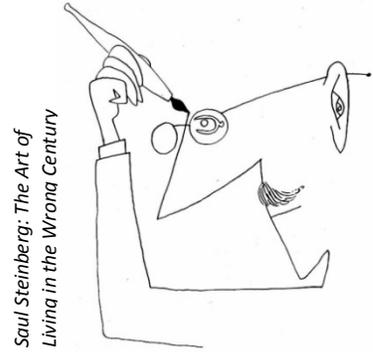


Georgia Tech Fall 2018
Arch 6350 **Theory of Architecture 1**
Tues and Thurs 8:00 to 9:30 / Architecture 359
Instructor: Sonit Bafna <sonit.bafna@design.gatech.edu>



About

The aim of Theory 1 is to give students a foundational knowledge of the thought and ideas that have shaped architecture in the recent years. Till the early years of the last century, theory in architecture meant a set of principles that defined the principles that lead to good building, and the typical format for presenting such principles was the architectural treatise. With the rise of modernism, faith in the universality of such principles was tested, and theory became associated with a more personal articulation of such principles presented through essays and manifestos. In the period that we will cover beginning with the post-second world war years, theory



Jasper Johns: The Critic Speaks

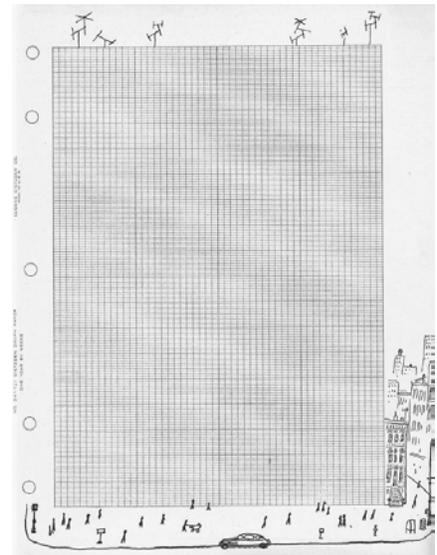
changed again, becoming concerned less with presenting principles for good design, and more with inquiry into what architecture should or should not do. But the broadening of theory in this sense made the relationship of theory to practice more problematic in that it no longer produced principles that could be applied in design in a straightforward way. What the course will do, is to help students understand the nature of this relationship and how it influences the shape of our built-environment.

Content

The course will cover major movements and design approaches active in architecture through the twentieth century. Students will also be given an introduction to some broader cultural ideas that directly informed these approaches; these are drawn largely from continental philosophy and from its then intellectually cognate disciplines: linguistics, literary theory, anthropology, history, and philosophy of science. Since the number of these approaches is large, and their relative relevance still a matter of debate, the focus will be on three underlying questions that motivate these approaches: 1) what is the role of architecture in our life, or, more broadly, its purpose; 2) how closely should architectural form be determined by instrumental goals in order to address this purpose; and 3) how can architects best achieve their intentions given that they work through mediated forms such as drawings and models. These questions arose specifically with the development of modernity and the questioning of tradition that came with it. Understanding the different response that were given to these questions remains the best way to connect the very specific concerns of the last century with those of today.

Procedure

The classes will be conducted through a mix of lectures and discussions. Further details about the procedure will be clarified in class



Saul Steinberg: The City