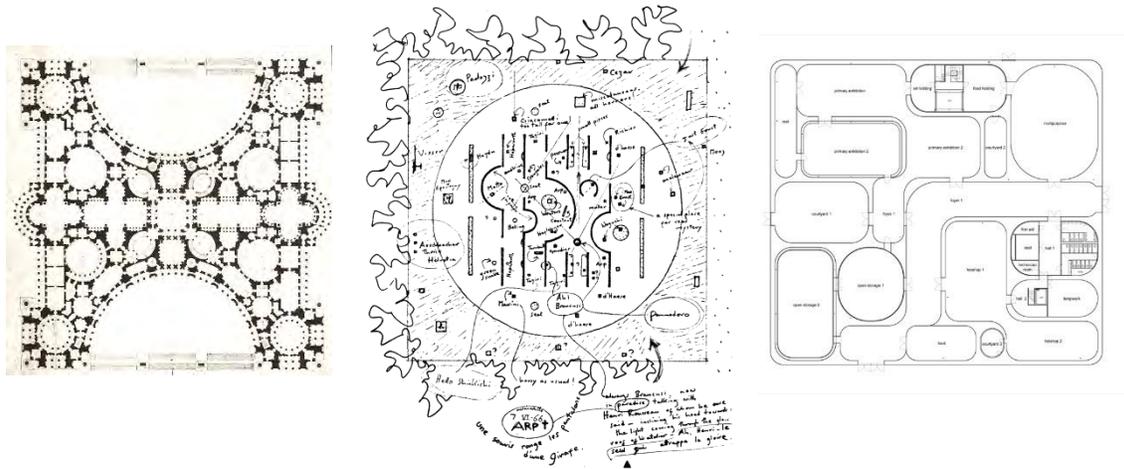


Georgia Institute of Technology / Spring 2018
Arch 4803 (CRN: 30709) / 8803 (CRN: 30710)
Diagrams for Conceptual Analysis

T,R 8:00am – 9:15am
Room: Arch West 260
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About

The course is nominally about diagrams. But diagrams are not the subject of the course; the subject is the conceptual intent underlying designs: the set of ideas and values that govern the organization of activities and experience in buildings. The aim of the course is to help students develop the ability to understand and describe this conceptual intent. This ability is naturally central to criticism, but it is intrinsically necessary to design as well. Amongst other things, students will learn that there is no “innocent” or “all-purpose” approach to making diagrams using generic categories; diagrams are theory-laden, rhetorical devices, and their use implies the adoption and instantiation of critical positions towards the building or work to be analyzed. Not just this, there is no difference in principle between diagrams and other kinds of architectural drawings. In this, architectural drawings are distinguished from diagrams in general; their aim is not to just to explain, or describe, it is also to persuade and express.

Organization

The course will be conducted in a seminar / workshop format. The students will begin by identifying an interpretive project, and then work through regular drawing exercises towards a final presentation. Along the way they will be expected present ongoing work in the class on their work and to work on intermittent short exercises. As they work through these, the students will also be introduced, through lectures, to the relatively small body of literature on architectural drawing, media, and representation along with some background ideas drawn from studies of perception and depiction.

The course is offered to juniors and senior undergraduates as well as to graduate students at two different levels. All students will be expected to develop a good analytical understanding of their selected topic, but students enrolled in the graduate section will be expected, in addition, to contextualize this analytical reading within contemporary architectural thought. Grades will be determined on the basis of the term project (60%), work done through the class (30%) and attendance and regularity (10%).