example. How can we use self-build housing to meet the Swedish demand for *affordable* housing in a creative, innovative and inclusive way?

The questions asked in the orientation course for the fall of 2016 will be further explored during the seminar course during fall and spring semester. The seminar course will go more in depth into:

- Resilience thinking and design patterns.
- Time and architecture: Incremental building.
- Participatory place-making and self build housing schemes.
- Financial models for affordable housing. Local economies.
- Inclusive growth. How could resource poor groups become builders of their own homes?

The students will be asked to formulate a specific challenge in relation to the above themes and verbalize a proposed solution.



8. The Academy, Oslo Architecture Triennale: After Belonging. Sep 9-16, 2016

Frida Rosenberg

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Participation in The Academy is offered to a very limited number of students (5 in total) as a seminar course. The Academy is a forum organized by the Oslo School of Architecture and Design (AHO). It will bring schools from around the world into a global dialogue and knowledge-sharing experiment, reflecting on the topics of After Belonging, including new forms of residence, contemporary states of transit, and the ways in which architecture and design are responding to new forms of belonging. The Academy projects the concerns of the Triennale into the future by introducing long-lasting academic conversations and collaborations between multiple universities around the world, which are intended to have an impact on architectural education and practices.

The Academy will include a full program of events, such as workshops, roundtables, and lectures among others. It will operate in three phases—an analytical phase, a research phase, and a production phase—which will be distributed over a period of eight days.

The Academy will take place in the former Stenersen museum - an empty space currently in search of a new function - and will investigate the city of Oslo, through the five areas of research proposed by the Triennale: Technologies of a Life in Transit, Furnishing After Belonging, Markets and Territories of the Global Home, Borders Elsewhere, and Sheltering Temporariness.

- 1- Analytical phase [September 9th to 11th]: overlapping with the opening days of the Triennale, this first phase includes visits to the exhibitions, attendance the conference, and an array of social and cultural events. Students are invited to document and analyse the topics and documents presented at After Belonging and imagine new definitions for the contemporary spaces of residence, with a particular focus on the Oslo's neighbourhood of Grønland.
- 2- Research phase [September 12th and 13th]: collective discussions triggered by a series of thematic workshops and lectures.
- 3- Production phase [September 14th to 16th]: production of a collaborative project.