

Architectural Photography 1 - SPRING 2014

Professor – Erieta Attali (ha2122@columbia.edu)

TA – Michael Bosbous (Michaelbosbous@gmail.com)

Since the Renaissance, artificial illumination has been used to alter our perception of the built environment. During the 20th century, it became an inextricable part of the design process. It can be said that architecture of the night has contributed toward the fulfillment of the modernists' dream for an architecture of intangible forms. Now, the once cold and sturdiness of a structure's materials can be transformed into a floating apparition by the building's light, shadow and color that can only exist after dark.

From its infancy, photography has proven to be an important means of documentation and aesthetic appeal. Urban photography pioneers such as Alfred Steiglitz and his peers were key in the development of a technical and aesthetic photographic language that influenced their followers, the design community and the general public. By ignoring mere topographical representation, these photographers embraced the technical imperfections of this medium - darkness and artificial light - and produced images of striking aesthetic and cultural impact. The pioneers used designed building lighting and ambient city lighting to change our perception of modern urban cityscape.

This course will give students the opportunity to engage in a similar quest. The course will discuss photography as a medium to interpret aesthetic intent and express subjective understanding of building or urban space after dark.

Students will explore these issues by producing a series of night images that cover a range of architectural themes: cityscape, urban landscape, residential, commercial and public spaces. Technical, historical and aesthetic aspects of night photography will be covered in this course. There will be a field trip to examine and interpret work outside of the classroom environment.

By the end of the course, each student will be taught how to select and compile a photographic portfolio based on his/her work. With this, each student will include a short written contribution that explains their choice of project(s) and discusses the co-relation between the architect's concept and his/her visual interpretation of it.

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Basic knowledge of photography is encouraged, but not required. You can use any type of camera you'd like, whether it's an SLR or a simple point-and-shoot. Shooting digital is not required, but highly recommended as you will be expected to present a large body of work each week, and developing film would be very costly as well as time consuming.

