Architecture in the PostModern Era

Summer Semester 2017 (Friday 1-2:30pm)
Lawrence Hall (Room 104)
Instructor: Matthew Schlueb

Lecture 2 (2017.07.07):
An introduction to the work of Peter Eisenman
and his influence on post modern architecture

Leitmotifs:

Cardboard Architecture: smooth surfaces with flush detailing, insubstantiality of structure, unloading architecture of all function and semantic associations, using columns, walls, beams as modeled in cardboard with thin planar surfaces and layers.

Topology: geometric and structure of architectural form, as opposed to the relationship of form to function or form to meaning, rather a set of formal relationships that is the result of the inherent logic of the forms themselves.

Deconstruction: anti-form, anti-hierarchy, anti-structure, an architecture that is no longer closed, identifiable, specific field, one cannot extract a technique, method or system of architectural rules from deconstruction.

In-Between: negative space resulting from positive form, positive space resulting from negative form, external form driven by the contextual site, with building infilling the in-between space defined by physical and metaphysical structures adjacent.

Heterogenous Space: a non-supporting column serves some other function, as signifier dependent on context, articulated as such a column or series of columns divide and differentiate space, no longer homogenous.

Partis pris:

Redundancy: overlay and interaction of two simultaneous systems, intended to exemplify the logic inherent in a redundant second formal structure, no longer functional in relation to the first, rather providing a potential area of new meaning.

Autonomous object: generated by a design process, a set of rules resulting in the literary reading of self-organizing architectural form and space, with a syntax inherent within the geometry of the object, not created by the reader.

Contextual object: in a purely formal sense, the architect as archeologist uncovering pre-existing forms, inventing its own historic site context and functional program, any meaning preceding man's relationship to the contextual object.

Trace: a surviving mark, imprint, palimpsest, sign, to be read as evidence of a former object not accessible or visible, cast shadow altering the ground, that remains after the shadow has passed or a new shadow has made hybrid.

Dislocation: separation of idea from form or object, displacing traditional reactions, displacing traditional meanings, displacing traditional readings, to seek new associations, new relationships, new readings within a context.

magnum opuses:

1976 – **House VI (Frank Residence),** Peter Eisenman, Cornwall, Connecticut

1978 (project) – **Cannaregio Town Square,** Peter Eisenman, Venice, Italy

1989 – **Wexner Center for the Visual Arts,** Peter Eisenman, Columbus, Ohio

2005 – **Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe,** Peter Eisenman,
        Berlin, Germany

bibliography:

Five Architects, Peter Eisenman, Michael Graves, Charles Gwathmey, John Hejduk, Richard Meier
        (Wittenborn & Co., New York, 1972)

House of Cards, Peter Eisenman (Oxford University Press, New York, 1987)

Chora L Works, Jacques Derrida & Peter Eisenman (Monacelli Press, New York, 1997)

Diagram Diaries, Peter Eisenman (Universe Architecture Series, Thames and Hudson, 1999)

Eisenman Inside Out: Selected Writings 1963-1988, Peter Eisenman (Yale University Press, New Haven, 2004)

Written into the Void: Selected Writings 1990-2004, Peter Eisenman (Yale University Press, New Haven, 2007)

http://www.SCHLUEBarchitecture.com/lectures/2017/pitt/ArchitectureInThePostModernEra/PE