

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
Carnegie Mellon University
The Architecture of Antoni Gaudí
Summer Session 2020

Course Syllabus

Instructor: Matthew Schlueb

Format: Six week course, weekly two hour academic lecture, with time for questions and open discussion. Bibliography provided for recommended further reading with each lecture.

Objective: Master level survey of Antoni Gaudí's designs and constructions, exploring leitmotifs, manifestos, and parti pris of his seminal works, through the perspective of a practicing architect and writer on architecture.

Description:

Antoni Gaudí set out to restore humanity through a living architecture of expressionistic forms derived from nature's flora and fauna, constructed with structures reacting to weight and space, anticipating today's parametric architecture. This course will trace the arc of Gaudí's body of work, originating within Mudéjar and Gothic influences in Catalan culture centered on Barcelona at the turn of the twentieth century, focusing on the material executions of his architectural works, contextualized by his collaborations with artisans and artists.

Outline:

Lecture 1: Parabolic Arc

Influence of Gaudí's childhood and education on his association with textile cooperative and industrialists, the foundation/tableau in his search for a Living Architecture, bringing plasticity to traditional Catalan brickwork. Mataró Workers Cooperative Bleaching Facility (1883), Finca Güell Stables (1884-85), **Palau Güell** (1885-88).

Lecture 2: Surface Ornament

Gaudí's experimentations with surface ornament and innovations repurposing discarded industrial materials, layering eclectic exotic mix of materials and textures, restoring handmade methods and Catalan culture. Casa Vicens (1878-83-88), Finca Güell Dragon Gate (1885), **Park Güell Serpentine Bench** (1909-14).

Lecture 3: Natural Form

Gaudí's study of natural form in flora and fauna, capturing gesture in the human body by modeling plaster casts of the anatomic skeletal frame, in developing sculptural figures articulating depth of visual perspective. Astorga Cathedral (1887-94), **Sagrada Família Nativity Façade** (1892-1900).

Lecture 4: Equilibrated Structure

Gaudí's study of equilibrated structures in graphic statics and estereostatic model, discovering gravitational catenary curvatures and resultant inclined supports. Bodegas Güell (1895-99), Estereostàtic model (1898-1908), **Park Güell Colonnade Viaduct** (1900-03), Sagrada Família Bell Towers (1904-23) & Columns (1922).

Lecture 5: Illuminated Space

Gaudí's study of color and light in the ceramics and hyperboloid window stained glass. Mallorca Cathedral (1902-14), **Casa Batlló** (1904-06), Colònia Güell Crypt Windows (1908-14), Sagrada Família Windows (1918).

Lecture 6: Fluid Plasticity

Gaudí's warped form distortions weighted by metaphor, achieving compositional stability in convex inversions. Park Güell Gatehouses Roofs (1900-03), Miralles Gate (1901-02), Casa Batlló (1904-06), Casa Milà (1906-10), **Colònia Güell Crypt** Inclined Props (1908-11) & **Convex Vaults** (1910-14), Sagrada Família Schools (1909), Sagrada Família Vaults (1922) & Bell Tower Pinnacle (1923-25).

Biography:

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.

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

Selected Publications:

2017 - eave shakings: North Hills Monthly Magazine, vol.3 (Villa Vuoto Publications)
2016 - mousetrap (Villa Vuoto Publications)
2008/2010 - Villa Vuoto: An Architect's Manifesto on the Origin of Creativity (Stella Cadente Publications)
2002/2005 - creativity against the world (Villa Vuoto Publications)
1994 - gestured form and activated space (Pratt Institute)