The interpretation of American architecture is a challenge which can at times require the mind of a critic, the training of a historian and the passion of a designer. This lecture course is structured as a topical introduction to some of the major social, cultural and historiographical issues in the history of the American built environment. By the end of the semester, you will be expected to have developed the visual and critical skills to leave your own mark on the American landscape.

Thursday Jan. 17
What is the American Built Environment?

Tuesday Jan. 22
Pre-Industrial Traditions: Puritan New England, The Southern Plantation and the American Southwest

Thursday 24
FIRST PAPER DUE IN CLASS
Industrialization: Factories, Mills and Trains

Tuesday Jan. 29
Who is an Architect? Pattern Books and Professionalization
Dell Upton, “Art,” in Architecture in the United States, 247-283 (review also 38-47)
Thursday Jan. 31
Nature, Olmsted and The Curative Landscape

Tuesday Feb. 5
H.H. Richardson and American Architecture

Thursday Feb. 7
The Chicago Skyscraper

Tuesday Feb. 12
The Urban Spectacle
*Mitchell Schwarzer, “Photography” in Zoomscape, 164-205.

Thursday Feb. 14
The Reform Impulse
Tuesday Feb. 19
American Modernism, from The Great Lakes to the Pacific Coast

Thursday Feb. 21
No class

Tuesday Feb. 26
MIDTERM EXAM

Thursday Feb. 28
The International Style and Its Discontents

Tuesday March 5
RESEARCH PAPER TOPIC DUE IN CLASS
Wartime

Thursday March 7
Levittown

Tuesday March 12
California and the Postwar Avant-Garde
Thursday March 14
Postwar Corporate Modernism

Tuesday March 19 and Thursday March 21
Spring Vacation

Tuesday March 26
Public Housing and Urban Planning
Gwendolyn Wright, “Public Housing for the Worthy Poor,” in Building the Dream, 220-239.

Thursday March 28
Signage and the Strip: The Emergence of Postmodernism
Robert Venturi, Denise Scott Brown and Steven Izenour, Learning from Las Vegas, 33-72, 87-103.

Tuesday April 2
Guest lecture: David Foxe

Thursday April 4
Postmodern Pastiche

Tuesday April 9
The Challenge of Sprawl
Thursday April 11
No class

Tuesday April 16
RESEARCH PAPER DUE
Architecture in Motion: Highways, Trailers and Parking Lots

Thursday April 18
The Decline of the Single-Family House?

Tuesday April 23
Green Architecture and Globalism

Thursday April 25
History PIN Presentations and Conclusions

Friday May 3
FINAL EXAM

READINGS AND CLASS PREPARATION
The readings listed below each date should be read in preparation for lecture. Images from regular lectures will not be posted on Trunk; if you miss class please consult with a classmate for notes. The textbooks listed below are available for purchase at the Tufts Bookstore and/or online. Selected readings are [marked with *] available for download via the Trunk website. All readings are also on reserve at Tisch Library.

Required:

Optional:
READINGS, con’t.
The readings for this course have been selected to introduce you to a wide range of issues and historiographical viewpoints. *The Craft of Research* is intended to help you prepare your research paper and History PIN presentation – please read it at your own pace before the end of April. In addition, please familiarize yourself with the form of content of the following websites:

Mapping Revolutionary Boston:
http://www.bostonhistory.org/sub/mappingrevolutionaryboston/

Society of Architectural Historian Archipedia Beta Test Site:
http://sah-archipedia.org/
(Note: much of the content of Morgan, Buildings of Massachusetts is available on this site)

For further reference you may wish to consult the following sources:

Jane Turner, ed. *The Grove Dictionary of Art*. [Grove Art Online is available through the Tisch catalog. Please use this scholarly, peer-reviewed source, rather than Wikipedia, for defining terms and accessing basic biographical information about architects.]

Gwendolyn Wright, *USA: Modern Architectures in History*. 2008

TRUNK
To access the course website, use your Tufts ID to log into the FAH 0092/0192 site.
Readings and other course materials will be available for download.

ASSIGNMENTS
Please complete the reading for day in which it is assigned. Two tests will focus on your mastery of the reading and lecture material. In addition, there will be two papers and an interactive History PIN project, described below. The History PIN assignment will include a presentation of your work to the class during the final weeks of the semester. You are also expected to take advantage of the rich architectural resources of your home city, using the *SAH Archipedia, Mapping Revolutionary Boston* and the *Buildings of Massachusetts* as a starting point for your explorations.
SHORT PAPER
What is your built environment? Architecture mediates the way that all of us experience the physical world. Choose a place that you have inhabited, and describe how the architecture of that place shaped your experiences and associations during that period. You may choose a childhood dwelling, your current dorm room, or anything in between. Remember to consider not only the physical structure of the building itself, but also the relationship of your chosen ‘home’ to its environs. 1-2 illustrations should be included. (You may find it useful to draw a floor plan, map or rough elevation – papers will not be graded on artistic merit!) 4-5 pages long, due in class on January 24.

TERM PAPER
A thoughtful, well-prepared research paper on a Boston-area topic of your choosing. Length: 8-10 pages for FAH 0092 students; 10-12 pages for FAH 0192 students. Further details of the assignment will be distributed in February. Due in class on April 16.

HISTORY PIN
A class website, showcasing the highlights of your research. You will make a brief presentation of your work to your classmates at the end of the semester; further details will be distributed.

GRADING

FAH 0092
First Paper: 10%
Midterm: 25%
Research Paper: 25%
History PIN: 15%
Final Exam: 25%

FAH 0192
First Paper: 10%
Midterm: 15%
Research Paper: 35%
History PIN: 15%
Final Exam: 25%

LATE WORK POLICY
All written work is due in class on the date marked on the syllabus. Late work will be marked down 1/3 of a grade for each day that it is late (i.e., a B submitted one day late becomes a B-). Please be prepared to show documentation of illness or other absences from school.
DISABILITY ACCOMODATION
Please notify the instructor during the first week of classes if you will require special accommodation for a disability.

ACADEMIC HONESTY
Academic honesty is fundamental to the learning process. Please do not jeopardize your success in this course by committing plagiarism or violating the academic integrity of others in any manner. Principles of academic integrity for the Tufts community are outlined at: uss.tufts.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/Academic%20Integrity.pdf If you are in any doubt about how these guidelines apply to this course, please consult with the instructor.