DREW UNIVERSITY
CERTIFICATE PROGRAM IN
HISTORIC PRESERVATION

American Architectural History: An Introduction
Thursdays, 7:00pm to 9:15pm (except there will be no class on February 3, 2011)
Drew Course 11WHP02

Edmund P. Meade, P.E.
Structural Engineer and Specialist in Historic Preservation

B.S. Civil Engineering, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
M. Arch. History and Certificate in Historic Preservation, The University of Virginia,
Charlottesville, Virginia

Principal and Director of Preservation
Robert Silman Associates, P.C.
88 University Place
New York, NY 10003

Phone: (212) 620-7970
Fax: (212) 620-8157

Email: meade@silman.com
Web: www.silman.com

I. Course Description

The course is intended to present an introduction to buildings, landscapes, and other built artifacts in the United States constructed between 1608 and the present. Brief reference will be made to the built environment of pre-Western settlement. References to New Jersey’s built environment will be added to supplement the major examples drawn from throughout the U.S. Besides this concentration on New Jersey, additional illustrations of the built environment from neighboring areas, including New York City, will be put forward.
The class approach will be pluralistic; historical references will be drawn from art history, social history, and cultural studies. The range of material culture produced by Americans of all ethnic and socio-economic groups will be introduced.

To supplement the traditional art and architectural historic approach, the course will also include discussions of the most significant works of engineering that relate to the creation of architecture. Examples such as train sheds, exposition halls, stadium, bridges, industrial buildings, and dams will be reviewed during the course. Some of the philosophical and logistical differences and similarities between architects and engineers and between architecture and engineering will be discussed.

Because of the time limits imposed by a course that is 10 weeks long, some of the more detailed aspects of architectural design movements will be discussed only briefly. Both urban and rural building types will be discussed. To support the review of New Jersey’s built environment examples will be drawn from domestic architecture in both the Delaware River and Hudson River valleys. Whenever critical to the historical timeline, our discussions of American Architectural History will include relevant examples of architectural history from other parts of the world—in particular the historical developments in architecture in Europe. This will help place development of American works of architecture within the wider context of architectural movements throughout the world.

II. Course Requirements

- Attendance at lectures and participation in discussions/seminars each week. One unexcused absence and two excused absence are allowed; for a passing grade, students must attend 70% of the lectures.

- Weekly readings from the course text: American Architecture, A History, by Leland M. Roth (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2001 or 2003 imprint). This text may be conveniently purchased new or used on Amazon.com or Alibris.com. If you do not have access to the Internet, please order the book in advance through your local bookseller, such as Borders or Barnes and Noble. To facilitate discussions in class, students are expected to read the appropriate chapter covering each period before the class in which it will be presented.

- Supplementary readings will be assigned from the photocopied Class Handout Reader (available for purchase from the Office of Continuing Ed).

- Completion of two writing/research assignments, approximately 5 pages each (typed and double spaced).

- Successful completion of one multiple-choice exam.
III. Lecture/Reading Schedule

Class No./Date  Class Topics

1. January 13, 2011  Course Introduction
                     Themes, Currents, and Tendencies in American Building
                     The Art of the Architect and the Art of the Engineer
                     Research Methods in Architectural History; Introduction to
                     Essential Reference Materials and Library/Internet Resources
                     Introduction to the Language of Architecture
                     Reading Assignment: Roth, Chapter 1.
                     Reading Assignment: Class Handout Articles #1 and 2.

                     First European Settlements in North America, 1608-1700
                     Massachusetts Bay, Quaker Pennsylvania, Virginia
                     Early House Types: Timber Frame, Adobe, Native Vernacular
                     Reading Assignment: Class Handout Articles #3 and 4.

3. January 27, 2011  Vernacular Architecture and Fashions in Architecture, 1700-
                     1750 Development of Planned Landscapes and American
                     Urbanism; Plans for Boston, Charleston, Philadelphia,
                     Annapolis, and New Haven; first appearance of the Rowhouse
                     Reading Assignment: Roth, Chapter 3.
                     Reading Assignment: Class Handout Articles #5 and 6.

4. February 3, 2011  There will be no class on this Thursday.

5. February 10, 2011  Carpenters, Builders, and Architects, 1750-1790
                     18th Century Houses and Public Buildings
                     Buckland, Harrison, Swan, and Byrd
                     Colonial Williamsburg
                     Reading Assignment: Class Handout Articles #7 and 8.
                     Writing Assignment #1 Due Today.

                     Thomas Jefferson, Charles Bulfinch, Benjamin Henry Latrobe
                     The Design of Washington, D.C.
                     Rise of the Professional Architect
                     Reading Assignment: Roth, Chapter 5.
                     Reading Assignment: Class Handout Article #9.

7. February 24, 2011  Greek and Gothic Revivals, 1810-1840
                     From Canals to Railroads, Rise of the Engineer
                     Plantations and Villas
                     The Italianate and other Revival Styles
Reading Assignment: Roth, Chapter 6.
Reading Assignment: Class Handout Article #10.

The Civil War and the Centennial Expo, Philadelphia, 1840-1880
AJ Davis, James Renwick, Richard Upjohn, John and Washington Roebling, Frank Furness
Cathedrals, Parish Churches, Railroad Terminals, and Houses for the Middle Class
Reading Assignment: Roth, Chapter 7.
Reading Assignment: Class Handout Article #11.

9. March 10, 2011
Eclecticism and the Triumph of Commerce, 1880-1920s;
The Industrial Development of the US, World War I, the Great Depression, and Public Works
HH Richardson, Louis Sullivan, Richard M Hunt, Charles F McKim, and Frank Lloyd Wright
The Development of the Tall Office Building in Chicago and New York
The Shingle Style, Gustav Stickley, and Romanticism
Beaux Arts Country Homes
Federal Dams Projects and Great Bridges
From Art Deco to Modernism, 1920s to 1960s;
World War II, the Cold War, and the Space Race
New York Skyscrapers
Reading Assignment: Roth, Chapter 8 and Chapter 9.
Reading Assignment: Class Handout Article #12.

10. March 17, 2011
“Machines to Live In”: Richard Neutra, Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Gropius, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
Fallingwater
The American Century, 1960s to 2000, and the Twenty First Century; Corporate Modern to Post-Modernism;
Louis Kahn, Robert Venturi, Richard Meier, Frank Gehry, Fall of the Soviet Union, Ascendance of Market Capitalism, 9-11, the New Millennium; Recent Optimism and Skepticism
Writing Assignment No. 2 Due Today.

IV. Bibliography

Below are several suggested reading lists for students interested in pursuing the study of architectural history, the history of engineering and science, historic preservation, and building science in the United States.
A. Architectural History—General and U.S.


B. History of Engineering and Science.


*C. Historic Preservation.*


