



"I write entirely to find out what I'm thinking, what I'm looking at, what I see and what it means."

Joan Didion

PREMISE

1. Writing creatively about architecture can help you explore things about it that interest you (in other words, it can be fun).
2. Writing is a powerful design tool – one that can help you generate, develop, clarify and critique your design ideas and solutions.
3. You cannot write well if you do not read. Absolutely no one is an exception to this rule. Reading is not a passive endeavor but one that involves questioning, intellectual and emotional interaction and an understanding of the context of what you read.
4. You must make connections between what you're reading/writing and other stuff (i.e. studio, seminars and core courses, non-architecture courses, conversations you have, films, current affairs, cities you visit, books you read for pleasure, etc.).

OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of the course is to 1) employ writing as part of your design and communication process and 2) employ (multimedia) drawings and diagrams as part of your writing and communication process.

The specific objectives for the course are three-fold:

- to employ thoughtful reading and writing as tools in the ideation, design and communication of architecture;
- to expand your awareness of different genres of architectural writing both non-fiction and fiction; *
- to improve the quality – clarity, expressiveness and effectiveness – of your writing.

CONTENT

The course will survey various types of writing relevant to architectural discourse. While some time will be spent on other genres, the focus will be on design, criticism, reflection, storytelling and manifesto. Some of these topics will be engaged as fiction and some as non-fiction.*

*For examples of fiction writing about architecture (some accompanied by images), see the following:

- *Condemned Building* by Douglas Darden;
(https://books.google.com/books?id=RJ1u91wPErEC&pg=PA34&source=gsb_toc_r&cad=3#v=onepage&q&f=false)
- Blankspace – architecture *Fairy Tales* competition;
(<https://www.archdaily.com/tag/fairy-tales>)
- *Invisible Cities* by Italo Calvino.
(https://smile.amazon.com/Invisible-Cities-Italo-Calvino/dp/0156453800/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=Invisible_Cities&qid=1569425154&sr=8-1)

METHOD

The course is structured around presentations by the instructor, writing assignments, readings, group discussions, in-class writing prompts and peer review of your writing. Your writing, diagramming and drawing will be iterative meaning that the assigned exercises will be relatively short and you will engage in a process of rewriting to develop and polish them. There will be no single, lengthy writing assignment.