

Antoni Gaudí's Influence on the Contemporary Architecture of Barcelona and Bilbao

Summer Semester 2020

Instructor: Matthew Schlueb

Program Format: 5 week Course, with 2 hour academic Powerpoint lectures, including time for questions throughout. No required text or books, however, a bibliography will be provided for optional further reading.

Course Objective:

To offer a master level survey of Antoni Gaudí's influence on the contemporary architecture of Barcelona and Bilbao, exploring leitmotifs, manifestos, and partis pris of his seminal works, through the perspective of a practicing architect and writer on architecture.

Course Description:

Antoni Gaudí's study of natural form, equilibrated structures, color and light has forever shaped the architectural landscape of Barcelona and Bilbao. This course will examine his most seminal works, outlining schematic strategies, theoretic postulates, and material executions; contextualized with contemporary architectural works of Barcelona and Bilbao, illustrating Gaudí's pioneering vision and influence on the parametric architecture and hyperbolic structures of today. Gaudí set out to restore humanity through a living architecture of expressionistic form and inspired one of the most creative concentrations of architecture in the world.

Course Outline:

Lecture 1: Trencadís Mosaic

An examination of Gaudí's repurposing of discarded materials in the use of trencadís mosaics on the parabolic forms of the Güell Estate Pavillions and Dragon Gate (1885), Casa Vicens and the Park Güell serpentine bench. This innovation will be compared with the contemporary works of Agbar Tower by Jean Nouvel in Barcelona and the Bilbao Underground Station by Norman Foster.

Lecture 2: Colades de Guix

An examination of Gaudí's plaster cast experiments with natural form, modeling the stone sculptures for the Sagrada Família Nativity façade, beginning in 1892. His methods and applications will be compared with the contemporary works of Mies van der Rohe's Barcelona Pavilion and the Vizcaya Foral Library by IMB in Bilbao.

Lecture 3: Estereostàtic

An examination of Gaudí's study of equilibrated structure in the inclined props and catenary curves of the Colonia Güell Church stereo-static model (1898), the Park Güell colonnade viaduct and the Sagrada Família bell towers. His experimentations will be compared with Santiago Calatrava's contemporary works Pasarela Zubizuri and the Bilbao Airport, as well as the 00 Tower by Massip in Barcelona.

Lecture 4: Forma Deforma

An examination of Gaudí's perverted distortions in warped form weighted by metaphor in the exterior façade and dining chair of Casa Batlló (1904) and Casa Milà following Setmana Tràgica. His explorations will be compared with his contemporaries' works Casa Lleó-Morera by Domènech i Montaner, Casa Amatller by Puig i Cadafalch, Casa Comalat by Valeri i Pupurull, and the Pabellón Puente by Zaha Hadid.

Lecture 5: Bóvedas Tabicadas

An examination of Gaudí's convex inversion of bóvedas tabicadas achieving compositional balance in the Colonia Güell Crypt Church (1908), the Park Güell gatehouses, and Sagrada Família Schools. His technique will be compared with Frank Gehry's contemporary works Pineda Fish in Barcelona and the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, EMBT's Santa Caterina Market and Pergola Icària, Calatrava's Bodegas Ysios, and Coll-Barreu's Sanitary Headquarters.

Instructor Bio:

Matthew Schlueb is a licensed architect practicing architecture for over two decades. He owns and operates a sole-proprietorship private practice, where he specializes in residential architecture and is dedicated to mastering the art of exceptionally tailored homes crafted by hand. He has authored ten books on architecture and lectures from the kindergarten to post-graduate level. His designs have been awarded locally and nationally by juried competitions, receiving praise internationally in both print publications and television media. His own home, Villa Vuoto, is a manifesto on creativity, questioning the conventions of the building industry, while expanding the minds and sensitivities of his two sons raised within circular space, where rooms are rounded and walls sloped. The house is an ongoing experiment exploring human sensibilities to subtleties revealed only by a careful handling of soft, curvilinear, textural form. Matthew was awarded Master of Architecture from Pratt Institute, where his thesis studied the visual perception of architectural space, exploring proxemic relationships between inhabitant and inhabitable form, isolating perceptual thresholds and their influences on human behavior. He continues this experimentation through his collaborations with local artists, folding their knowledge of materials and technique into his search for a meaningful architecture.

Instructor Experience:

Matthew Schlueb owns and operates a sole-proprietorship private practice, maintaining six to eight active projects, specializing in residential architecture. He has authored ten books on architecture and lectures from the kindergarten to post-graduate level.

Abridged CV:

2019 - Invited Instructor, Carnegie Mellon University, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
2018 - Invited Entry, Laka Foundation, [The End of Architecture](#)
2017 - Invited Speaker, PechaKucha Night Pittsburgh 26, [Are We the Last Architects?](#)
2016 - Instructor, Univ.of Pittsburgh, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, [Architecture in the Modern Era](#)
2015 - Featured writer/monthly contributor to the North Hills Magazine
2014 - Launched 'Architectural Storytelling' initiative, [Cherry Blossoms](#)
2013 - Featured guest on the Discovery Channel Network, [Epic Bathrooms](#)
2012 - Profiled in Pittsburgh Business Times, Executive Living, [A Well-Rounded Experience](#)
2011 - Villa Vuoto featured in Wesley Spectrum Tour of Homes, charitable fundraiser
2010 - Inaugural SCHLUEBarchitecture Student Design Competition, [Dream Home](#)
2009 - Published [An Architect's Manifesto on the Origins of Creativity](#)
2008 - Villa Vuoto published in Pittsburgh Magazine, winner of Superior Interiors, [Far Out](#)
2007 - Launched 'the schlueb suite: Rifugio Collection', SPLASH Luxury Home Collection
2006 - Villa Vuoto published in Moodne Kodu, Estonia, [Crusade Against Rectangle](#)
2005 - Featured guest on the HGTV Network, [OFFbeat America](#)
2004 - Completed construction on Villa Vuoto
2003 - Registered Architect, State of Ohio
2002 - Launched the 'Why Learn to Draw?' initiative, [creativity against the world](#)
2001 - NCARB Certification, licensed to practice throughout North America
2000 - Established SCHLUEBarchitecture studio, private practice, Pittsburgh
2000 - Registered Architect, State of Pennsylvania
1994 - Master of Architecture, Pratt Institute
1993 - Bachelor of Architecture, Pratt Institute
1991 - Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Ohio State University
1968 - Born in Columbus, Ohio

Authored Books:

2018 - [traces: drawing from underlays](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2017 - [eave shakings: North Hills Monthly Magazine, vol.3](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2016 - [mousetrap](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2016 - [leaf shakings: North Hills Monthly Magazine, vol.2](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2015 - [sleeve shakings: North Hills Monthly Magazine, vol.1](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2012 - [sketches: blog on architecture](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
2008/2010 - [Villa Vuoto: An Architect's Manifesto on the Origin of Creativity](#) (Stella Cadente Publications, Pittsburgh)
2002/2005 - [creativity against the world](#) (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh)
1994 - [gestured form and activated space](#) (Pratt Institute, New York)