

EEM 380 History of Architecture

1st and 2nd quarters, Senior

Instructor	TAKASHIMA TAKESHI
Style of Class	Lecture
Number of Credits	2
Day and Period	To be advised

Course Description

There is an inevitable reason why buildings are built. And when a building is built, it is deeply connected with the climate, geography and people's ideas. This course will provide an overview of Japanese and Western architecture trends in light of historical currents. It will explore their historical characteristics from the perspective of societal changes and needs, and the development of buildings' spatial structure and architectural technology. Students will consider how people have built throughout history, while taking into account the relationship between society and design, style, function, and technology, which manifests in architecture.

With today's ever-changing society and ever-advancing technology, we tend to forget the basic ideas of craftsmanship. By tracing and understanding the origins and history of architecture within and outside Japan, students will learn the concepts and methods to practice architecture—a craft rooted in local geography, climate, and culture. Students will also be provided with historical materials regarding the proposition “architecture is art.” Thinking about this proposition will be a major theme of the course.

Course Objectives

Students will:

- (1) acquire basic knowledge about the changes that have taken place in Western and Japanese architecture, and their historical characteristics
- (2) develop the skills to examine architectural spatial structure for people, by looking at the relationship between architectural space and people from a historical, cultural (artistic), and technological perspective

Prerequisites

None in particular.

Class Materials

Textbooks:

- (1) Architectural Institute of Japan (ed.), *Seiyo kenchikushi zushu* (A collection of photos and drawings of Western architecture), third edition, Shokokusha Publishing, 1983.
- (2) Architectural Institute of Japan (ed.), *Nihon kenchikushi zushu* (A collection of photos and drawings of Japanese architecture), revised third edition, Shokokusha Publishing, 2011.

Reference materials:

- (1) Morita Keiichi, *Seiyo Kenchikushi Gaisetsu* (An overview of Western architecture), Shokokusha Publishing, 1982.
- (2) Ota, Hirotarou, *Nihon Kenchikushi Josetsu* (An introduction to Japanese architecture), Tokyo: Shokokusha Publishing, 1947.

Course Method

The course will be in a lecture format. Lectures will, for the most part, follow the textbooks, but printouts on recent discoveries and particularly important issues will also be passed out in class. Videos will also be used at times to deepen students' understanding.

Short tests will be given during class to confirm students' understanding of the lessons.

Evaluation/Assessment

Students will be graded based on the tests.

Grading

70% Short tests given during class

30% Final test

Course Schedule

Week 1:

What does it mean to study the history of architecture?

An architectural structure cannot be completed without engineering technology, but the action of building is profoundly connected to people's lives and activities. Therefore, in this lecture students will learn how architecture integrates a variety of cultures.

Week 2:

History of Japanese architecture (1)—Ancient shrines and temples

Little remains of ancient Japanese architecture, but what has been found provides insight into the origins of Japanese architectural ideas. In this lecture, students will learn about materials from archeological excavations and the basic forms of the architecture.

Week 3:

History of Japanese architecture (2)—Temples and cities in the Nara period

This lecture will cover buildings built in the ancient capital of Heijo-kyo and other cities. Students will study how Buddhist temples and architecture changed from ancient times from the perspective of design structure.

Week 4:

History of Japanese architecture (3)—Temples and shrines in the Heian period

Students will learn about the characteristics of Esoteric and Pure Land Buddhist temples which developed during this period, and gain an understanding about Shinto shrine architecture in which the *honden* (main sanctuary) style seen today was developed.

Week 5:

History of Japanese architecture (4)—Temples and shrines in the medieval period

Students will learn about the characteristics of *daibutsuyo*- and *zenshuyo*-style Buddhist temples introduced in the medieval period and Shinto shrine architecture which richly reflects local features, and deepen their understanding of their structural development.

Week 6:

History of Japanese architecture (5)—Medieval houses and castles, and *shoin-zukuri* and *sukiya-zukuri* styles

Students will gain understanding of medieval features that can still be seen in Japanese houses today, and the features and concepts of *shoin-zukuri* and *sukiya-zukuri* styles which form the basis for modern Japanese houses, and also learn about castle architecture.

Week 7:

History of Japanese architecture (6)—Temples and shrines in the pre-modern period

Students will deepen their understanding of pre-modern shrine and temple architecture exemplified in Toshogu shrines, gain understanding of approaches to architecture of people in periods of stability, and learn about technological advancements.

Week 8:

History of Japanese architecture (7)—Housing and settlements

Many ruins of housing and settlements from the pre-modern period remain today. In this lecture students will gain an understanding of the wide range of forms, and their characteristics, from the perspective of elements that reflect local geography, culture, and climate.

Week 9:

History of Western architecture (1)—Ancient Egyptian and Grecian architecture

Students will study the features of Western architecture from the perspective of masonry structures, from ancient Egypt to Greece, and learn the basic principles of form in Grecian architecture mainly through looking at temple architecture.

Week 10:

History of Western architecture (2)—Ancient Roman and early Christian architecture

Students will learn about the figurative nature and structural techniques of ancient Roman architecture, and think about the various facilities built at the time. Students will also learn about form in early Christian architecture.

Week 11:

History of Western architecture (3)—Romanesque architecture

Students will learn about the new forms in Romanesque architecture which developed taking on regional differences, at a time when European society was unified spiritually in Christianity.

Week 12:

History of Western architecture (4)—Gothic architecture

As the Catholic Church's influence grew, so did the size of its church buildings. Students will gain a grasp of the structure and details of churches, which grew in both height and area, and their regional characteristics, and examine their figurative nature.

Week 13:

History of Western architecture (5)—Italian Renaissance architecture

Students will learn about the figurative nature of Renaissance architecture, which aimed to create a new future by reproducing classical antiquity, and the architects of the time.

Week 14:

History of Western architecture (6)—Baroque and pre-modern Northern European architecture

Students will learn about the characteristics of Baroque architecture, which, while borrowing forms from antiquity, just as Renaissance architecture did, was characterized by its dynamic designs, and study the development of pre-modern Northern European architecture, where the influence of the Renaissance took root later.

Week 15:

History of Western architecture (7)—Pre-modern architecture

This lecture will cover new developments in architecture in response to dramatic societal changes in the 19th century. A variety of new forms and technologies unlike those of the 18th century were born, and students will consider the connection between these developments and modern architecture.

Preparation and Follow-up

1. Preparation: Before each class meeting, read the section of the textbook which corresponds to the topic of the lecture.
2. Follow-up: After each class meeting, review your notes on the lecture and the handouts, as well as the corresponding sections in the textbooks and reference materials to deepen your understanding.