

Columbia University GSAPP

A4869 Design Seminar
Monday 11:00am–01:00 pm
Buell 300 South
Spring 2017

Professor Hilary Sample, hms2155@columbia.edu

Books, Figures, Objects

Description

The 2015 Canadian Centre for Architecture exhibition “The Other Architect: Another Way of Building Architecture” posited a reframing of the assumed role of the architect, stating the following: “To find another way of building architecture, we have to be willing to broaden our understanding of what architecture is and what architecture can do.” In this advanced design-research seminar, students will be exposed to both the design work related to books, figures, and objects as well as the thinking and making behind their production. Mirroring its title, the seminar will be organized into three independent sections: books, figures, and finally objects. Each section will consist of a series of lectures given by the instructor that will present examples; will offer a workshop component which explores how to make something or explains the instruments of representation; and will include extracurricular experiences such as a visit to Avery library, a museum, or a gallery. In addition a series of guests, all key figures in the framing of design thinking and curating of design objects today, will be invited to the seminar. The seminar will explore specific architects who work outside of their respective discipline to design objects—things that might not so easily be classified as Architecture—as well as industrial designers, artists, and graphic designers. These figures include: Anni and Josef Albers; Aino Aalto and Alvar Aalto; Donald Judd; Ronan & Erwan Bouroullec; Jean Prouvé; Isamu Noguchi; Petra Blaisse; Rita McBride; and Katharina Grosse, among others.

The seminar will use this idea as a starting point, and look to those who are making books, objects, and figures, as a way forward to a better understanding of the relationship between design and architecture. Students will be required to research one book, one figure, and one object, and to present their findings to the class. Students will be further required to produce or represent a book, figure, or design object for the final project. The final project may be an extension of a studio or seminar project, with both past and present work being equally acceptable. Students should expect and be prepared to take the work (or parts of the work) into reality.

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SCHEDULE

Objects

Week 1	Jan. 23	Lecture: Overview and Introduction
Week 2	Jan. 30	Thinking of, Designing, and Making Objects (Part I): Scaling Up to Full Size Works in Metal
Week 3	Feb. 6	Thinking of, Designing, and Making Objects (Part II): Working with History Works in Ceramics
Week 4	Feb. 13	In Conversation with Juan Garcia Mosqueda and Guest Designers

Figures

Week 5	Feb. 20	Lecture: Architects Draw People (and Workshop)
Week 6	Feb. 27	Presentation in Avery Library
Week 7	March 6	In Conversation with Timothy Hyde: A Celebrated Image
Week 8	March 13	Spring Break (No Class)

Books

Week 9	March 20	Lecture: Making Books Today
Week 10	March 27	In Conversation with Alex Lin: Designing Books
Week 11	April 3	Student Presentations
Week 12	April 10	Student Presentations
Week 13	April 17	Due: Final Work

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Reading List

Anni Albers, *Selected Writings on Design*, ed. Brenda Danilowitz (Hanover and Middletown: University Press of New England / Wesleyan University Press, 2000). See: “The Pliable Plane: Textiles in Architecture,” 44–51; “Designing as Visual Organization,” 58–68.

Jennifer Reynolds-Kaye, *Small-Great Objects: Anni and Josef Albers in the Americas* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017).

John Berger, *Ways of Seeing* (London: British Broadcasting Corporation and Penguin Books Ltd., 1972).
(.pdf)

Donald Judd Writings, ed. by Flavin Judd and Caitlin Murray (New York: Judd Foundation/David Zwirner Books, 2016). See: “Art and Architecture [1984],” 410–17; “New York City – A World Art Center [1962],” 72–81; “Specific Objects [1964],” 134–45; “Twentieth Century Engineering [1964],” 146–51.

Nina Stritzler-Levine, ed., *Artek and the Aaltos: Creating a Modern World* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2017).

Jean Prouvé, *Jean Prouvé Architecture*, 5 vols. (Paris: Edition Galerie Patrick Seguin, 2015).

Michael Meredith, “Whatever Happened to “Whatever Happened to Total Design?”? The Momentary Utopian Jouissance of the Bouroullec Brothers,” *Harvard Design Magazine* 29 (Fall/Winter 2008).
<http://www.harvarddesignmagazine.org/issues/29/whatever-happened-to-whatever-happened-to-total-design-the-momentary-utopian-jouissance-of-the-bouroullec-brothers>

Giovanna Borasi, ed., *The Other Architect* (Montréal: Canadian Centre for Architecture, 2016).

Juan Garcia Mosqueda, *Chamber Collection #1 and Chamber Collection #2* (New York: Chamber, 2015).

“Hot Metal Modern: Design in Pittsburgh and Beyond.” Carnegie Museum of Art. Pittsburgh, PA. 2015–17. See esp.: Isamu Noguchi. at <http://cmoa.org/exhibition/hot-metal-modern/>
Hilary Sample, “Pliability,” in *Post-Ductility: Metals in Architecture and Engineering*, ed. Michael Bell and Craig Buckley (New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2012), 213.