

ARCH S242

Globalization and Architecture in and through China

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Day and Time: M, W at 1-4:15 pm

Place: TBA

Office Hours: Tuesdays 10:00-11:00 (Zoom), before and after each class, and by appointment

Course Description:

This course delves into the complexity and ambiguity of globalization through architecture. From nineteenth-century treaty ports to Special Economic Zones, from the Silk Road to the Belt and Road Initiative, we will investigate how the built environment and global networks have mutually conditioned each other. As information, money, and materials circulate globally, they transform how architecture interacts with its surroundings. Students are invited to consider architecture as a medium through which supranational institutions and corporations thrive and expand. Using China as an entry point, this course enriches the history of modern architecture by investigating how styles, environments, and technologies travel beyond their places of origins.

Capitalizing on old geographical affinities that have been lying dormant for decades, China's Belt and Road Initiative activates a new mode of globalization, one that materialized through Infrastructural investments and architectural constructions. This course contextualizes the BRI through four historical episodes: 1910s-1940s, 1950s-1960s, 1970s-1990s, and 2013 until now. Through a series of architectural projects, this course will show how different globes were conceived and constructed in each episode. As a site and an actor, China is important because stoppages and holes in the global networks are as constructive as the network itself. Contrary to Manuel Castells' notion of flows, we will foreground the mechanisms of regulation and exclusion embedded in architectural and infrastructural spaces. Built environments constrain but also enable the flows. The flows pass through but also transform their channels. To paraphrase Buckminster Fuller, they come to pass AND to stay.

The course will meet ten times. Each session will consist of a 30-minute talk and a 150-minute discussion. The talk will provide the historical background of the period of interest. It will review how the period was covered in the canons to show how the assigned readings enrich the existing scholarship. Apart from the readings, students are expected to complete low-stake exercises each week. These exercises will be shared and discussed in the class. Designed to help the students understand the assigned texts through examples found in real life, these exercises will assist the students in working toward the final project, which is coming up with their own definition of globalization through concrete examples. Students will receive letter grades for each exercise starting from week one.

Requirements:

1. No previous course work is required
2. complete all the required readings before each session and be ready to actively participate in discussion in class.
3. upload your weekly assignment to the Miro board (link to be announced each week) before it is due.
4. for specific prompts of each assignment and the final project see below. The due time will be coordinated and communicated at the beginning of each week.

The course is graded as follows:

overall participation 20%

exercise 1-3 15% each (45% total)

final project 25%

According to the Summer Session policy, attendance is compulsory. No extensions or makeup assignments are permitted. It is essential for you to follow the Yale University code [<https://catalog.yale.edu/handbook-instructors-undergraduates-yale-college/teaching/academic-dishonesty/>] on plagiarism and academic honor. Writing and language tutoring is available through the Yale College Writing Center [<https://poorvucenter.yale.edu/undergraduates/writing-center/>] and the Center for Language Studies [<https://cls.yale.edu/>].

WEEK 1: OVERVIEW

Session 1

Talk: A Prehistory of Globalization: When, Where, and How

Jürgen Osterhammel and Niels P. Petersson. *Globalization: A Short History*. (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press), 2005, 13-29.

Eric Tagliacozzo, "from China to Africa," *In Asian Waters: Oceanic Worlds from Yemen to Yokohama* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2022), 25-52.

Exercise 1: Globalization Materialized

globalization is not only spatial but also tangible. Rather than a mere concept, it materializes through architecture and infrastructure. Read the assigned text in advance, take concepts such as space of flows, splintering urbanism, and extrastatecraft, and find a place or a thing that embodies the concept of choice, post your example to the canvas discussion session, and be ready to it in class. (due session 2)

Session 2

Talk: Globalization through Architecture

Keller Easterling, *Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space* (London ; New York: Verso, 2014), 11-25.

Stephen Graham and Simon Marvin, *Splintering Urbanism: Networked Infrastructures, Technological Mobilities and the Urban Condition* (London ; New York: Routledge, 2001), 7-36.

Manuel Castells, *The Rise of the Network Society* (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010), 440-460

WEEK 2: 1910s–1940s

Session 3

Talk: Beaux-Arts, Streamline Moderne, and Global Economic Integration

Banister Fletcher, "Tree of Architecture," in *A History of Architecture on the Comparative Method*.

Delin Lai, "Idealizing a Chinese Style: Rethinking Early Writings on Chinese Architecture and the Design of the National Central Museum in Nanjing," *JSAH*, Vol 73, No. 1 (2014), 61-90.

Jeffrey W. Cody, Nancy Shatzman Steinhardt, and Tony Atkin, eds., *Chinese Architecture and the Beaux-Arts*, (Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 2011). xi-xxi.

Session 4

Talk: Environmental Determinism

Ellsworth Huntington, "The Distribution of Human Health and Energy on the Basis of Climate," in *Civilization and Climate*.

Corey J. Byrnes, *Fixing Landscape: A Techno-Poetic History of China's Three Gorges*, (New York: Columbia University Press, 2018), 93–130.

WEEK 3: 1950s-1960s

Session 5

Talk: Architecture in the Cold War

Lukasz Stanek, *Architecture in Global Socialism* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2020), 1–35.

Charlie Q. L. Xue and Guanghui Ding, *A History of Design Institutes in China: From Mao to Market*, (New York: Routledge, 2018), 19–35.

Exercise 2: Final Project Proposal

Identify your research object for the final assignment. It could be a building, an infrastructural system, a natural element, or a thing that enables or is enabled by, transforms or is transformed by globalization. In 250 words, please introduce the object and state your reasons of choice. Synthesizing, using, (and possibly critiquing) 2-3 readings in the first half of the class is encouraged.

Session 6

Talk: Architecture and the Non-Aligned Movement

Cole Roskam, "Non-Aligned Architecture: China's Designs on and in Ghana and Guinea, 1955-92," *Architectural History* 58 (2015): 261–91.

Lloyd G. Adu Amoah, "Diplomacy of Architecture: Ghana, China and 60 Years of Spatial Engagement," Charlie Q. L. Xue and Guang hui Ding, *Exporting Chinese Architecture: History, Issues and "One Belt One Road"* (Singapore: Springer, 2022), 61–83.

WEEK 4: 1970s-1990s

Session 7

Talk: Globalization and Postmodernism

Jonathan Bach, "Shenzhen: From Exception to Rule," in Mary Ann O'Donnell, Winnie Won Yin Wong, and Jonathan P. G. Bach, eds., *Learning from Shenzhen: China's Post-Mao Experiment from Special Zone to Model City* (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 2017), 23–39.

Keller Easterling, "Zone: The Spatial Softwares of Extrastatecraft," *Places Journal*, no. 2012 (June 10, 2012)

Exercise 3: Flows

Globalization is characterized by institutionalized flows that transgress boundaries while tying nation states, cultures, climates together. They rely on architectural and infrastructural channels for their movements. Pick one thing that flows, such as cargo boxes, toys, clothes, copper, gold, people, currency, flights, oil, water, or air make a photomontage of the thing of choice using images of their regulation, transmission, reception, storage, and consumption. Pay attention to different scales that connect the very small (macroscopic) to the very large (planetary). Upload your montage to the Miro site and be ready to discuss it in class.

Session 8

Talk: Flows and Stoppages

Buckminster Fuller, "Fluid Geography," in *The Buckminster Fuller Reader*, ed. James Meller (Middlesex, England: Penguin Books, 1972).

Taomo Zhou, "Revolution Offshore, Capitalism Onshore: Ships and the Changing Relationship between China and the World," *Made in China Journal* 6, no. 2 (December 2, 2021): 104–9.

WEEK 5: 2013-Present

Session 9

Talk: BRI

Student Presentation

Kenny Cupers, Cole Roskam, and Girma Hundessa, "Architecture as Technical Governance at the African Union," *Architectural Theory Review*, August 24, 2023, 1–33.

Xiaoxuan Lu, "The Xinjiang Model" and "Infrastructure" in *Shifting Sands: Landscape, Memory, and Commodities in China's Contemporary Borderlands*, (Austin: University of Texas Press, 2023).

Session 10

Talk: The Global and the Planetary

Student Presentation

Jerry C. Zee, *Continent in Dust: Experiments in a Chinese Weather System* (Oakland, California: University of California Press, 2021), 172–200.

Dipesh Chakrabarty, *One Planet, Many Worlds: The Climate Parallax*, The Mandel Lectures in the Humanities (Waltham, Massachusetts: Brandeis University Press, 2023), 1–18.

Exercise 4: Final Project

What is globalization? Define it with one image of architecture, infrastructure, elements, or things and an accompanying essay of 1500 words. Using, synthesizing, and critiquing 2-3 of the texts covered in the course is required.