

Quarter/Year

Fall 2015

Course Number

ART-HIST 470

Day/Time

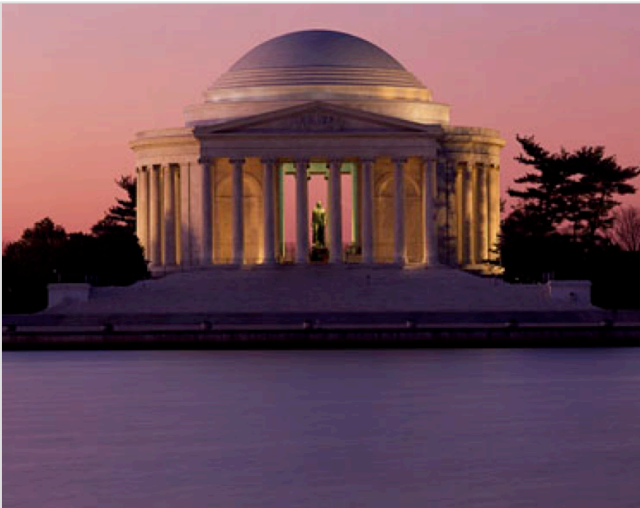
R 2:00-5:00

Instructor

Van Zanten

Course Title

Studies in Architecture: The Illusion of “Total Architecture”: How the Modern City Came to be Thought Out



This course will explore the architecture of the last two centuries - the “modern period” - as thinking - how architecture was thought, what made it so important that by 1920 architects were supposed to design our whole world, and what went wrong as that world went rich and digital.

It will focus on four questions:

- 1). How the Western physical world was changing so as to become so frightening c. 1830;
- 2). What architects were assumed to know that they were increasingly turned to allay that fear;
- 3). How this morphed into an architectural world fantasy at the end of the 19th-century;

4). What happened when a “total Architecture” (Gropius) entwined with two “total wars”, 1914-1968?

It will be preparatory for a major symposium on the architect and theorist Gottfried Semper over Christmas break in Paris.

Required Textbooks

Walter Gropius, The Scope of Total Architecture
Jeanne Gaillard, Paris: la ville
Carl Schorske, Fin-de-siècle Vienna
Deborah Silverman, Art Nouveau in fin-de-siècle France
Reinhold Martin, The Organizational Complex
Antoine Picon, The Architecture of Digital Culture

Assessments