ARCH 511: Seminar in Ancient Architecture

Instructor: Professor John R. Senseney

Prerequisites: ARCH 410, or equivalent as determined by the instructor.

Term: Spring 2015

Special Topic: The Ancient Origins of Architecture

This research seminar seeks to articulate differences between ancient and modern discourse concerning the art of building, as well as what separates building from sculpture, painting, and craftsmanship generally. In doing so, we will interrogate the ancient origins of architecture in ancient Greece and Rome, along with the important Etrusco-Italic and Near Eastern cultural backgrounds. Our investigation will include an exploration of what Romans meant by “architectura,” as well as the question of whether such an intellectual entity was capable of formulation in Rome prior to the first century BCE when the term first came into use. Seminar participants must be mature scholars with a background in classical art and architecture or, more broadly, the classical world. Individual research projects will be central to our shared exploration. Investigations will involve construction, the body, theory, religion, and the role of building in negotiating, privileging, negating, or appropriating interstices – including those that separated the projection and crafting of forms, bodies within and across a settlement or empire, and human and divine matters.