Finding Public Space - STUDY and DESCRIPTION of a SIGNIFICANT BUILDING

DUE: Part A + Part B are due in Week 12

Deliverables:
- Part A = pamphlet
- Part B = in-class presentation

Intent

The learning outcomes for HIST 12797 include the ability to recognize different building types and styles, a familiarity with architectural terminology, the ability to analyze and express ideas in written form. It is also our hope that, by the end of this term, you will find yourself looking at the architecture you encounter on a daily basis in a new light. Let us not forget that architecture is the "art of making place for ritual" so seek out public plazas, parks, and gardens. Keep your eyes open and learn from the world around you!

Subject of the Project

For this project, visit one of the buildings listed below. Select the one that you are most interested in so that the trip will be something that you will look forward to.

- Clay and Glass Museum in Waterloo (http://www.theclayandglass.ca/)
- Ryerson University Student Learning Centre (http://ryersonbuilds.ryerson.ca/student-learning-centre/)
- Art Gallery Ontario Toronto (http://www.ago.net/)
- Mississauga Living Arts Centre (http://www.livingartscentre.ca/plan-your-visit)
- Aga Khan Museum (https://www.agakhanmuseum.org/)
- Celebration Square Mississauga (https://culture.mississauga.ca/celebration-square/about-square)
- Benares Historic House (https://culture.mississauga.ca/venu/benares-historic-house)

Remember! You must physically visit the building and go inside – this is NOT a "virtual tour" on the Internet. Note that this is NOT a group project and that you will be marked individually on your report. You are being evaluated for your own work, and original observations (not the assessment of someone describing the building or the tour of the building or commentary on the internet.) We have access to the same sites as you do, and the penalty for academic dishonesty is severe.
PART A:

Create an image of the building using words!

Imagine that you are an architectural tour guide. Your task is to create a pamphlet that describes your chosen building both in images and in words.

First step: visit your selected building, make careful observations — this will help you describe the building in writing. Do it in a systematic fashion. One approach might be to organize your description on the basis of how a visitor would experience it — the approach, how it is sited, the façade, the entrance, the main lobby, as you move around the spaces, etc. Don’t forget to look up! What are some other surprising details? It should be possible for me to visualize the building in and out in my mind’s eye, based on your description. Be sure to use architectural language! Tell the person reading your pamphlet about the building’s form and space — don’t forget to consider the building’s culture, beauty, strength, and function.

Draw + Photograph

While you are at the building, take a lot of pictures. You’ll use the pictures in your pamphlet so be sure that they actually show something that you’ll be writing about. You’ll have to connect the words and the pictures.

ALSO while you’re there, create a PARTI sketch of the building that will explain its general layout and architectural form. Parti drawings are done in plan, but are not necessarily a detailed plan of the building itself. Here are examples of a parti drawing and a plan of Villa Savoye by Le Corbusier.

The top drawings are PARTI. You can see that the person who drew them was focused on highlighting the circulation areas in Villa Savoye.

Below are the actual plans of Villa Savoye that show the doors, rooms, windows, etc. of the building itself.

What you need to focus on is capturing the IDEA of the building in a simple PARTI plan drawing of the building that YOU visit. You’ll include this in your pamphlet as well.
In-depth research

NEXT, conduct an investigation of what the building is all about, through a secondary research source (primary is "in the flesh"; secondary is "through various media such as drawings, books, pictures, etc."). This research should allow you to find out more about how the building is used, and how its use and design have evolved over time. Try to make links between the use/design/organization of your chosen building and the architecture that you have studied during the course of this term. This secondary research can be done prior to your visit to prepare yourself for what you are going to see OR after the visit to confirm what you’ve seen.

Presentation

Individuals going to the same building can do a combined presentation about the building. It is advisable to discuss in advance the different areas in the building that you will be presenting to avoid unnecessary repetition. If you happen to choose to do your presentation with others, you will nonetheless be graded as an individual. The pamphlet will also be marked individually.

The total presentation time for all the groups is limited. Time constraints for the presentation will be enforced and we will use a “Pecha Kucha” format with each student having 6 slides that will only stay on the screen for 20 seconds each. This means that your individual presentation will be just 2 minutes. If you have more than one person in your group, you can add everyone’s time together. Please use the template provided in Slate. SLIDES WILL CHANGE AUTOMATICALLY, so be sure to prepare and practice so that you are ready to go when the slides start!

**What should you present?** Don't give us the facts about the building that we can look up on the internet!! We want to hear about the ARCHITECTURE of the building, from your perspective. What were the spaces like? What makes the building unique? How do people use the building? Did it make you think of anything that we have looked at in our Architectural History journey so far?

You will be graded on your ability to keep pace with your slides and stick to concise and architecturally significant information. Be creative and enthusiastic, but pertinent in your presentation as this carries a number of points in your mark.
Create your pamphlet

Using Word (or any other program that you are comfortable with) create a dual-sided pamphlet using 11x17 paper. Your final product needs to be folded into a pamphlet and presented as such. Word has a lot of pre-made templates that you are welcome to use – or get creative with your own!

Your pamphlet should be an architectural guide to the building that you have visited. It should include text and images to present both your in-person and in-depth research.

Be creative, make something beautiful, smart, and informative.

Citing your sources

On an inconspicuous area of your pamphlet, include the sources of information you have used for your research. Use APA formatting - find information on this citation style from our Library website.

THE MAJOR PROJECT IS WORTH 20% of YOUR FINAL MARK