

Research Topics: History and Theory. 1.5 Credit Hours. October 28 – December 2.
Wednesday 1:30 to 5:20. Location: tba. Instructor: K. Crossman

TOPICAL VARIATIONS



“...Our architectural world cannot be understood as the coherent evolution of the Modern Movement, and furthermore, we cannot rely anymore on the principles that inspired it. We no longer have a clear idea of the attributes that ought to belong to a building” 1

The fading of the modernist architectural paradigm since its twentieth century apogee has been widely acknowledged and discussed. Nonetheless, if modernism is dead, it is not entirely clear what has replaced it. Perhaps investigations into the history and theory of architecture can be of assistance.

It is in this spirit of inquiry that this course of five lecture/seminars has been organised. Accordingly, it has been structured to mirror current debates over the institutional, ideological, philosophical and artistic bases of architecture. Over the course of five weeks, readings, class discussion and lectures will focus on various theoretical and historical themes of the present moment, many of which can be seen to have had their origins in the architectural culture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Links will be made with the work of contemporary practitioners.

In seeking to connect history with practice, the legacy of architectural production in the Red River valley will provide a second contextual backdrop for our investigations. Analysis of some aspect of this local culture (historical/contemporary/project/theme) within the larger frame of global debate will provide the basis for a final assignment. This will be in the form of a written text accompanied by a creative project of limited scope. Course evaluation will be based on class participation, a short in-class presentation and a final written assignment.

1. “Rafael Moneo on John Soane and building on history”, <https://architectural-review.com>.