

**The 2013 Southwest Summer Institute  
for Preservation and Regionalism**

**Settings: Contemporary Design in Historic and Regional Contexts**

**ARCH 462-002 / ARCH 662-002**

**In-Class Week: June 10 – 14, 2013**

**Instructor:** Tony Atkin, FAIA; [tatkin@aosarchitects.com](mailto:tatkin@aosarchitects.com)

The course explores one of the great regional traditions in the world--the Southwest United States--where the forms and materials of buildings have been adapted to the desert climate, indigenous cultures, and singular landscapes. Class lectures and discussions will center on how the understanding of indigenous and historic buildings and landscapes can inform contemporary design, and lead to more sustainable and meaningful practice. The course will include multiple site visits, where students can experience the historic sites and new work first hand. We will visit and discuss ancient and historic settlements such as Chaco Canyon and some of its Outliers, Acoma, and Santa Fe, and also contemporary work by Antoine Predock, Ricardo Legoretta, Richard Gluckman and others. Students will develop their own response to historic and regional issues through a design project or critical essay.



24. Andrew Dasburg, *Placita Sanctuario*, 1924, oil on panel, 13 x 16 inches.

**Classes:** Apart from field trips, classes will be held in the Pearl Architecture Building Pearl Hall P-104, 9:00-6:00, during in-class week. Class Attendance is required because the majority of course content is presented in during the intensive in-class week.

**Disabilities:** If you have a qualifying physical or mental disability, please contact me as soon as possible (preferably before the first class) so that appropriate arrangements can be made to give you full access to the course content and experience.

**Objectives of the Course:**

- Examine some of the tremendous variety of indigenous and vernacular building practices around the world, and how they have responded to unique climates, habitats, and cultural practices. What can we learn from these structures?
- Understand the history and context of the high desert southwest and the architectural and cultural responses to this unique environment over time.
- Understand how orientation, spatial organization, materials, and construction details have acted to mediate the high desert environment, and provide comfort and accommodation to its pre-industrial inhabitants.
- Investigate the ways that vernacular and indigenous buildings can inform and improve contemporary practice.
- Understand the tremendous cost to environmental resources, health, and comfort entailed in ignoring environmental and cultural principles embodied in these structures
- Use your studies in the design of a building project, or in a critical essay explaining a building practice or detail that substantially increases the environmental effectiveness of a structure.

**Teaching/Learning Methods:** The course employs a variety of approaches including eReserve readings, instructor lectures, class discussions, guest speakers, class field trips, and a final term project.

**Field Trips:** We will take several field trips required for the course as indicated on the schedule below. You will need to sign an acknowledgement of liability form, and the HPR program will purchase supplemental field trip insurance for each student. The class will convene at the field trip sites, and car pooling will be encouraged.

**Readings:** twelve readings--either essays or book chapters-- will be placed on eReserve by about May 15th. They are each to be completed by the in-class day indicated. Students will select one of the daily required readings and present the content to the class and the instructor for discussion. Directions for logging onto eReserve will be sent to students at registration.

## **In Class Week Schedule: June 10 thru 14, 2011**

### **Monday, June 10**

- 9am-10am Introduction/Class overview
- 10am-12noon Deep and Superficial Context: Indigenous Influence and Strategies In Contemporary Building
- 1pm-2pm The Elemental Roots of Southwest Design  
Landscape, Culture, Climate, Materials, and Spatial Organization
- 2pm-3pm Shawn Evans "The Pueblo World: Cultural and Material Preservation"
- 3:30pm-6pm Site Visit – Hubbel House, Los Poblanos, Albuquerque and/or Tamarind Institute, Albuquerque.
- Readings: Vittorio Gregotti, "Modification"  
Kenneth Frampton, "Towards a Critical Regionalism"  
Rina Swentzell, "Pueblo Space, Form and Mythology"

### **Tuesday, June 7**

- 9am-10:00pm Sources of Southwest Architecture:  
The Chaco Phenomenon  
Pueblos, Hogans, and Wikiups  
Hispanic Overlays  
John Gaw Meem and the Pueblo Revival  
Modern Architecture in the Southwest
- 10am-11:00 Hilary Noll, Preservation Architect – "Critical Regionalism in New Mexico"
- 11am-12noon Devendra Contractor, Architect – "The Southwest as a Regional Paradigm: Influence and Inspiration for Contemporary Work"
- 2pm-6pm Site Visit – Acoma Sky City
- Readings: John Gaw Meem, "Old Forms for New Buildings"  
Chris Wilson, "Modern Regionalism" in *The Myth of Santa Fe*  
Tony Atkin, "The Evolution of Settlement: Field Work at Zuni Pueblo" in *Structure and Meaning in Human Settlements*

### **Wednesday, June 8**

- All Day Site Visit – Chaco Canyon: 11<sup>th</sup> Century Masters of the Universe
- Readings: Jill Neitzel, "Architectural Studies of Pueblo Bonito," in *The Architecture of Chaco Canyon*

## Thursday, June 9

9am-12noon

Santa Fe Plaza, Palace of the Governors, San Miguel Church  
Santa Fe's Historic District

Readings:

Paul Byard, "Twentieth-century Combined Works and the Law: the Special Case of 'Preservation'," in *The Architecture of Additions: Design and Regulation*.

Fred Bernstein, "In Santa Fe, an Architectural Battle Goes Casa a Casa" *New York Times*, July 13, 2006.

Chris Wilson, "The Santa Fe Plaza"

1pm-2pm

Jamie Blosser, Architect: "Strategies for Sustainability in Contemporary Native American Communities"

2pm-7pm

Possible site visits: Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Gallery by Devendra Contractor, O'Keefe Museum by Richard Gluckman, Santa Fe Art Institute by Ricardo Legorreta

Readings:

Sverre Fehn, "The Primitive Architecture of Morocco"

Anthony Antoniades, "Traditional Versus Contemporary Elements"

Response by John Gaw Meem

Antoine Predock, "La Luz"

## Friday, June 10

9am-12noon

Project Work

1pm-4pm

Project Pin-up Presentation and Review

5pm- 6pm

Closing Party



La Luz – Antoine Predock

**Student Evaluation/Grading** (for those taking the course for credit):

1. Class participation (40% of grade)
2. Term Project (60%), due to me by July 28th, either:
  - a) A **design project**, of scope and type approved by the instructor, that incorporates principles learned from the course. This includes forms, materials, and details of construction that will substantially demonstrate improved environmental efficiency and fit. Students are encouraged to incorporate new technologies and materials into their work, where they are appropriate and beneficial.
  - b) An illustrated **critical essay** of at least 2500 words on a subject chosen by the student and approved by the instructor that addresses an issue or aspect of building practice studied during the course. The essay should discuss the topic in light of its relevance to environmental principles and how it mediates and expresses the particular conditions of its use.

**Course/Instructor Evaluation:** I welcome feedback at any point during the course, and will solicit written feedback in class at the end of the second day. The UNM course evaluation form will also be distributed at the final class session.



Pueblo Bonito – Chaco Canyon