BEFORE AND BEYOND THE “BUBBLE’

Japanese Architecture Since World War II and in the Global World Today

The course will investigate the complex and by all means most remarkable development of contemporary Japanese architecture and urbanism in the past fifty or so years. This period in Japan was marked first by an unprecedented economic boom, and then an equally unprecedented recession which has been severe and long. Both of these have had a very profound impact on the course of architecture and urbanization.

Moreover, these more than four decades have also coincided with major changes in Japanese society prompted by the shift from an industrial to an information based society. Information and media technologies along with the fast progress in construction materials have further influenced architecture, which has enjoyed, and continue to do so, a worldwide reputation, while the Japanese city, lead by Tokyo which, as a “new” world city, has earned broad recognition both within and beyond the country.

Leaving behind the ingrained precepts of historic modernism, a movement which exhausted itself by the mid or late 1960s, Japanese architects have explored a broad spectrum of directions not only to find exits from the impasse of the previous paradigm, but also to envision new ones with design solutions better in tune with the accelerated times of today.

Professor Bognar’s lectures and student presentations will discuss the architectural (and urban) theories of Japanese modernism, postmodernism, and more recent developments, as well as the actual works of renowned Japanese architects, such as Tadao Ando, Atelier Bow Wow, Shigeru Ban, Hiroshi Hara, Toyo Ito, Arata Isozaki, Kengo Kuma, Fumihiko Maki, Nikken Sekkei Ltd., Shin Takamatsu, Yoshio Taniguchi, Riken Yamamoto, and others, whose activities have left the most significant imprint on the architectural landscape of contemporary Japan, and now increasingly that of many foreign countries, as many of these designers work in most part also on the global stage of architecture.

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The course is limited to **forteen** (14) senior and graduate students.