COURSE DESCRIPTION: Chicago is one of the premiere architecture cities in the world, and to understand why it must be directly experienced. Using the AIA Guide to Chicago Architecture and the resources of the city each week students will tour significant neighborhoods and buildings of the city. This will include tours of traditional classic Chicago residents (greystones), contemporary high-rise housing, historic and new architecture of the Loop, a few of the 77 neighborhoods, and university campuses (University of Chicago, and Loyola University). A weekly log will be maintained that includes sketches, photographs and at least one plan or map indicating the pathway followed. This course will take a phenomenological approach to the study of architectural design. As you walk the neighborhood sidewalks of Chicago you are to document the elements such as spatial enclosures, material & color palettes, and the soundscapes and scentscapes that have activated your sensory systems.


Components of final grade:

Student Discussion: Participate in discussions of the buildings and places toured (15%)

Weekly log: Documentation (plan with route taken, sketches, and photographs) with analysis notations and relevant historic information of architecture and neighborhoods toured. This should be done in the manner seen in Robert McCarter and Juhani Pallasmaa’s book Understanding Architecture where they describe the sequential experience of approaching, entering and being within significant architectural buildings. (55%)

Visual diary: A selection of photographic reference materials taken by you with brief captions explaining what captured your attention. This should be done in the manner seen in John Pawson’s book A Visual Inventory where he “presented in pairs and accompanied by personal text commentaries” images “intended to provide insights into a way of looking and thinking that cumulatively build into a perspective on the creative process.” (30%)