I defy the most daring of our artists to suspend the sun or the moon in the middle of his composition...I defy him to give us a sky like nature's, sprinkled with glittering stars as it might be on the clearest night.

— Denis Diderot

NOCTURNE: A Study of Place and Time
Spring 2018 | ARCH 4204/5204 | Center City Campus, Rm TBA | Thursdays 5:00 — 7:45
Instructor: Andrew McLellan | aemclellan@gmail.com | 704.299.6800

Ando Hiroshige, Saruwaka cho, Yoru Shibai, 1856.

PREMISE
The paucity of architecture in thoughtful relationship to aspects of night becomes apparent when acknowledging a prejudice towards architecture viewed in the light of day. Night, as it interacts with space, offers the potential for uncommon outward experiences that tap into an observer’s chambered memories, both real and imagined.

METHOD and CONTENT
The course, a cultural, historical, and theoretical survey of the nocturne, provides a framework for understanding contemporary architectural space. It offers a comprehensive look at the value of night in the representation and realization of architecture. The survey begins with night’s sharp erosion at the start of the Industrial Revolution and focuses on those rare instances where darkness survives — in literature (the novels and poems of Ondaatje), painting (Whistler’s moonlit Battersea Bridge), film (Reed’s The Third Man) and the theoretical (Tanizaki’s In Praise of Shadows). The seminar is structured around lectures, group discussions, ekphrastic writing, research, and making exercises.

BIBLIOGRAPHY
Articles, chapters, essays, excerpts, and poems to be assigned by the instructor.

GRADING
UNC-Charlotte undergraduate and graduate grading scales according to current catalogs.