

Fall 2024

## Arch 483-001: Preservation of Modern Architecture

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# Arch 483-001ST Syllabus

## Preservation of Modern Architecture



*Bell Works - Holmdel NJ*

*A building has at least two lives - the one imagined by its maker and the life it lives afterward - and they are never the same.*

*-Rem Koolhaas*

*To restore a building is not to preserve it, to repair, or rebuild it; it is to reinstate it in a condition of completeness which could never have existed at any given time.*

*-Eugene-Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc*

## Course Information

New Jersey Institute of Technology | NJIT  
Hillier College of Architecture & Design | HCAD  
New Jersey School of Architecture | NJSoA

Instructor: Gene Dassing RA NCARB - Adjunct Instructor  
e: [eugene.dassing@njit.edu](mailto:eugene.dassing@njit.edu) m: 201-572-0024

Format: Elective - Seminar

Delivery: Hybrid | Face-to-Face & Synchronous Online

Meeting Times: M R | 10-1120A | Weston 350 | 3 Credit Hours

Office Hours: M 9-10A Weston 3rd Floor Adjunct Lounge with appointment

Prerequisites: Arch 224, 304, 314 or Arch 323, 304, 327

## Abstract

As the first landmarks of the Modernist period reach 100 years old, many are in need of attention. Preservation of these modern historically significant buildings requires architects employ a robust skill set - preserving the past and envisioning the future. This course will examine landmark buildings originally built within the past century and establish a foundational toolkit of preservation techniques.

## Course Outcomes

You will engage with the topic through several methods in order to develop a grounded understanding of architectural preservation. Together we will explore the methodologies that underpin architects' services and their engagement with owners, preservation boards, builders, and the community.

In this course, students will:

1. Research and establish the historical context of original construction;
2. Understand the process by which historically significant buildings undergo renovation or repair;
3. Apply research to design and technical aspects of preservation projects;
4. Engage with the community on the importance of preservation projects;
5. Develop a preservation proposal for presentation to a public review board.

## Required Texts & Readings

The required book for this class is available in the library or by purchasing a copy. Additional readings will be posted to Canvas during the course of class. For each required reading, you are to post a brief response including two (2) items for discussion to Canvas prior to the start of class. In-class discussions will be based on selected topics. “Further” readings will be used to supplement our in-class discussions.

*Gertner, J. (2012). The Idea Factory. Penguin.*

## Course Schedule

**This schedule is subject to change.** Changes will be discussed beforehand. Your work must be posted to Canvas prior to the start of class on the due date.

Two site visits are included in the course schedule: to Bell Works in Holmdel, NJ and to Rockefeller Center in New York City. These visits are scheduled outside of class time. Participation is strongly encouraged as site visits are an important part of architectural education to synthesize your studies with the built environment. Both sites are accessible via public transportation from NJIT.

Classes with an assignment due are red.

Online meetings are blue.

### I. Sept 3 - 6

#### A. 9/5 - Course Introduction & Welcome

1. Introduce Assignment #1: Existing Conditions Documentation
2. Further: NYRA - Save Penn Station

### II. Sept 9 - 13

#### A. 9/9 - Lecture

1. Required: “The Idea Factory” Ch 1 & 2, “Oil Drops”, “West to East”
2. Further: LPC Report on Bell Telephone Laboratories

B. 9/12 - Discussion

1. Required: "The Idea Factory" Ch. 3 & 4, "System", "War"
2. Further: Metropolis Magazine, "Why Westbeth Failed" <https://metropolismag.com/viewpoints/why-westbeth-failed-what-we-must-learn-from/>

III. Sept 16 - 20

A. 9/16 - Assignment #1 Due - In Person

B. 9/19 - Lecture

1. Introduce Assignment #2 - Lesser Known Landmarks
2. Required: "The Idea Factory" Ch 5 & 6, "Solid State", "House of Magic"

IV. Sept 23 - 27

A. 9/23 - Lecture - continue work on Assignment #2

B. 9/26 - NO CLASS

1. Required: "The Idea Factory" Ch. 7 & 8, "The Informationist", "Man and Machine"

V. Sept 30 - Oct 4

A. 9/30 - Assignment #2 Due - In Person

1. Introduce Assignment #3 - Landmarks Designation Report

B. 10/3 - Guest Speaker - Cindy Hamilton, President, Heritage Consulting

1. Required: "The Idea Factory" Ch. 9 & 10, "Formula", "Silicon"
2. Further: October 1962 Bell Labs Article from Arch Record

C. 10/5 Saturday - Field Trip - Rockefeller Center, New York NY

VI. Oct 7 - Oct 11

A. 10/7 - Discussion

1. Required: "The Idea Factory" Ch. 11 & 12, "Empire", "An Instigator"

2. Further: Industrial Versailles, Eero Saarinen's Corporate Campuses for GM, IBM, and AT&T

B. 10/10 Lecture

1. Required: "The Idea Factory" Ch. 13 & 14, "On Crawford Hill", "Futures, Real and Imagined"

C. 10/12 Saturday - Field Trip Rain Date- Rockefeller Center, New York NY

VII. Oct 14-18

A. 10/14 - Lecture

1. "The Idea Factory" Ch. 15 & 16, "Mistakes", "Competition"

B. 10/17 - Assignment #3 Due - Online

VIII. Oct 21 - 25

A. 10/21 - Introduce Final Project - Preservation Proposal

1. "The Idea Factory" Ch. 17 & 18, "Apart", "Afterlives"

B. 10/24 - Workshop & Discussion

1. "The Idea Factory" Ch. 19 & 20, "Inheritance", "Echoes"

IX. Oct 28 - Nov 1

A. 10/28 - Final Project Roles Due

B. 10/31 - Workshop

X. Nov 4 - 8 - Mid-Term Warnings Issued

A. 11/4 - Workshop

B. 11/7 - Workshop

C. 11/9 - Saturday - Field Trip - Bell Works, Holmdel NJ

## XI. Nov 11 - 15

- A. 11/11 - Workshop - LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW
- B. 11/21 - Workshop
- C. 11/23 - Saturday - Field Trip Rain Date - Bell Works, Holmdel NJ

## XII. Nov 18 - 22

- A. 11/18 - Workshop
- B. 11/21 - Workshop

## XIII. Nov 25 - Thanksgiving Week - Final Presentation scripts uploaded by Friday 11/29 11:59PM

- A. 11/25 - Workshop
- B. 11/26 - Tuesday, Thursday classes meet - Workshop

## XIV. Dec 2 - 6

- A. 12/2 - Final Presentations (In Person)
- B. 12/5 - Final Presentations (Online)

## XV. Dec 9-13

- A. 12/9 - Final Presentations (Final Class, In Person)

## XVI. Dec 15-21 - Final Exam Week - Final Project Booklets Uploaded by 12/16 11:59PM

Per NJIT guidelines, final grades must be posted before December 23rd, 2024. No grades will be posted without all final work uploaded to Kepler.

## Group Work

In order to accurately reflect a professional architectural office environment, this course will involve group project work. Architects' services are not a solitary endeavor and our collaboration with colleagues, consultants, owners and the community is an important part of any aspiring architect's education and professional development.

Group assignments will include “Roles” (e.g., researcher, drafts person, document coordinator, etc.) - distinct job titles which will be selected by the members of the group. Each title will be equally weighted and you will receive an individual grade for their role within the group.

## Course Grading & Attendance Policy

Students will be graded as follows, out of a total of 100:

- A. Reading responses & class participation - 22.5%
- B. Assignment #1 - Existing Conditions Documentation - 15%
- C. Assignment #2 - Lesser Known Landmarks - 15%
- D. Assignment #3 - Landmarks Designation Report - 15%
- E. Final Project - Preservation Proposal - 32.5%

Participation in all classes is required. Canvas will be used to track attendance over the course of the semester. Absences must be coordinated with the Instructor or Dean of Students in accordance with NJIT policy. Observe basic online meeting etiquette: do not join online sessions in loud environments, mute your microphone unless speaking, do not disturb others around you while in an online meeting. Cameras must be on during online sessions.

Upper-level students are expected to manage their time adequately to successfully complete all required coursework in parallel with Studio assignments. Assignments may be adjusted, with class consensus, during periods of intense studio activity. Major changes to the course schedule will not be allowed

NJIT uses the following grading structure for undergraduate courses:

Grade	Description
A	Superior
B+	Excellent
B	Very Good
C+	Good
C	Acceptable
D	Minimum
F	Inadequate



Grade	Description
AUD	Audit
I	Incomplete--given in rare instances to students who would normally have completed the course work but who could not do so because of special circumstances. It is expected that coursework will be completed during the next regular semester. If this grade is not removed before final grades are due at the end of the next regular semester, a grade of F will be issued.
W	Withdrawal

## NAAB Criteria

The National Architectural Accrediting Board accredits NJIT's architecture program. The NAAB has Shared Values of the Discipline and the Profession that must be covered by any architectural curriculum to attain their approval. This course satisfies the following shared values:

**Design:** Architects design better, safer, more equitable, resilient, and sustainable built environments. Design thinking and integrated design solutions are hallmarks of architecture education, the discipline, and the profession.

**Knowledge and Innovation:** Architects create and disseminate knowledge focused on design and the built environment in response to ever-changing conditions. New knowledge advances architecture as a cultural force, drives innovation, and prompts the continuous improvement of the discipline.

**Leadership, Collaboration, and Community Engagement:** Architects practice design as a collaborative, inclusive, creative, and empathetic enterprise with other disciplines, the communities we serve, and the clients for whom we work.

**Lifelong Learning:** Architects value educational breadth and depth, including a thorough understanding of the discipline's body of knowledge, histories and theories, and architecture's role in cultural, social, environmental, economic, and built contexts. The practice of architecture demands lifelong learning, which is a shared responsibility between academic and practice settings.

## Canvas and Kepler

This course will use Canvas, NJIT's integrated Learning Management System, customized by NJSoA. Assignments and grades will be posted as the semester progresses. It is incumbent on you to check Canvas regularly.

At the completion of the semester, all assignments must be uploaded to Kepler, following all standard requirements. Kepler is accessed through Canvas. Final grades will not be issued until your work has been uploaded to Kepler.

## Academic Integrity & Use of AI

Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: [NJIT Academic Integrity Code](#).

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at [dos@njit.edu](mailto:dos@njit.edu)

The NJSoA maintains that academic integrity and honesty are of paramount importance. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. The NJIT Honor Code will be upheld, and any violations will be dealt with by the department or brought to the immediate attention of the Dean of Students.

All students are responsible for upholding the integrity of NJIT by reporting any violation of academic integrity. The identity of the student filing the report will remain anonymous.

Students are expected to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct:

<https://www.njit.edu/dos/policies/conductcode/index.php>

HCAD librarian Maya Gervits has assembled excellent resources for a students use on using images, citing, and plagiarism:

<https://researchguides.njit.edu/c.php?g=671665&p=4727920>

The use of image or text generation software platforms, collectively known as Artificial Intelligence or “AI”, is not specifically prohibited in this class. Students are required to cite the work being generated by these systems in the same manner as any other source content. Any student found using AI systems without proper citation will receive a failing grade for the assignment in question. Violation of this policy will be brought to the attention of the HCAD administration and/or Dean of Students.