Location: NYU London
Class code: ARTH-UA 9674 – 001
Instructor Details: Edward Denison

Class Details: Seeing London’s Architecture

NB travel time will be outside class times (and students are responsible for travel costs)

The first class will be held at NYU in London, 6 Bedford Square, and some future classes may meet here in part for lectures; however, most future classes will be in different London locations as outlined below.

Prerequisites: No prerequisites for this class, but basic drawing skills, map reading skills and visual awareness are all essential.

Class Description: This course is designed to work in three ways.

First, it is an opportunity to learn about London’s architecture, art and history by physically exploring the city’s historic and modern built environment.

Second, this class is an introduction to sketching and keeping a travel notebook, a fulfilling skill that any liberal arts student should experience.

Third, and perhaps most important, this course teaches students how to ‘read’ a town or city. The ability to visually make sense of the built environment of this major capital should help in understanding the architecture of New York City and, of course, other towns and cities throughout the world.

Our course will flow through London’s extraordinary and diverse built environment, considering significant architectural developments from many periods, while learning to record and describe what we see. We will study the architectural vocabulary of London and learn how to accurately and elegantly depict buildings and places in both word and image.

Desired Outcomes:
- To gain a good understanding of the architectural history of London;
- To have an introduction to sketching and keeping a travel sketchbook and notebook;
- To learn to ‘read’ and record a city’s history, buildings and places, as well as its changing values over time. By understanding the historical development, materials and styles of the buildings in London one can begin to enjoy a sophisticated understanding of town and cities wherever one finds oneself in the world.

Assessment Components: Grading:
- Session 7: interim sketchbook review – 10% of grade
- Session 11: written test – 20% of grade
- Session 13: essay (2,000 max) on London building – 40% of grade
- Session 14: final sketchbook review – 30% of grade
Failure to submit or fulfil any required course component results in failure of the class.

The Programme:
Fourteen sessions of ‘field’ visits around London, which will include an introductory session at 6 Bedford Square.

Location and Themes:
The field visits will focus on different areas of London and the city’s urban development from the Anglo-Saxon, Roman and Medieval periods through to the present day, with an emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We will consider the themes of housing, transport, commerce and shopping, industry, open space development and religious, civic and cultural institutions as we visit, study and record diverse parts of this great city.

Course Requirements:
1) Students are expected to familiarise themselves with the broad circumstances of London’s architectural history and development. There are required reading assignments for each session included on the itinerary for individual sessions below, and further readings will be encouraged each week. It is essential that students complete all the required readings and be prepared to discuss these in class. Each week, students will be expected to contribute to discussions in class and present key points to their classmates.

2) Students will take a written 60 minute Test in Session 11 on the required reading assignments and the buildings covered in our weekly visits.

3) Students are expected to keep sketchbooks containing assigned sketches of places and buildings visited during the course as well as related photographs, field notes and writings. The contents of the sketchbook will form a major element of each student’s grading. Please clearly write your name, the NYU office address and your telephone number on the inside front cover of the sketchbook. Additionally, each sketch should be initialled and dated.

The Instructor will collect and assess your sketchbooks mid-way through the course at the end of Session 7. Sketchbooks will be available for collection at the next session.

Sketchbooks should be handed to the Instructor for final assessment at the end of Session 14. Both interim and end-of-term assessments will be an aggregate of the quality and breadth of coverage in your sketchbook, your progress in recording buildings and places and the presentation of these elements in your sketchbook. All required sketches must be finished, with an expectation that students will include additional sketches as well. This achievement will consider how you have developed the following aspects of recording:

Visual representations in the form of sketches (elevations, perspectives and general views, plans and maps and details as assigned plus additional)

Written annotations of relevant physical and historical facts that are discussed during the visits to different sites, which should include:
  - Name of building or place,
  - Date of building,
  - Name of architect, designer, client, and
  - Description: including scale, form, structure, materials, construction, etc.
  - Written descriptions and notes of personal impressions of the places visited.

This course is interested in the development of skills in recording and not necessarily with artistic ability. Drawings should be supplemented with thoughtful observations and notes from required readings and discussions during the visits. The location and subject and a concise description should be noted for each sketch. Sketchbooks should include all drawings and notes from our field visits as well as additional loose sketches, annotated historic maps, clippings and photographs, etc.
4) All students will be required to write an essay of 2,000 words length on a London building. Students should start thinking of a topic of interest early on and discuss this with the instructor. An outline of what is required will be provided and discussed in class. A written proposal is due in Session 9. Essays must be handed to the Instructor for marking at the beginning of Session 13.

5) Each week’s field visit will include a walking tour / lecture on the buildings and area of our focus with assigned sketches for one or more periods in each class. Students are also expected to make short sketches and other notes as we travel together. Students are expected to participate with observations and paying close attention as much as they would in a seated seminar. Assessment of the sketchbook will consider the attention and engagement of the student and their application in recording each class.

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<th>Assessment Expectations</th>
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<td><strong>Grade A:</strong> Excellent – a deep level of comprehension of London’s history and architecture, strong participation in class and thorough engagement with the content, sketching and note-taking throughout the term and in the final essay.</td>
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<td><strong>Grade B:</strong> Good – a good understanding of London’s history and architecture, good level of participation and a well-presented sketchbook with adequate notes and a good essay.</td>
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<td><strong>Grade C:</strong> Average – a reasonable understanding of London’s history and architecture, moderate level of participation and a basic sketchbook with few notes and an adequate essay.</td>
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<td><strong>Grade D:</strong> Below Average – a minimum understanding of London’s history and architecture, low level of participation, poor quality sketchbook and no notes and a weak essay.</td>
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<td><strong>Grade F:</strong> Failure – a low understanding of London’s history and architecture, little or no participation in class, no discernible improvement in the sketchbook and a poor essay.</td>
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<th>Required Text(s)</th>
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<td>Reading pack: About half of the required reading is in a reading pack, which will be made available online before the first day of class. These readings are indicated with a [R] below. Readings are included in order and it is essential that you read these before each class and come prepared to discuss.</td>
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<td>There are two required texts, listed below, which students should purchase. These readings are indicated with a [T] below.</td>
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<th>Supplemental Texts(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library)</th>
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<td>Additionally, there are a number of important books for further recommended reading available at the Senate House Library, which will aid in the development of essay ideas and supplement your own interests. You may choose to purchase some of these for your personal academic library and reference, and used copies are often available in second-hand bookshops. Those with an asterisk are particularly recommended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volumes of <strong>The Buildings of England</strong> series. These are essential guides, with London divided into 7 volumes, including one devoted to the City Churches. *London 4: North (1998) includes the NYU in London neighbourhood; London 6: City of Westminster (2003) and London 1: City of London (1997) cover many of the central London areas that we will visit.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volumes of <strong>The Survey of London</strong>. First published in 1897, this is a major published record London parishes with detailed history and measured drawings. The most recent volume (2012) is Woolwich.</td>
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*One of many good architectural dictionaries. See also Penguin’s and the Pevsner Architectural Guide’s Glossary (the latter now available as a smart phone app).*

*Excellent monograph on this major architect and relevant to our field visits*


*An inexpensive and useful guide to contemporary architecture.*


*Essential text for those interested in modern architecture in London*


*Excellent reference book, recently revised*


Mace, Rodney (2005), *Trafalgar Square: Emblem of Empire*. Lawrence and Wishart.


*S An excellent overview of British Architecture up to the Victorian period.


**Internet Research Guidelines**

Useful web resources that students should consult for general knowledge and research for essay:

http://www.ribapix.com/ (Royal Institute of British Architects catalogue of photos/drawings)

http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/ (a register that includes descriptions of all listed buildings in England)

http://www.british-history.ac.uk/ (digital library of primary and secondary sources)

http://www.motco.com/MAP/ (historic maps of London)
http://www.pastscape.org.uk/ (records relating to buildings and archaeology in England)

http://viewfinder.english-heritage.org.uk/ (historic photos of England from the 1850s to present, with good buildings coverage)

Additional Required Equipment

Materials
You must use a good quality, hard-backed sketchbook and pencils or fine tipped pens. These can be bought locally from a classic artist’s material shop just around the corner from NYU-L: L. Cornelissen and Son, 105 Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3RY, tel. 020 7636 1045.

The recommended sketchbook is A4 (not A3, as this will not be allowed in the Soane Museum) with a minimum of 50 sheets of plain paper, 265mm by 210mm, 120 g/m2 acid free cartridge paper. Your sketchbook should have hard or heavy stiff card-backed end covers, which will give much better support as you sketch. It is usually easier to work with one that is spiral bound along its short side, or ‘landscape’, format. It is essential that you write your name, the NYU in London address and your telephone number on the inside cover. This sketchbook will form a very important part of your final assessment, as well as a unique record of your time in London, so you must not lose it.

You will also need: sketching pencils in densities of 2B, 4B, a pencil sharpener, an eraser, and some fine point drawing pens (nib sizes 02, 05 and 08 are recommended).

You will find it useful to have a camera to record buildings for your own use and learning, as well as for completing sketches after class.

Money for Travel
Don’t forget to bring enough money for Underground and bus fares (about £5.00 a class) and hot or cold drinks (about £3.00). In most cases you will be able to reach places and buildings that we will visit by the Underground or Docklands Light Railway, though there will be some days when busses and suburban trains will be used. Obtain a pay-as-you-go Oyster Card, which allows for efficient travel and provides a serious discount over cash fares. I have noted the closest station for most visits below.

London Street Atlas
The London A to Z is the standard pocket street atlas. You will need one to work out how to get to the start of each visit and for understanding the broader context of the locality - not to mention getting around London during your stay – get one to keep with you at all times. A good A-Z app is also now available for iPhones.

Clothing and shoes
The weather may not be good and you should check the weather report in advance to be prepared. Dress sensibly as we will be out of doors most of the time and wear comfortable shoes as we will be walking quite a lot. London’s damp climate can be deceiving: it may seem warm when you first step outside but will soon feel much colder when you are sketching, standing or sitting in an outdoor location for a few hours. Warm fleeces, down vests and hats are essential for staying warm and healthy in the colder parts of the term. You will also need a waterproof shell with hood to combine with these warm layers for rainy days. Fingerless gloves are a good idea for drawing and writing outside. Water is essential for hot days, and hot drinks are advisable for cold days.

Session 1

Introduction – lecture on London’s architectural development and introductory exercises on understanding, reading and recording buildings through sketching in Bedford Square.

Meet: at our NYU in London classroom (Room G05), Bedford Square

Readings:
[R] Illustrations from David Brock, English Heritage The Resurvey Glossary
Session 2

Tower of London – We will start at one of the oldest architectural sites in London where we can see evidence of London’s evolution over the last 2000 years, from Roman times to the present day.

Meet: entrance to Tower Hill station in Trinity Square Gardens.


Session 3

Modern London – A walk through the City of London focusing on the development of modern architecture since the Second World War. We will start at the Golden Lane Estate and walk through the Barbican to Wood Street Police Station, which we will visit briefly before exploring some of the most celebrated commercial architecture in the world in the heart of the financial district.

Meet: Entrance to Golden Lane Estate on Goswell Road (Barbican & 2mins walk)

Readings:
[R] Harwood, Chamberlin, Powell & Bon (Golden Lane) pp.27-38 and (Barbican) pp.99-130
[R] Denison, McMorran & Whitby pp.102-113

Session 4

The Civic and Royal Capital – A visit to the City of Westminster, once a distinct settlement around the grounds of the Abbey and the seat of government for over 800 years. Sites include Westminster Abbey and the Jewel Tower.

Meet: at the West Entrance to Westminster Abbey [Westminster & 5 mins walk]

Readings:

Session 5

The Advent of Architecture - Inigo Jones. The Queen’s House in Greenwich, Royal Naval College Buildings and the Royal Observatory

Meet: at main entrance to the station Cutty Sark for Maritime Greenwich

Readings:
[R] Summerson – Architecture in Britain 1530-1830 Chapter 8 The Surveyorship of Inigo Jones pp.68-79
Session 6

The Great Fire – A visit to one of London’s greatest buildings, St. Paul’s Cathedral, rebuilt after the Fire of London. If there is time after a tour of the building we will proceed across the River Thames over the Millennium Bridge to the Globe Theatre and the Tate Modern.

Meet: St Paul’s tube station on Cheapside (north east of the Cathedral). Tour booked for 2.30pm.

Readings:
[R – Secondary Reading] Summerson – Architecture in Britain 1530-1830 Ch. 14 St. Paul’s Cathedral pp.129-137

** Essay proposal handout for consideration next week; proposal due Session 9**

Session 7

The City of London and the City Corporation – A tour of the financial and political heart of the City of London. Guided tour of Mansion House, followed by a visit to some of the city’s key institutions such as the Bank of England, followed by sketching at the Guildhall, the home of the City of London Corporation. The session will end at Museum of London on London Wall.

Meet: Statue of Wellington outside Bank Tube Station, between Threadneedle Street and Cornhill

Readings:
[T] Summerson – Georgian London Ch. 4 ‘The Mercantile Stronghold’ pp.36-48

** Interim Sketchbook review (10% of grade) – Hand in to Instructor at the end of class and you will be notified when they are ready to collect in the Academic Office at 6 Bedford Square**

Session 8

Regent’s Park and RIBA – The John Nash buildings of Regent’s Park then a session at the RIBA Headquarters (designed by George Grey Wornum, 1935, Portland Place) and the Library to observe the architecture and learn about resources for your essays.

Meet: at Gloucester Gate; entrance gate at the NE of Regent’s Park [Camden Town & 5 mins walk]

Readings:

Session 9

American History and Festival of Britain (The South Bank) – A visit to the modern cultural hub of the Royal Festival Hall, South Bank Centre and National Theatre along the South Bank of the Thames followed by a historical tour of the Benjamin Franklin House, a Georgian town house with special interiors, historic associations and interpretation programme.

Meet: On the embankment of the River Thames immediately to the right (north) of the London Eye.

Readings:
** Essay proposal due (refer to handout for format and requirements)**

Session 10

The Coming of the Railways - Kings Cross and St. Pancras International – An exploration of environs surrounding the two of London’s largest railway stations which today form part of one of the largest urban regeneration sites in Europe.

Meet: at the main entrance to Camden Town Hall at the corner of Judd Street and Euston Road (to the south of St. Pancras station) [Love Kings Cross St. Pancras & 1 min walk]

Readings:
[R] Bradley – St Pancras Station pp.1-15

Session 11

TEST – The 1 hour Test will be held in class, after which you will be free to catch up with your sketchbook or reading in your own time. Please also use the extra time to visit the Soane Museum (Lincolns Inn Fields) on a separate date.

Meet: NYU, Room G05.

Readings:
[T] Summerson – Georgian London Ch. 11 Building during the French Wars 1793-1815 pp.165-177

** Test (20% of grade) **

Session 12

Victoria & Albert Museum and architectural drawing – special session looking at historic architectural drawings and considering how to apply to your own essays and sketchbooks. Study and sketching of the V&A building and its architectural collections.

Meet: Side entrance of the Museum on Exhibition Road; also accessible from the pedestrian tunnel from the tube station [Love South Kensington & 5 mins walk along pedestrian tunnel]

Reading:
[R] Secondary Reading] Lever and Richardson – The Art of Architecture: Treasures of the RIBA’s Collections, pp.7-24

Session 13

Industrial London – Clerkenwell –Starting at the terminus of the world’s first underground line at Farringdon, we will follow the courses of natural (The River Fleet) and manmade (The Metropolitan Line) routes that defined the historic Borough of Finsbury, more commonly known today as Clerkenwell. The journey will include some of the most important and earliest examples in Britain of architecture in service to the welfare state.
Meet: Outside the main entrance of Farringdon Station on Cowcross Street

Readings:
[R] Allan – Berthold Lubetkin pp.34-43
[R Secondary Reading] Barton – The Lost Rivers of London pp.23-33

** Essay on London building due (40% of grade) – Hand in original copy with Turnitin receipt to Instructor **

Session 14

Public Housing - A journey from the Boundary Estate, one of Britain’s earliest state housing projects for London’s poorest residents in the 19th century, followed by a walk into City.

Meet: Outside Shoreditch High Street train station.

Readings:
[R] Beattie – A Revolution in London housing: LCC housing architects & their work 1893-1914 pp.17-69

** Final Sketch book review (30% of grade) – hand in completed sketchbooks to Instructor. They will be available for collection in NYU office the following week **

Session 15

No final exam (and no class meeting)

Classroom Etiquette

Much of our class is spent outside, often on busy, noisy streets. It is essential that students keep close to the Instructor, walk briskly and keep up with the group to avoid delays at each stop, and pay extremely careful attention when crossing roads. Students should always take personal responsibility for their own safe passage across roads, rather than automatically crossing with the group. Active participation is essential and students should respectfully not talk when the Instructor is introducing a building on the route or on site.

It is very important that all students arrive in time to start punctually at 10 o’clock as often we will start walking at that point. If delayed for unavoidable reasons, students should telephone the Instructor on the number provided above to get directions on where to catch up the group.

Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class or during class breaks.

Food & drink, including gum, are not to be consumed in class, although hot drinks and cold water are allowed when sketching outside.

Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies. Students should keep notes in their sketchbooks, not on telephones or laptops.

Please kindly dispose of rubbish in the bins provided.
Use your sketchbook outside of our class hours, making notes and describing the places you visit and explore. A rich and intelligently developed sketchbook is a key component of this term’s assessment. Take it anywhere you go and draw at the theatre, football matches, even parties, wherever! The Architectural Association (AA) and particularly its library, on the other side of Bedford Square can be a great resource for you. It provides one of the best architectural and London libraries in Europe, exhibitions, lectures, an inexpensive café / bar, and an interesting crowd of international students. Similarly, the RIBA library will be an important resource for your essay and also features architectural exhibitions and lectures.

The cost of travel for each course should not exceed the maximum return fare on London’s public transport network (including bus, Underground and Docklands Light Railway (DLR)), which equates to approximately £5.00 per class. Obtain a pay-as-you-go Oyster Card, which allows for efficient travel and provides a serious discount over cash fares. I have noted the closest station for most visits below.

There are also opportunities to attend evening lectures, walking tours and exhibitions and your Instructor will periodically suggest additional ways to learn more about London’s history, art and architecture in this way, which students are strongly encouraged to pursue.

Your Instructor, Dr Edward Denison, is an architectural historian, writer and photographer. He has worked for over ten years as an independent consultant and an academic specialising in architectural heritage in the UK, as well as sites in Africa and Asia. He studied architectural history at the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College London (UCL). In 2012 his PhD was awarded a Commendation in the RIBA President’s Award for Outstanding PhD Thesis 2012 and in 2016 he won the RIBA President’s Medal for Research for his work on the UNESCO World Heritage listing of Asmara, the capital of Eritrea. He is a Lecturer at the Bartlett and has published numerous publications including: *30-Second London* (2016); *Ultra-Modernism – Architecture and Modernity in Manchuria* (HKUP, 2017); *Architecture and the Landscape of Modernity in China before 1949* (Routledge, 2017); *Luke Him Sau: Architect - China’s Missing Modern* (Wiley, 2014); *The Life of the British Home: An Architectural History* (Wiley, 2012); *30-Second Architecture* (Ivy Press, 2013); *McMorran & Whitby* (RIBA, 2009); *Modernism in China - Architectural Visions and Revolutions* (Wiley, 2008); *Building Shanghai - The Story of China’s Gateway* (Wiley, 2006); and *Asmara - Africa’s Secret Modernist City* (Merrell, 2003).

NYU GLOBAL ACADEMIC POLICIES

Policies and procedures for Global Academic Centres, including policies on academic integrity and the Study Away Standard, can be found here: https://www.nyu.edu/about/policies-guidelines-compliance/policies-and-guidelines/student-services.html

Absences: Key information on NYU London’s absence policy, how to report absences, and what kinds of absences can be excused can be found here: http://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/attendance-policy.html

NYU London work submission policies can be found here: http://www.nyu.edu/london/academics/academic-policies.html

Classroom conduct: Academic communities exist to facilitate the process of acquiring and exchanging knowledge and understanding, to enhance the personal and intellectual development of its members, and to advance the interests of society. Essential to this mission is that all members of the University Community are safe and free to engage in a civil process of teaching and learning through their experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Accordingly, no student should engage in any form of behaviour that interferes with the academic or educational process, compromises the personal safety or well-being of another, or disrupts the administration of University programs or services.
Please refer to the **NYU London Disruptive Student Behaviour Policy** at [https://goo.gl/Nvt5Vu](https://goo.gl/Nvt5Vu) for examples of disruptive behaviour and guidelines for response and enforcement.