

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
University of Pittsburgh, College of General Studies

The End of Architecture

Fall Semester 2018, Fridays 10am-noon
Lawrence Hall, room 107
Instructor: Matthew Schlieb



Lecture 5 (2018.11.16): Glass House

partis pris:

New Eclecticism: layering of styles and history as architecture, ending adherence to a rigor found in the modern movement.

Belvedere: architecture as object in space, as opposed to the courtyard house with space within the architecture.

Allegory: textured ironspot brick from Ohio, laid on the earth as a herringbone patterned podium and freestanding cylinder.
“a burnt wooden village I saw once where nothing was left but the foundations and chimney of brick.”

Deconstructing Architecture: with training or experience in architecture, academically or professionally, simply a curator.

Taste: defined by one's tastes, persona, intimacies, style over ideology, visual artist over scholarly architect.

Transparent Life: cooking, eating, sleeping as variations of one exposed activity, an open book, vulnerable, voyeuristic.

leitmotifs:

single room architecture, with walls of glass affording views in all directions simultaneously

classical symmetry, on all four sides, frontal entry on the central axis, eight column loggia

architectural structure as a diary of the individual occupant, written in first person

steel chair rail as a classical wainscot, without overhang as a classical box villa

intimate space atop a rug 'raft' floating in open space

factory made materials and furnishings, modern building techniques come to age

physical solid guest house extracted, creating the glass house void

reflective in thoughts, reflectivity in glass, a Victorian bell jar

architecture based on style, not ideology, junkspace results from endless arbitrary variations of style

bibliography:

The International Style: Architecture since 1922, Henry Russell Hitchcock (W.W. Norton & Co., New York, 1932)

Philip Johnson and the Museum of Modern Art, John Elderfield (Museum of Modern Art, New York, 1998)

Philip Johnson House, Yukio Futagawa (Global Architecture, Tokyo, 1972)

The Glass House, David Whitney and Jeffrey Kipnis (Pantheon Books, New York, 1993)

The Philip Johnson Tapes, Kazys Varnelis (Monacelli Press, New York, 2008)

Philip Johnson: The Architect in His Own Words, Hilary Lewis and John O'Connor (Rizzoli, New York, 1994)

Philip Johnson: The Constancy of Change, Emmanuel Petit (Yale University Press, New Haven, 2009)

