



Arch 542 | Fall 2019

# READING. THE. MILIEU.

Instructor: Darla Lindberg

Schedule: Monday, 6:00pm-9:00pm

Credits: 3



## ARCH 542

### READING. THE. MILIEU.

This seminar explores how to extract a theory from a milieu. All the best examples of art and architecture perform as wise seers – they give us a lived, experiential, material and sensorial way of describing the world that shaped it. By including head-on, and *not* ignoring the stuff of money, greed, power, and pivotal events to narrate the shaping of genres and evolving styles, this course gives rational meaning to the architectural version of the how and why,

“things happen for a reason.”

Scholarly literature, lively class discussions and jaw-dropping documentaries cover topics such as Social Contract Theory, Follow the Money, the Twenty-Year Lag and Why It Matters, Group Think and Why We Are Invested in Sloppy Institutions. Aligned with architectural theories and thinkers and shaped by such influencers as the Hudson River School painters, the Civil War, the L.A. riots, interest rates, the Enron collapse, global trade wars, embargos and shortages, to name only a few, students develop an empathy towards the circumstances shaping a problem benefiting from the devices of design and architecture that are NOT naive. Not a course about politics, religion or money, but one that biases rationality, ethics and equity with the planet and all life in mind. Relevant for Thesis thinking and Design for agency change. Weekly readings and case study research by students leverage tools to critically inform design for a place and time. *Therefore, your architecture should tell us as much about the situation that induced its giving as anything about its legacy of inherited and debated material craft and form.* Give Design a voice worth reading!

Instructor: Darla Lindberg, Professor of Architecture

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Day: Monday

Time: 6:00pm-9:00pm

Location: 121 Ag Engineering

Audience: Upper level undergrad and grad students from any domain