

SEMINAR

incorporating THEORETICAL APPROACHES to STUDIO PROJECTS



Floating Gardens, Promenade des Berges de la Seine

background

“Theory spans, intercedes, and joins. It removes design from the isolation of the individual ego and from the service of variables, opportunities, and constraints. Theory connects built landscape form to the cares and concerns of humanity. Landscape architectural theory reconciles design form with the particulars of time and place and the aspirations and motivations of humankind. As such, situated theory enables and ennobles practice.”

- “Situating Modern Landscape Architecture, by Elizabeth Meyer in Theory in Landscape Architecture: A Reader, edited by Simon Swaffield.

As part of la402, we will read and engage with various articles related to course themes. We will read to engage our minds in critical thought about what how we approach our profession, our site and our projects. An open, questioning and critical mind is required. Some readings will be straightforward and matter of fact, other readings will be challenging and require additional research, thought and clarification.

the SCHEDULE

We will hold discussions on the following SEVEN (7) days during the quarter. Discussions will begin at 8:30am. 4 students have been assigned to direct the conversation for the week. Every student will be required to complete a response to the reading that will involve writing, thinking, researching and making. Participation during the discussion times is required.

SEMINAR ONE
Readings

Friday, September 30
Landscape ecological urbanism: Origins and trajectories. Steiner, Frederick.
Landscape Infrastructure: Systems of Contingency, Flexibility, and Adaptability.
Hung, Ying-Yu
[NATHAN T, BLAKE, LIBBY, MICHAEL, LUKE]

SEMINAR TWO
Readings

Friday, October 07
Sustaining Beauty. The Performance of Appearance. Meyer, Elizabeth K.
[KIMBERLY, NATHAN N, ZACH, ILEANA]

SEMINAR THREE Readings	Friday, October 14 <u><i>Towards a New Infrastructure: Aesthetic Thinking, Synthetic Sensibilities</i></u> Salomon, David. [PATRICK, TIFFANY, SILVIA, RYAN]
SEMINAR FOUR Readings	Friday, October 21 <u><i>Designing Landscapes for Performance Based on Emerging Principles in Landscape Ecology</i></u> . Lovell, Sarah T and Johnston, Douglas M. [NATHAN T, BLAKE, LIBBY, MICHAEL, LUKE]
SEMINAR FIVE Readings	Friday, October 28 <u><i>Editorial: Hyper-landscapes</i></u> . Rinaldi, Bianca Maria. <u><i>Beautiful Landscapes in Drag, the Material Performance of Hypernature</i></u> . Bennett, Katherine. [KIMBERLY, NATHAN N, ZACH, ILEANA]
SEMINAR SIX Readings	Friday, November 04 <u><i>Landscape Machines: Productive Nature and the future sublime</i></u> . Roncken, P, Stremke S, Paulissen, M. [PATRICK, TIFFANY, SILVIA, RYAN]
SEMINAR SEVEN Readings	Monday, November 14 Seminar Compilation Presentations + Discussion [ALL]

RESPONSES ARE REQUIRED TO INCLUDE:

1. A WELL-WRITTEN, ONE PARAGRAPH SYNOPSIS of the articles (include both articles if two for the week).
2. A LIST of the CENTRAL FIGURES, VOCABULARY AND/OR PROJECTS presented in the article and a brief synopsis or definition of the article. RESEARCH 20 to 40 minutes after reading the article for the people and projects discussed in each article. Include relevant imagery to support your response. Head shots of people NOT encouraged – Images, diagrams and notes of projects ARE ENCOURAGED. Cite all imagery collected.
3. A LIST OF QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION – these can range from things you wish to challenge, statements not quite clear, or better yet, questions directed toward the city and landscapes that we are currently studying.
4. A WELL-WRITTEN, ONE PARAGRAPH REFLECTION that connects suggested reflection questions (see PolyLearn) with your current studio assignment, readings from other/past classes, etc.
5. TWO to FOUR pithy, bulleted statements that connect your current approach to the studio project with the urban environment that engage, question or answer issues raised within these articles. Responses should be directed toward critical thinking. Connect text and images. You will create a final compilation of your reading responses.
6. COMPOSE A SPREAD OF TWO, FACING 8.5"x11" PAGES or ONE 11"x17" PAGE in landscape format – like a book spread. Be SURE to include your NAME, THE ARTICLES AND THE DATE.

SEMINAR is worth 20% of final grade. Grading will be based on response, participation in discussion and reading discussion leadership. Each week a small group of students will lead the discussion. This is an opportunity for you reflect on your project, the writings of various leaders in landscape architecture and to talk with your peers.