

Spring, 2010

ANTHROPOLOGY/ARCHITECTURE 4440 VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

CLASS MEETS: T/Th 10:30 - 12:00
GeolAnnex E212

PROFESSOR: Jay Edwards
Geol Annex E212A

OFFICE HOURS: Th 1:30-2:30
Web Site: LSU <<http://www.ga.lsu.edu/edwards.html>>

Phone: 578-2566

E-Mail: <gaedwa@lsu.edu>

=====

Class Textbooks (required readings):

RAP₁ HOUSE FORM AND CULTURE Amos Rapoport (1969). (paper)
GLA₁ VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE Henry Glassie (2000) (paper)
HAR DISCOVERING TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDINGS (2nd Ed.) Richard Harris (paper)

Recommended Readings:

P&B LOUISIANA BUILDINGS 1720-1940 Jesse Poesch & Barbara Bacot (Paper)
McA A FIELD GUIDE TO AMERICAN HOUSES Virginia & Lee McAlester (paper)
UDA LOUISIANA SPEAKS: PATTERN BOOK Louisiana Recovery Authority (paper)
(Free at Lowes)

=====

ASSIGNMENT CALENDAR (Preliminary)

(assignments in parentheses are recommended)

<u>WEEK:</u>	<u>LECTURE TOPICS (schedule approximate):</u>	<u>READING ASSIGNMENT:</u>
1/19	ORIENTATION: Purposes of the Course, Assignments	
1/21	NEW ORLEANS: Katrina and the Vernacular Perspective	RAP 1-2
1/26-28	HOMO ARCHITECTONIS – THE ANIMAL THAT BUILDS Biogenic architecture, Early human architecture	RAP 3-4 RAP ₂
2/2	NON-WESTERN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE: Primitive Shelter Discussion of Projects	RAP 5-6; F&B
2/4	METHODS IN THE STUDY OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE I. European approaches Submit Written outline of research project.	F&B
2/9-11	METHODS IN THE STUDY OF VERNACULAR II. Geographical and Folkloric Approaches-Kniffen and successors Architectural approaches HABS and Charles Peterson	GLA 1-3; HAR (begin) (BRU: 194-207) GLA 4-6; HAR (finish)
2/16	MARDI GRAS HOLIDAY.	
2/18	METHODS III. TECHNOLOGY AND BUILDING METHODS	GLA 7-9.
2/23-25	METHODS IV. SCHOLARLY APPROACHES Postmodern and social studies	(MCA begin)
3/2-4	METHODS V. Recent approaches Henry Glassie, Living vernacular architecture Structural methodologies	GLA 10-13. VOG HAR (begin); MCA (PVA _{7:8}), LAN

3/9	CREOLE ARCHITECTURE I French and Canadian architectural history Bibliographies for written papers and Updates, due Tuesday.	GLA 14-15, (U&V 1, 8) MCA (cont.) BstG 14-15; PVA ₇ :11); ROA:1-3; ED ₁
3/11	MIDTERM EXAMINATION	
3/16-18	CREOLE ARCHITECTURE II. French Vernacular and the Atlantic World	PVA ₇ :10; ED ₇ ; ED ₈ ; NRHP; HABS; BRU
3/23-25	CREOLE ARCHITECTURE III. Anglo and 19 th century traditions	PVA ₇ :12 (U&V:17; UPT:5-6; P&B (begin) E&W; EVE; PVA ₄ :8)
3/30	NEW ORLEANS I, II. Geography & Social History Architectural History	ED ₂ ; ED ₃ ; ED ₆ P&B; MCA; PVA ₇ :13 P&B; PVA ₇ ; VOG ₁₋₂ U&V:8-10, 16, 19.
4/2-11	SPRING HOLIDAY -- NO CLASSES.	
4/13-15	NEW ORLEANS III. KATRINA AND POST-KATRINA How should New Orleans be rebuilt? Historic vs. Sustainable architecture and remodeled communities HABS drawings and draft projects submitted Tuesday for evaluation.	P&B:4; PVA ₇ :14 RStB:8-10; ED ₄ BRA:4-9; PVA ₅ :14-15.
4/20-22	ADAPTATION AND CREOLIZATION IN ARCHITECTURE	ED ₄ ; ED ₅ .
4/27-29	STUDENT REPORTS BEGIN	(UPT:7-11; GLA:Finish; U&V:3).
5/4-6	STUDENT REPORTS CONTINUE FINAL CONSIDERATIONS AND COURSE REVIEW	Finish readings.
5/13	FINAL EXAM: Thurs. May 13, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.	

=====

Assigned and Recommended Supplemental Readings (some on reserve):

L&L	The Built Environment and Spatial Form (1990)	Denise Lawrence and Setha Low, in: <i>The Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 19:453-506.
FOC	THE NEW ORLEANS ARCHITECTURE SERIES.	Friends of the Cabildo. (various dates)
VOG ₁	<i>NEW ORLEANS HOUSES</i>	Lloyd Vogt (1985)
VOG ₂	<i>HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF THE FRENCH QUARTER</i>	Lloyd Vogt (2002)
OLIV	<i>ENCYCLOPEDIA OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE OF THE WORLD</i> (3 vol). 1997.	
BStG	<i>MATERIAL LIFE IN AMERICA 1600-1860.</i>	Robert Blair St. George (1988) paper
U&V	<i>COMMON PLACES</i> (Readings--strongly recommended)	Upton & Vlach (1986) paper
BOY	<i>PLANTATIONS BY THE RIVER</i>	Marcel Boyer (2001)
HEA	<i>FRENCH QUARTER MANUAL.</i>	Malcolm Heard (1997) Paper
PVA ₇	<i>EXPLORING EVERYDAY LANDSCAPES</i>	Annmarie Adams and Sally McMurry (1997) Paper
PVA ₆	<i>SHAPING COMMUNITIES.</i>	Eliz. Cromley and Carter L. Hudgins (1991) paper
PVA ₅	<i>GENDER, CLASS AND SHELTER:</i>	Elizabeth C. Cromley and Carter L. Hudgins (1991)
UPT	<i>AMERICA'S ARCHITECTURAL ROOTS</i>	Dell Upton (1986)
BRU	<i>ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE</i>	R.W. Brunskill (1987)
ED ₁	<i>LOUISIANA'S REMARKABLE FRENCH VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE.</i>	Jay Edwards (1988) paper.
ED ₂	Vernacular Vision. In <i>Raised to the Trade</i> . NOMA 2002.	
ED ₃	Unheralded Contributions Across the Atlantic World. Jay Edwards <i>Atlantic Studies</i> 5:2:161-201 (2008). FilesToGeaux: < https://filestogeaux.lsu.edu/download.php?FILE=gaedwa/66603tgyIEW >	
ED ₄	Shotgun: The Most Contested House in America. <i>Buildings & Landscapes</i> 16 (1):62-96 (2009)	
GUI	<i>PRIMITIVE ARCHITECTURE</i>	E. Guidoni (1978) hard back

PVA_{2/3} *PERSPECTIVES IN VERNACULAR ARCH. II, III* Camille Wells, Ed. paper
 ROA *FRENCH AND GERMANS IN THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY:
 LANDSCAPE AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS* Michael Roark (1988) paper
 STA *HISTORIC AMERICA* A. Stamm

III. Books for grads and serious students of vernacular:

BRA HOW BUILDINGS LEARN Stewart Brand (1994) paper
 TIL READING MATERIAL CULTURE Christopher Tilley (paper)
 GLA₂ FOLK HOUSING IN MIDDLE VIRGINIA Henry Glassie (1975) paper
 E&W HISTORIC LOUISIANA NAILS Jay Edwards and Tom Wells, (1993)
 E&K A CREOLE LEXICON: ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, PEOPLE Edwards & Kariouk (2004)
 KAT FRENCH AMERICA Ron Katz (2004)
 JMV THE PLANTER'S PROSPECT John Michael Vlach (2002)
 BUR RECORDING HISTORIC STRUCTURES (2ND Ed.) John Burns & HABS (2004)
 LAW *TRADITIONAL HOUSES OF RURAL SPAIN* Bill Laws (1995) HB

IV. Articles and Monographs: Borrow from the Kniffen Lab (1 day) and Copy:

GLA₃ EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY CULTURAL PROCESS IN DELEWARE VALLEY
 FOLK BUILDING Henry Glassie
 GLA₄ VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE AND SOCIETY (p. 13 missing) Henry Glassie
 GLA₅ MATERIAL CULTURE (1999) Henry Glassie
 RAP₂ AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES AND THE DEFINITION OF PLACE Amos Rapoport
 F&B PRIMITIVE ARCHITECTURE AND CLIMATE Fitch & Branch.
 LAN AMATEUR'S GUIDE TO TERMS COMMONLY USED IN DESCRIBING HISTORIC Buildings
 HABS HANDBOOK FOR RECORDING STRUCTURES WITH MEASURED DRAWINGS. HABS 1992
 NRHP BULLETIN 16A, HOW TO COMPLETE THE NATIONAL REGISTER REGISTRATION FORM 1991
 NPS THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR'S STANDARDS FOR REHABILITATION AND
 GUIDELINES FOR REHABILITATING HISTORIC BUILDINGS. 1983 revision.
 EVE HOW TO RESEARCH THE HISTORY OF YOUR HOUSE (OR OTHER BUILDING) IN NEW ORLEANS.
 1986. Wayne M. Everard
 ED₅ The Complex Origins of the American Domestic Piazza-Veranda-Gallery (1989), *Material Culture*.
 21(2)(entire issue).
 ED₆ Cultural Identifications in Architecture: the New Orleans Town House (1993).
Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review 5(1):17-32.
 ED₇ The Origins of Creole Architecture (1994). *Winterthur Portfolio* 29(2-3):155-89.
 ED₈ Architectural Creolization. *Architectural Anthropology*(2001). Mari-Jose Amerlinck, ed. Pp. 83-120.
 ED₉ Creole Architecture: A Comparative Analysis of Upper and Lower Louisiana and Saint-Domingue.
International Journal of Historical Archaeology 10(3). (2006)
 ED₁₀ Open Issues in the Study of the Historic Influences of Caribbean Architecture on that of North America
Material Culture 37(1):44-84. (2005)
 ED₁₁ Unlocking the History of Greek Key Architecture (2008). *Louisiana Cultural Vistas* 19 (4):84-91.
 ED₁₂ What Louisiana's Architecture owes to Hispanola, and What It does Not (1999). *Louisiana Cultural Vistas* 10.

V. Some Important Reports on New Orleans:

BNOBC₁ Action Plan for New Orleans: The New American City. Report of the Bring New Orleans Back Urban
 Planning Committee, Wallace Roberts & Todd, Planners, 1/11/06
 BNOBC₂ Sustainable Architecture and New Orleans Recovery: <www.bringneworleansback.org/>
 NON New Orleans Neighborhoods website: <<http://www.gnocdc.org/>>

COURSE GRADES

- 40%: Midterm and Final Exam: Exams are based on readings and on lecture material. Exams will be objective and short answer. Some questions will require identification of structures from slides and discussion of their location, culture, dates and significance for the study of vernacular architecture.
- 50%: Term Project: This is a major, professional quality report. It is due the last week of class. It is presented in the form of a 15 minute oral summary; to the class, and in a written or physical form. In fairness to the class, late projects must be penalized.
- 10% Class Participation (attendance, participation, field trips)
- 5% Extra Credit. For one weekend of volunteer work with ACORN, the PRC, the "Make it Right Foundation" or another NGO engaged in rebuilding New Orleans houses (total possible, 10 points)

CLASS PROJECTS

Think of your project as providing an important service for a client: a museum, a state or Federal agency, or a private industrial corporation: Strive for a fully professional report of limited scope.

Projects may take the following forms:

1. Two completed sheets of measured drawings (per person) of a designated historic structure. Historic American Building Survey architectural drawings of a specific building surveyed by you and your team. If there is interest, we will develop a class-sponsored surveyed of an endangered historic (New Orleans?) house for this year's project. The drawings must be at the level of HABS standards. Refer to HABS reprint. Consult with Professor Edwards on this year's project. Completed preliminary drawings must be submitted by April 13 (following Spring Break) for evaluation. Late or incomplete projects must be penalized in fairness to the class.
2. A professional quality written report, researched with original documents and fully illustrated, of a New Orleans neighborhood.
 1. A written research report on an historic tradition of vernacular architecture, based on your field and/or library research. This could be in Louisiana (Creole cottages in New Orleans) or in other places. The paper should be address theoretical and methodological issues (Italianate Architecture in New Orleans – How was it modified to fit the environment and aesthetic of the city?).
 2. An overview of the work of a particular field or group of scholars, and their theoretical contributions to the field of vernacular architecture (Sam Wilson, Jr. F.A.I.A.; Charles E. Peterson, F.A.I.A., Henry Glassie, Dell Upton, Fred B. Kniffen, Pierre Bourdieu)
 3. For anthropologists, geographers and mappers: Participation in mapping project on the indigenous vernacular architecture of New Orleans. Together with Professor Barrett Kennedy of the School of Architecture, we are conducting an architectural survey of Uptown New Orleans. Student Worker positions are available for this project. The project will involve accessing data bases such as old aerial photos of the city and the Sanborn Maps of New Orleans, and plotting the distribution of house types on maps of New Orleans. The project involves travel to New Orleans for full-day field work (weekends). See Professor Edwards about this project.
 4. Analysis on the historic architecture of a particular community in North or South America, Western Europe or West Africa in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. For example, what was the European post building architecture of the West African coasts like in this period? This kind of project includes original research on a specific culture area, and sketching of traditional housetypes, as well as ethnography on ethnic groups, societies and cultures. The result will could form the basis for an article

on the contributions of traditional architecture to American (and world) colonial architecture. Reading in a foreign language is recommended for some of these projects.

5. Historic Structures Report: field research on the social and historical background of a specific property, such as a plantation house, Acadian cabin, urban vernacular structure, or other historic property. Archival and field research to be done by you. Generally a 15-20 pp. written report, excluding illustrations, photos, maps, chain of title information and genealogical charts. Begin by reading existing reports.

6. An accurate museum-quality scale model of a specific building, based on HABS drawings and photos, or on your own survey of the building (see below).

7. For an artist: Painting and finishing a large-scale model of the historic Whitney Plantation House.

Teamwork is recommended for certain projects, provided each student's contribution may be clearly demarcated. See handout on papers for more detail. Students are responsible for costs entailed in the purchase of materials, except where specifically arranged with Professor Edwards. Certain projects may be supported by contracts.

Your project *must* have the prior approval of the instructor. Submit a written proposal on or before Feb. 4, Thurs.). Begin planning *now*. Consult with Prof. Edwards for project suggestions. Important: Get the professor's written O.K. to begin your project. Projects turned in without prior written approval are not accepted.

A bibliography of your project, if appropriate, is to be submitted on March 9, Thursday.

All projects are judged by the same, professional level of competence. Submit your project 1-2 weeks early to get feedback before final submission.

Models: These are to be of museum quality, though smaller. Models of individual structures should be constructed in 1/48 or 1/4" = 1' (O Scale). Many commercial architectural components such as siding, windows and doors are available in this scale (see Walters catalog). Analytical models may be constructed in miniature dollhouse scale (1/24 or 1" = 2'). The frame of a timber frame house, showing details of joinery (mortices and tenons, scarf-joints) might be constructed in this scale. Dioramas and models of large structures should be done in 1/87 scale (HO Scale). Some previous experience at model making is recommended, though not absolutely required. Two or three students may cooperate on a single model so long as their responsibilities are clearly defined. Each student will be responsible for an individual component, such as an interior and an exterior. All models, drawings and reports become the property of LSU. Submit two copies of a report if you wish to have one returned (with comments).

SOME SUGGESTED RESEARCH TOPICS (PAPERS)

1. The house (plantation) museum: Theoretical and practical problems in the presentation of large scale material culture:
 1. The LSU Rural Life Museum (Baton Rouge)
 2. Magnolia Mound Plantation (Baton Rouge)
 3. The Whitney Plantation Museum of African Slavery (St. John the Baptist Parish)
 4. The River Road African American Museum (Kathe Hambric; Donaldsonville)
 5. Vermillionville and the Acadian Museum (Lafayette)
 6. Destrehan Plantation (St. Charles, E. bank).
2. Theories of the relationship between social spaces (floorplans) and social structure (family and community configurations). (Update Lawrence and Low from 1989 to the present. Use: Johnson, Matthew. 1993, *Housing Culture: Traditional Architecture in an English Landscape*. University College London Press, London.
3. Theories of the relationship between social spaces (floorplans) and furnishings and furniture preferences.
4. Historic (plantation) archaeology of the eastern U.S. and the Caribbean (Team project): What does it teach us about the search for place, identity, ethnicity, culture history, and vernacular building traditions? Are culture-based geometrical preferences diffused over vast distances?
5. The butt purlin roof in America. Origins and evolution of a colonial framing tradition.
6. The role of History (or Geography) in the study of vernacular architecture: critical information and methodological limitations.
7. Postmodern theory (or symbolic interactionism) and vernacular architecture. The implications of the theories of Geertz (Foucault, Bourdieu, Goffman).
8. Mathematical theory and the concept of tradition in vernacular architecture: Shape Grammars and Generative Transformational Grammars.
9. The detached kitchen in Europe (Africa). Origins of an American colonial tradition.
10. Cajun building traditions and terminology (Interviews with elderly francophone builders).
11. The history of the Ram Trouille farmhouse. A documentary exploration of the history of a single piece of property and its buildings (St. Landry Parish).
12. Historic Acadian architecture in Acadie (Nova Scotia). What survived in Louisiana?
13. A fieldtrip log for the Pioneer America Society all day field trip to New Orleans. The organization meets here, at LSU in October of this year.
14. Work on the Ram Trouille house project. 1) conduct a chain of title research project in the courthouse records of St. Landry Parish. 2) two sheets of measured drawings according to the best HABS guidelines. 3) a survey of the property and site plan with information sheet for HABS project. 4) interview with Mr. Ram Trouille to provide an outline of his life and his relationship with his dwelling.
15. A set of working teaching models of timber frame joints used by carpenters in historic houses (examps.: mortise & tenon, full dovetail corner notching, peg-locked through-tenon, the wall plate lap notch).
16. A research paper on issues involved in the presentation of the role of enslaved and freed African-Americans in plantation house and townhouse museums.