BEFORE AND BEYOND THE “BUBBLE’

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

The course investigates the complex development of contemporary Japanese architecture and urbanism in the postwar era, which has been marked by periods of economic booms and recessions. It witnessed rapid industrialization, progress in construction technologies, structural engineering and building materials, then information and media technologies. Simultaneously, Japanese society experienced major changes, shifting from industrial to information based society. All these have shaped the course of architecture and urbanism, which have enjoyed, and continue to do so, a worldwide reputation. Leaving behind the outdated precepts of earlier modernism, Japanese architects today are exploring a wide spectrum of directions to envision new kinds of architectures with designs better in tune with the times of today.

After a brief introduction to the history of Japanese architecture, further lectures by Professor Bognar will explore the course of postwar Japanese architecture and urbanism. Students will research and prepare presentations about the actual works of such prominent architects as Tadao Ando, Atelier Bow Wow, Shigeru Ban, Sou Fujimoto, Hiroshi Hara, Toyo Ito, Arata Isozaki, Kengo Kuma, Fumihiko Maki, Nikken Sekkei Ltd., SANAA, Yoshio Taniguchi, Riken Yamamoto, and others, whose activities have left the most significant imprint on the landscape of Japan, and increasingly of many other countries. Final requirements are: a well-maintained notebook, a five-page research paper about one selected building, and a built scale model of it.

The course is limited to 14 senior and graduate students who will work in teams of two.