

# Arch 498H

Syllabus Outline - Amerindian Architecture (3 cr)

Tammeron Francis  
Instructor

Ball State University  
College of Architecture and Planning  
Department of Architecture  
Spring 1998

Tuesday 6:30 - 9:10 PM, Rm 225

*Thousands of years of occupancy on their lands taught tribal peoples the sacred landscapes for which they were responsible and gradually the structure of ceremonial reality became clear. It was not what people believed to be true that was important but what they experienced as true. Hence revelation was seen as a continuous process of adjustment to the natural surroundings and not as a specific message valid for all times and places.*

Vine Deloria



## INTRODUCTION

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By understanding something of the intent of Amerindian architectures we can become aware of a connection and understanding of place and land that is original with the American landscape. This understanding can bring an awareness of how land and place can have a intentional relationship.

Course discussion will focus on mythic connections to the building of Amerindian architecture. Amerindian architecture is often cosmogonic, that is it re-creates the world through the act of architectural crafting. Being cosmogonic, elements of Amerindian architecture often have direct correspondences to the mythic world. For example, the easterly orientation of many Amerindian dwellings, like those of the Navajo and Natchez intentionally recognize the sun as a culturally significant appearance every morning. The dome of a Algonquin wigwam mimics the dome of the sky. Certain rituals reveal the smoke hole to be a passage to upper spirit worlds and what is below the floor to be an underworld. To obtain reeds for the winter mats of a Kickapoo dwelling tobacco is offered to the snake that guards the reeds. In Navajo architecture, the pole or poles at the entry of the hogan are the Earth Worlds legs, and are personified as women. From Earth Woman and Mountain Woman come building materials and from Water Woman come the food and sustenance by which the inhabitants of the hogan thrive.

These mythic correspondences between architectural elements and materials make it clear that a thing built, this dwelling, is simply an extension of the world. To craft a dwelling in this context is to establish a relationship to the world.

# Arch 261

Syllabus Outline - Arch 451- Architectural Research (3 cr)

Section 2

Tammeron Francis  
Instructor

Ball State University  
College of Architecture and Planning  
Department of Architecture  
Fall 1998

AB 507 Fifth Floor, Thurs. 2:30 - 4:15

## *INTRODUCTION*

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Architectural drawing has little to do with *representing* ideas. That notion, that the task of thinking involves re-presenting the perfect ideas of in our mind's eye, was born from the phantasies of a French philosopher bent on proving the existence of God. Unwittingly he proved the possibility of the machine.

Drawing does not begin in the mind. Instead, it involves the illumination of the every-day elements of life such as the weight of memory, the play of the muscles in our hand, the lightness of a waiving arm and the play of our iris in a room with changing light. Just as all thinking collects appearances in a certain coherent manner, drawing collects these every-day elements coherently. When we draw well we allow the weight and play of our particular experience the world to be understood.

This course will stress the view that architectural drawing is a particular way of thinking about the world. It will also discuss how each kind of drawing develops one or another "view" of our collection of the world. The actual assignments will be issued within Arch 201 but in this class drawing technique will be discussed in detail.

## *COURSE OBJECTIVES*

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1. To work closely with Architecture 201 in the development of drawing skills needed to communicate design qualities and concepts.
2. Acquaintanceship with various drawing media such as charcoal, pencil and Ink and drawing forms such as perspective, orthographic drawing and axonometric.
4. Emphasis will be place on communication with self and with others as a part of a process.

## *COURSE FORMAT*

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Desk critique and lecture demonstrations when required.

## *SYSTEM OF EVALUATION and EXPECTATIONS*

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See Arch 201 Syllabus

## *NOTES*

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The department requires all projects from this course to be included in the portfolio you must submit in January of the third year in order to be accepted into the first semester of the fourth year. Be sure to note, in the portfolio, that the projects were assigned for Arch 201 and 261.

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, if you have emergency medical information to share with me or if you need special arrangements in case the building must me evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible.

My office location is AB 506. Office hours are posted outside the door. To schedule an appointment or to reach me in an emergency outside of office hours, leave a message in my mailbox in the Arch. Department Office

My office telephone no. is 285-8724