

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

UG Course Syllabus

Contemporary Architecture: The Pritzker Prize Winners

HUMA 3680

3 Credits

No pre-/co-requisites

Name of Instructor: Anna KWONG

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Office Hours: Mondays 4:30-5:30 pm, Room 3025 (lift #2)

Course Description

The course introduces students to contemporary architecture through the study of the works of the winners of the Pritzker Architecture Prize. It will cover the foundation and awarding criteria of the Prize and the monographic studies of its winners from its establishment in 1979 to the present. Architectural styles and works of the awardees and the most recent trends in architectural design and technology will be covered as well.

Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- ILO1. Recognize the most important architectural trends and styles around the world and the reasons for their rise and decline in the 20th and 21st centuries.
- ILO2. Identify the most representative works, styles and the contributions to architectural movements of the Pritzker Prize winners in the contemporary world.
- ILO3. Work in a team to apply the knowledge of architectural trends, stylistic design and characteristics to research into the works of one of the Pritzker Prize winners, and describe, discuss and analyze them in both oral and written formats.

Voluntary Field Trip/Museum Visit

A field trip or a visit to an exhibition related to contemporary architecture will be arranged. Participation is strongly recommended. Details will be announced.

Assessment and Grading

This course will be assessed using criterion-referencing and grades will not be assigned using a curve. Grading is by individual assessment, i.e. each student will be assessed according to their own performance in each of the assessment tasks below.

Assessments:

Assessment Task	Contribution to Overall Course grade (%)	Due date
Project Presentation	25%	April
Project Report	25%	within two weeks after presentation
Consultation Meetings	10%*	to be announced
Classwork	20%	7 May 2026
Attendance & Comments on Peer Presentations	20%*	Comment forms have to be submitted at the end of each class

* Participation will be seriously assessed. Students who get less than 50% of these scores will fail.

Mapping of Course ILOs to Assessment Tasks:

Assessed Task	Mapped ILOs	Explanation
Project Presentation	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	This task assesses students' ability to apply their knowledge of architectural trends to a topic selected by themselves (ILO1, ILO2). It will also check their ability to work in a group to research and generate presentation material on the chosen topic and to present their work in class (ILO3).
Project Report	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	After the project presentation, student groups have to submit their project report within a week. They will receive from the instructor comments on their presentation and revise their work. (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3).
Consultation Meetings	ILO3	Individual presentation groups will have to meet the instructor at least two times to report their progress in the research on the topic and preparation for the presentation (ILO3).
Classwork	ILO1, ILO2	This task assesses students' understanding of trends and issues of contemporary architecture and their ability to discuss them critically and analytically (ILO1, ILO2).
Attendance & Comments on Peer Presentations	ILO1, ILO2, ILO3	Attendance is checked to ensure students' in-class participation (ILO1, ILO2, ILO3).

Grading Rubrics

Descriptors of Range of Scores for Project Presentation and Report:

Scores	Short Description	Elaboration on the description
23-25	Excellent Performance	Research is comprehensive and insightful. Demonstrates a high degree of originality and critical thinking. Presentation is well-organized, engaging and delivered with confidence. Visual aids are clear and well-designed.
20-22	Good Performance	Research is quite good. Shows a certain degree of originality and critical thinking. Presentation is effective. Visual aids are of good quality.
16-19	Satisfactory Performance	Demonstrates sufficient work and fair preparation. Presentation is banal and delivered satisfactorily to meet basic learning goals. Visual aids are basic.
11-15	Poor Performance	Insufficient work in all aspects. Presentation is not effective. Visual aids are sloppy and may contain some mistakes.
0-10	Extremely Poor Performance	Extremely poor research and preparation. Frequently absent from consultations. Unable to improve and/or take in advice for improvement. Presentation is a total failure.

Final Grade Descriptors:

Grades	Short Description	Elaboration on subject grading description
A	Excellent Performance	Demonstrates a comprehensive understanding of the trends and styles of contemporary architecture. Exhibits exceptional critical thinking in explaining and analyzing architectural works. Exhibits a high capacity for scholarship and collaboration, going beyond core requirements to achieve learning goals.
B	Good Performance	Shows good knowledge and understanding of contemporary architecture. Demonstrates good critical thinking in explaining and analyzing architectural works. Displays high motivation to learn and the ability to work effectively with others.
C	Satisfactory Performance	Possesses adequate knowledge of contemporary architecture. Shows persistence and effort to achieve broadly defined learning goals.
D	Marginal Pass	Has basic knowledge of contemporary architecture. Shows limited effectiveness in learning and self-monitored course work.
F	Fail	Demonstrates insufficient understanding of contemporary architecture. Exhibits minimal effort towards achieving learning goals. Does not meet the threshold requirements for further development in the discipline.

Course AI Policy

The use of Generative AI is optional and permitted to assist students with brainstorming, drafting, and generating their presentation material. The use of Generative AI or any other forms of on-site aids is strictly prohibited in the classwork.

Communication and Feedback

Students will receive feedback within the first week after their presentation. They are expected to incorporate the comments into their work and improve the contents of the project report. Paper-checking sessions will be held within five working days after the release of the marks.

Resubmission Policy

No resubmission or reassessment is allowed. All works must be completed within the deadlines. Marks will be deducted for late submissions.

Make-up Policy

Make-up arrangements for group presentation and classwork will only be offered to those who cannot attend owing to unpredictable reasons and with mark reduction.

Readings and References

Books

Architects of the New Millennium. Mulgrave, Vic.: Images, 2000.

NA680.A734 2000 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b667717>

Berger, Horst. *Light Structures, Structures of light: the Art and Engineering of Tensile Architecture.* Basel; Boston: Birkhäuser, c1996.

TA663.B47 1996 <https://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/991003701009703412>

Cambert, Mary. *Top Architects of the World.* Barcelona: Atrium; Enfield: Airlift, 2004.

NA687.C35 2004 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b845742>

Davies, Colin. *High Tech Architecture.* London: Thames and Hudson, 1988.

NA682.B7.D38 1998 <https://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/991006543489703412>

Foster, Hal, et al. "Towards a Critical Regionalism: Six Points for an Architecture of Resistance." *Anti-Aesthetic: essays on Postmodern Culture.* Seattle: Bay Press, 1983.

BH301.M54 A57 1983 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b180545>

Glancey, Jonathan. "Brave New World." *The Story of Architecture.* London: Dorling Kindersley, 2003. 170-193.

---. "Every Which Way." *The Story of Architecture.* London: Dorling Kindersley, 2003. 194-213.

---. "Futures." *The Story of Architecture.* London: Dorling Kindersley, 2003. 214-229.

NA200.G527 2003 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b1182870>

Gössel, Peter. *Architecture in the Twentieth Century.* Köln, New York: Taschen, 2001.

NA680.G6413 2001 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b725779>

Ibelings, Hans. *Supermodernism: Architecture in the Age of Globalization*. Rotterdam: NAI, c1998.
NA682.P67 I23 1998 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b601444>

Jencks, Charles. *The Language of Post-Modern Architecture*. New York: Rizzoli, 1991.

NA682.P67 J38 1991 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b199847>

Jencks, Charles. *The New Moderns: From Late to Neo-Modernism*. New York: Rizzoli, 1990.

NA682.P67 J4 1990 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b374172>

Jencks, Charles. *The New Paradigm in Architecture: the Language of Post-Modernism*. New Haven, London: Yale University Press, 2002.

NA682.P67 J38 2002 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b771531>

Johnson, Philip, and Mark Wigley. *Deconstructivist Architecture: The Museum of Modern Art, New York*. Museum of Modern Art, 1988. (available in CUHK Library, loanable via HKALL)

Klotz, Heinrich. *The History of Postmodern Architecture*. Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1988.

NA680.K5713 1988 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b140308>

Lefavre, Liane, and Alexander Tzonis. *Critical Regionalism: Architecture and Identity in a Globalized World*. Munich: Prestel. 2003.

NA682.R44 L44 2003 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b810912>

Noever, Peter, et al. *Architecture in Transition: Between Deconstruction and New Modernism*. Munich: Prestel, 1991. NA682.D43 A73 1991 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b243270>

Pearman, Hugh. *Contemporary World Architecture*. London: Phaidon, 1998.

NA680.P43 1998 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b593001>

Thorne, Martha, et al. *The Pritzker Architecture Prize: the first twenty years*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, in association with The Art Institute of Chicago, 1999.

NA2335.P75 1999 <http://lbdiscovers.ust.hk/bib/b622963>

Journals

Architectural Design: A.D. (E-Journal, UST Library)

Architectural Record (E-Journal, UST Library)

Architectural Review (E-Journal, UST Library)

Architecture: the AIA Journal (1983-2006, E-Journal, UST Library)

A + U, architecture and urbanism (available in other HKALL libraries)

Websites

The Pritzker Architecture Prize. The Hyatt Foundation, 2018. <http://www.pritzkerprize.com/>

- biographies of laureates, a selection of their works, comments from the jury and essays are available here.

Russell, Tony, et al. "MLA Formatting and Style Guide." *The Purdue OWL*, Purdue U Writing Lab. https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/index.html. Accessed 14 Jan 2025.

Individual presentation groups should consult **monographic texts** and the **official websites** of the laureates.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to adhere to the university's academic integrity policy. Students are expected to uphold HKUST's Academic Honor Code and to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. The University has zero tolerance of academic misconduct. Please refer to [Academic Integrity | HKUST – Academic Registry](#) for the University's definition of plagiarism and ways to avoid cheating and plagiarism.

Edited 30/01/2026