
ARCH

PALACES: BUILT TO IMPRESS



Spring 2019

Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World

Brown University

Syllabus

Schedule: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 2-2:50.

Location: Rhode Island Hall

A course with Carl Walsh, Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Archaeology, Joukowsky Institute for Archaeology and the Ancient World

Carl's Office Hours: Mondays 3-4

Carl's Office: Room 207, Rhode Island Hall

Carl's E-mail: carl_walsh@brown.edu

Course Description and Learning Outcomes

Ancient palaces capture the imagination as monumental and grandiose manifestations of power and wealth. These were the residences of kings, queens, and courtiers, built to impress with their echoing halls, exquisite paintings and statuary, exotic building materials, fragrant gardens, and sumptuous reception rooms. This course explores these phenomenological aspects of palatial design in the ancient Mediterranean (and beyond), delving into how architecture shapes human experience in such monumental spaces. Through a series of case studies from ancient Egypt, Sudan, Syria, Israel, Turkey, and Greece, we examine how palatial architectural design manipulates the senses, the body, behavior, and the mind to create theatrical and performative arenas. We also visit historic and monumental buildings in and around Providence, exploring firsthand how architectural design is all about the human

experience. Prepare to be impressed!

Class Structure and Accessibility

Classes will be run three times a week, with the Monday and Wednesday sessions usually being a hybrid lecture/seminar structure and Fridays being an excursion activity class, involving visiting buildings in and around Providence to experience the phenomenological and experiential aspects of architecture. Please inform me if you have a disability or other condition that might require some modification of any of these course procedures, especially as some of the games involve physical activity. You may speak with me after class or during office hours. For more information, contact Students and Employee Accessibility Services at 401-863-9588 or SEAS@brown.edu.

Canvas

The Canvas course page will be the main tool for checking on announcements, view set weekly readings, view assignments, and post and respond to questions. Please make sure you have set yourself as receiving announcements for the course page and make sure you check it regularly for important information like rooms changes etc.

Course Requirements and Expectations

Over 15 weeks, students will spend 2 hours 30 mins per week in class (37.5 hours total). Required reading is expected to take up approximately 6 hours per week (90 hours total). In addition, research, writing, and work for the blogs and final project is estimated at total of approximately 60 hours over the course of the term.

Each student is expected to do the weekly readings thoroughly, participate in activities and discussions, and take extensive notes during class lectures and discussions. It is strongly recommended that you keep detailed notes as you do your weekly readings and during lectures and class discussions, as well as noting down your own thoughts and ideas on concepts. Remember that this course is meant to encourage you to contribute to scholarship! Throughout the semester, students will be asked and expected to act as discussants of selected articles and posing relevant discussion questions to the class.

Assessment

The breakdown of course assessment is as follows:

- **Registered Attendance and Participation (25%)**
- **Weekly Experience Feed Blog (5%x10 = 50%)**
- **Final Project: Design a Palace: Annotated Architectural Plan (25%)**

Registered Attendance and Participation (25%)

Attendance will be registered after shopping period and will count towards the final grade. Participation includes engagement in class discussions, attendance on excursions, and

engagement with class Facebook and/or Instagram accounts.

Weekly Experience Feed Blogs (50%)

The Experience Feed blogs are intended to act as reflective multi-media records of weekly readings, topics, and excursions, documenting the students experience. Students should think of the sensory aspects of architecture, considering aspects like light, acoustics and audio, movement, scent, space, elevation, visibility, materials, color, and decoration. All of these aspects will be explored through lectures, readings, and on excursions, giving students plenty of opportunity to consider these aspects. Students will provide a written account of their experience and thoughts of classes and readings (300-500 words), as well as uploading pictures, video, and soundbites of their experience of architecture and excursions that week. The class Instagram account will be used to post images and document our experiences too, as the blog site as minimal storage for media. The idea is to get students to think critically and creatively on how architectural design impacts experience, and the agency behind this design. These will help to provide a multimedia documentation of ideas, helping to develop perspectives that can be developed further for the final project.

In addition, students must comment on each other's posts, providing constructive feedback and bouncing ideas and thoughts.

Experience feed posts start on Saturday 23rd of February and are due every subsequent Saturday by the end of the day. Late submissions will be penalized if not discussed beforehand with Carl or Karl. Please see marking scheme on Canvas for marking expectations and grade boundaries.

Final Project: Design a Palace: Annotated Architectural Plan (25%)

The final project builds on the Experience Feed Blog by applying these reflections and observations regarding monumental architecture/design to an imagined architectural plan of a palace. The architectural plan will be designed in consultation with Carl and will be contextualized in a specific region and time period covered in the class. The design must be informed based on comparisons and analogies of materials, architectural features, decoration, physical location, sensorial and experiential aspects, and layouts of contemporary palace buildings from the region and culture. The primary focus of this project is to consider the agency and design choices of these buildings and their incorporated phenomenological experiences into the design. This will act as the culmination and synthesis of the overall discussion and excursions over the course of the semester.

The architectural plan can be constructed using a medium/material of the student's choosing, incorporating options like modelling and illustration. The plan must be accompanied by detailed academic annotations, that discuss the informed intents, reasoning, and design choice for features based on comparisons with known archaeological material. These annotations must include at least 10 readings from the course reading lists and 5 peer reviewed articles and/or

publications from outside the set reading. Annotations should be accompanied by further multi-media material like models and illustrations expanding the lived experience of rooms and spaces, even including photos, video, and soundbites gathered through the Experience Feed blogs. This works to help conceptualize the desired phenomenological aspects of the architectural plan.

Projects will then be examined and constructively critiqued and discussed in the last week of the semester, with the option of having these displayed as a small exhibition in the Joukowsky Institute.

Please see marking scheme on Canvas for marking expectations and grade boundaries

Referencing, Research Resources, and Recommended Textbook

The preferred referencing style for the blogs and podcast transcripts are Harvard, which is the most common style used in Archaeology and Anthropology. These consist of in text citation (author, date, page numbers) followed by a detailed citation of the publication in the bibliography. Footnotes can be used in transcripts of the podcasts.

Students are also reminded that using libraries is essential. While readings will be made available online, it is also important you expand your reading into other works and scholars. A useful tip is to use the bibliographies of the provided readings, but be aware of the dates of publications. Students are also warned that older publications, roughly pre-1975, may be quite out of date and to use caution when using the opinions and interpretations of scholars who are the product of their times!

In addition, online resources like academia.edu and researchgate are important repositories of scholarly research. Students are encouraged to use these sites to broaden their reading and familiarize themselves with looking up scholars and their research.

Weekly Schedule

- **Week 1: Phase 1: Laying the Foundations**
 - Wednesday 23rd January: Sensing and Experiencing Architecture
 - Sanders, D. (2005) Behavioral conventions and archaeology: methods for the analysis of ancient architecture. In S. Kent (ed.) *Domestic architecture and the use of space, An interdisciplinary cross-cultural study*. 43-72. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
 - Friday 25th January: Palaces of Brown
 - Walk around main Green buildings and discuss their architecture
 - Pallasmaa, J. (2005) *The Eyes of the Skin. Architecture and the Senses*. Part 1

- **Week 2: What is a Palace?**

- Monday 28th January: Monumental and Memorable
 - Love, Serena (2016) A Sense of Architecture in the Past: Exploring the Sensory Experience of Architecture in Archaeology. In Mikkel Bille, Tim Flohr Sorensen (eds.) *Elements of Architecture: Assembling archaeology, atmosphere and the performance of building spaces*
 - McMahon, A. (2013) Space, Sound, and Light: Toward a Sensory Experience of Ancient Monumental Architecture. *American Journal of Archaeology* 117(2): 163-179
 - Pallasmaa, J. (2005) *The Eyes of the Skin. Architecture and the Senses*. Part 2
- Wednesday 30th January: Temples, Gardens, Tombs, and Houses
 - Kent, S. (ed.)(1990) *Domestic architecture and the use of space: an interdisciplinary cross-cultural study*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press. Selected readings to discuss in class.
- Friday 1st February: John Brown House Museum

- **Week 3: Egyptian Palaces**

- Monday 4th February: Performing Palaces: Egyptian Palatial Design
 - Stadelmann, R. (1996) Temple Palace and Residential Palace. In M. Bietak (ed.) *Haus und Palast im alten Ägypten: House and palace in ancient Egypt*. 225-230. Wien, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.
 - Spence, K. (2007) Court and palace in ancient Egypt: the Amarna period and later Eighteenth Dynasty. In A. J. Spawforth (ed.) *The Court and Court Society in Ancient Monarchies*. 267-328. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press.
- Wednesday 6th February: Homes of the Elite?: Lahun and Tell Basta
 - Siclen, C. Van (1996) Remarks on the Middle Kingdom Palace at Tell Basta. In M. Bietak (ed.) *Haus und Palast im alten Ägypten, House and palace in Ancient Egypt*. 239-246. Wien, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.
 - Quirke, S. (2005) *Lahun: a town in Egypt 1800 BC, and the history of its landscape*. London, Golden House Publications. **Review architectural plans and commentary.**
- Friday 8th February: RISD Museum
 - Sennett, R. (1994) *Flesh and Stone: The Body and the City in Western Civilization*. New York: Norton. 15-30. **This book will feature as reading**

for Fridays for the rest of the semester.

- **Week 4: Mesopotamian Palaces**

- Monday 11th February: Built Up to Heaven: Mesopotamian Palaces
 - Kertai, D. (2012) Organizing the Interaction between People: A New Look at the Elite Houses of Nuzi.
 - Margueson, J-C. (2014) *Mari: capital of northern Mesopotamia in the third millennium BC: the archaeology of Tell Hariri on the Euphrates*. Oxford: Oxbow Books. Chapters 1-2.
- Wednesday 13th February: Psychological Warfare: Neo-Assyrian Palaces
 - Please review again McMahon, A. (2013) Space, Sound, and Light: Toward a Sensory Experience of Ancient Monumental Architecture. *American Journal of Archaeology* 117(2): 163-179
 - Kertai, D. (2015) *The Architecture of Late Assyrian Palaces*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Chapters 1 and 10.
 - Cifarelli, M. (1998) Gesture and Alterity in the Art of Ashurnasirpal II of Assyria. *The Art Bulletin* 80(2): 210-228.
- Friday 15th February: Cranston Street Armory

- **Week 5: Anatolian Palaces**

- Monday 18th February: No Class
- Wednesday 20th February: Competition and Confluence: Anatolian Palaces
 - Özgüç, T. (1999) *The palaces and temples of Kültepe-Kaniš/Neša*. Ankara, Türk Tarih Kurumu Basımevi. Review architectural plans and commentary.
 - Lloyd, S. and Mellaart, J. (1965) *Beycesultan Vol. II Middle Bronze Age Architecture and Pottery*. Occasional Publications of the British Institute of Archaeology at Ankara 8. London, William Clowes and Sons.
- Friday 22nd February: Rhode Island State House

First Experience Feed Post due on Saturday 23rd of February

- **Week 6: Levantine Palaces**

- Monday 25th February: Monumental Monsters: Northern Levantine Palaces

- Walsh, C. (Under Review)
- Marchetti, N. (2006) Middle Bronze Age Public Architecture at Tilmen Höyük and the Architectural Tradition of Old Syrian Palaces. In F. Baffi, R. Dolce, S. Mazzoni and F. Pinnock (eds.) *Ina Kibrat Erbeti, Studi di Archaeologia orientale dedicati a Paolo Matthiae*. 275-308. Rome, Università La Sapienza.
- Matthiae, P. (1997) Typologies and Functions in the Palaces and Houses of Middle Bronze II Ebla. In C. Casterl, M. al-Maqdissi, F. Villeneuve (eds.) *Les maisons dans la Syrie antique du III^e millénaire aux débuts de l'islam: pratiques et représentations de l'espace domestique: actes du colloque international, Damas 27-30 juin 1992*. 125-134. Beirut, IFAPO.
- Feldman, M.H. (2007b) Frescoes, Exotica, and the Reinvention of the Northern Levantine Kingdoms during the Middle Bronze Age. In M. Heinz and M. H. Feldman (eds.) *Representations of Political Power: Case Histories from Times of Change and Dissolving Order in the Ancient Near East*. 39-65. Winona Lake, Eisenbrauns.
- Wednesday 27th February: Homes of the Dead: Southern Levantine Palaces
 - Winter, H. (2016) The Effects of the Egyptian Empire on Palatial Structures of the Middle and Late Bronze Age Southern Levant. *Dig It, Journal of the Flinders Archaeological Society* (3): 34-41.
 - Winter, H. (2018) Tell el-'Ajjul palaces I and II: Context and function. *Palestine Exploration Quarterly* 150(1): 4-33.
- Friday 1st March: Providence City Hall
- **Week 7: Nubian Palaces**
 - Monday 4th March: Out of Africa: Kerman Palaces
 - Bonnet, C. (2014) *La ville de Kerma: une capitale nubienne au sud de l'Egypte*. Lausanne, Favre. **Review architectural plans and photos**
 - Bonnet, C. (2004a) The Kerma Culture/Kerma. In D. Welsby and J. Anderson (eds.) *Sudan, Ancient Treasures. An Exhibition of Recent Discoveries from the Sudan National Museum*. 70-91. London, British Museum Press.
 - Wednesday 6th March: Weird and Wonderful: Meroitic Palaces
 - M. Maillot, M. (2015) The Meroitic Palace and Royal City. *Sudan & Nubia* 19.
 - Friday 13th March: Lippett House Museum
- **Students to meet with Carl in office hours this week to discuss Final Project Proposals**

- **Week 8: Aegean Palaces**

- Monday 11th March: Painted Palaces and Curious Courtyards: Minoan and Mycenaean Palaces
 - Palyvou, C. (2002) Central Courts: The Supremacy of the Void. In J. Driessen, I. Schoep, R. Laffineur (eds.) *Monuments of Minos, Rethinking the Minoan Palaces*. Université de Liège: 167-77.
 - Schoep, I. (2007) Architecture and Power: The Origins of the Minoan 'Palatial Architecture'. In J. Bretschneider, J. Driessen, and K. van Lerberghe (eds.), *Power and Architecture: Monumental Public Architecture in the Bronze Age Near East and Aegean*. 213-236. Dudley, Peeters Publishing.
 - Palyvou, C. (2004) Outdoor space in Minoan architecture: "community and privacy". In Cadogan, C., Hatzaki, E. and Vasilakis, A. (eds.) *Knossos: palace, city, state; proceedings of the conference in Herakleion organised by the British School at Athens and the 23rd Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities of Herakleion, in November 2000, for the Centenary of Sir Arthur Evan's excavations at Knossos*. 207 -217. London, British School at Athens.
 - McEnroe, John C. (2010). *Architecture of Minoan Crete: Constructing Identity in the Aegean Bronze Age*. Austin, University of Texas Press. **For further reading and architectural plans.**
- Wednesday 15th March: Guest Lecture: Lennart Kruijers (Leiden University): Hellenistic Palaces
 - Reading TBC
- Friday 8th March: John Hay Library and Athenaeum

- **Week 9: Beyond the Bronze Age Mediterranean**

- Monday 18th March: Guest Lecture: Josh Schnell (Department of Anthropology) Mayan Palaces
 - Mongelluzzo, R. (2013) Ancient Maya Royal Architecture and Its Influence on Sensory Experiences. In J. Day (ed.) *Making Senses of the Past: Toward a Sensory Archaeology*. Southern Illinois University Press: 90-112.
 - Liendo Stuardo, R. (2003) Access Patterns in Maya Royal Precincts. In J. Christie (ed.) *Maya Palaces and Elite Residences, An Interdisciplinary Approach*. University of Texas Press.
 - Ambrosino, N. (2003) The Function of a Maya Palace at Yaxuna: A Contextual Approach. In J. Christie (ed.) *Maya Palaces and Elite Residences, An Interdisciplinary Approach*. University of Texas Press.

- Wednesday 20th March: Guest Lecture: Jennifer Bates (Joukowsky Institute): Palaces in Bronze Age Southern Asia
 - Reading TBC
- Friday 22nd March: Guest Lecture: Eva Mol (Joukowsky Institute): Crusader Castles in the Levant
 - Reading TBC
- **Week 10: Spring Break**
- **Week 11: Comparing Palaces**
 - Monday 1st April: Mediterranean Palaces: Analogies and Differences
 - Hagg, R. (1996) The Palaces of Minoan Crete/ Architecture and Function on a Comparative Perspective. In M. Bietak (ed.) *Haus und Palast im alten Ägypten: House and palace in ancient Egypt*. 81-84. Wien, Verlag der Österreichischen Akademie der Wissenschaften.
 - Walsh, C. (2016) *The Transmission of Courtly Lifestyles in the Bronze Age Eastern Mediterranean*. Skim read architectural descriptions and analysis in Chapter 4.
 - Wednesday 3rd April: Developing a Phenomenology of Palaces
 - Discussion class where students bring in reading and discuss ideas relating to final projects.
 - Max Peers will come in to discuss spatial analysis techniques
 - Friday 5th April: Newport Mansions Day Trip
- **Week 12: Divine Palaces: Temples and Ritual Buildings**
 - Monday 8th April: Palaces of the Gods
 - Schoep, I. (2010) The Minoan Palace-Temple Reconsidered: A Critical Assessment of the spatial Concentration of Political, Religious and Economic Power in Bronze Age Crete. *Journal of Mediterranean Archaeology* 23(2): 219-43.
 - Pfälzner, P. (2015) A House of Kings and Gods - Ritual Places in Syrian Palaces. *BAAL* X: 413-42.
 - Wednesday 10th April: Celebrate! Festival Spaces
 - Accetta, K. (2012) Access to the Divine in New Kingdom Egypt: Royal and Public Participation in the Opet Festival. In C. Graves, G. Heffernan, L.

McGarrrity, E. Millward, and M. Bealby (eds.) *Current Research in Egyptology XIII*. Oxford: Oxbow Books. 1-23.

- Taracha, P. (2011) The Iconographic Program of the Sculptures of Alacahöyük. *Journal of Near Eastern Religions* II(2): 177-90.
- De Martino, S. (2016) The Celebration of the Hittite Festivals: Texts in Comparison with Archaeological Evidence. In G. Muller (ed.) *Liturgie oder Literatur? Die Kultrituale der Hethiter im transkulturellen Vergleich*. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag. 91-104.

- Friday 12th April: First Unitarian Church of Providence

- **Week 13: Breath of the Wild: Gardens and Parks**

- Monday 15th April: Hanging Gardens and Royal Parks
 - Davies, A. (2008) Egyptian Gardens. *Studia Antiqua* 6(1): 15-25.
 - Albenda, P. (2018) Royal Gardens, Parks, and the Architecture Within: Assyrian Views. *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 138(1): 105-20.
 - Foster, K. P. (2004) The Hanging Gardens of Nineveh. *Iraq* 66: 207–20
- Wednesday 17th April: Sensing and Experiencing Egyptian Monumental Rock Landscapes: Guest Lecture by Jen Thum
 - Reading Rodman, M. C. (1985) Moving houses: residential mobility and the mobility of residences in Longana, Vanuatu. *American Anthropologist* 87 (1). 56-72.
 - Farris, C. (2015) Portable Palaces: Royal Tents and Timber Lodgings: <https://blog.hrp.org.uk/curators/portable-palaces-royal-tents-timber-lodgings/>
 - Watch videos relating to reed architecture of marsh arab groups in modern Iraq:
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vi8D7KzvMus>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fczJxAdsYkE>
- Friday 19th April: Roger Williams Park and Botanical Centre

- **Week 14: Death Palaces**

- Monday 22nd April: Palaces of the Dead
 - Pfalzner, P. (2012) How did they Bury the Kings of Qatna? In P. Pfälzner, H. Niehr, E. Pernicka and A. Wissing (ed.) *(Re-)Constructing funerary rituals in the ancient Near East. proceedings of the First International Symposium of the Tübingen Post-Graduate School "Symbols of the Dead"*

in May 2009. Wiesbaden. 205-220

- Polcaro, A. (2015) The Bone Talisman and the Ideology of Ancestors in Old Syrian Ebla: Tradition and Innovation in the Royal Funerary Ritual Iconography. *Studia Eblaitica* 1: 179-204.
- Wednesday 24th April: Cemeteries and Palaces: Mortuary Landscapes: Guest lecture: Pinar Durgan
 - TBC
- Friday 26th April: Annmary Brown Memorial

Final Projects Due on Friday 26th by the end of the day

Final Experience Feed Post due Saturday 27th by end of the day

- **Week 15: Design your Palace Project Discussion**

- Monday 29th April: Project Discussion
- Wednesday 1st May: Project Discussion
- Friday 3rd May: Feedback Discussion Class