**Never Built Paris, A4970-1**

Sam Lubell and Greg Goldin

Tuesdays, 11pm-1 pm

505 Avery Hall

Overview

This unique lab will be a testing ground for the upcoming book and exhibition, *Never Built Paris*, which examines five centuries of unbuilt architectural and urban schemes for the French capital.  The lab will first introduce students to the themes of Never Built Paris, such as the impact of unbuilt work on the city’s architecture and urban design, how ideas evolve over time, and how ambitious visions thrive or collapse.

Students will then explore unbuilt projects through independent research, model-making, and exhibition design.  They will consult primary and secondary sources and produce narratives of individual projects; create physical, digital, and interactive models; and explore spatial layouts, graphics, and how to turn ideas and themes into a three-dimensional experience.  As the course progresses, students will discover how Paris has always been—contrary to popular wisdom—a radical city, testing ideas with the power to change urban experiences worldwide. They will produce an exhibition containing their research and design detailing the themes and ideas to emerging from semester’s work.  Some of the work will also be showcased in the exhibition in Paris, and in its catalogue.

Course Format

The course will be a combination of lectures and in-class work sessions. Lectures will provide history and theory related to Never Built Paris, including discussion of background reading material. Several lectures will provide practical information on creating an exhibition from scratch, including research, representation, and exhibition design. In-class work sessions will give students the opportunity to develop and hone an exhibition as a collaboration between instructors and students. We will encourage active dialogue and peer critiques of the ongoing exhibition plan. More details to be discussed the first week of class.

Required Assignments

All students will be required to research and produce historically accurate narratives of Never Built projects. Students will then divide into two groups: one will develop an exhibition design and the other will develop two dimensional and three-dimensional exhibition objects (models, renderings, interactive media, etc.). All students will play a role in building and installing the final class project, a public exhibition to be held on campus. They will also be required to give a tour of the exhibition, sharing each component of the show.

Grading Breakdown

In-class participation: 25 %

Exhibition/Model Design: 35%

Exhibition Execution: 40%

Office Hours

By Appointment

Course Summary (Please notes that dates may change based on speaker availability, etc):

**Class 1, Introduction**

January 22

We will discuss Never Built broadly as a way of seeing and interpreting cities, and touch on the themes of Never Built, such as the gap between vision and reality, the influence of unbuilt work, and the purity of drawing and ideas. We will then look at Paris projects; how they could have transformed the city, and what they tell us about French urban aspirations. Finally we will introduce the aims of this lab, and what your deliverables will be.

Assignment: Read project choices (posted in Courseworks) and select a project to work on throughout the semester.

**Class 2, Research**

January 29

This session will focus on research, which has always been the heart of Never Built. We will discuss the use of primary and secondary sources, digital resources, and other means for discovering the narratives and images associated with projects. We will also lay out a process for researching Paris, and students will be asked to choose a project to investigate. Guest Speaker Jordan Steingard will share her experience researching Never Built New York and share some of the resources at Butler Library and the Avery Archive. At the end of class students will divide into two groups: one dedicated to physical models and digital renderings; one dedicated to exhibition design.

Assignment: 300-600 word description of your selected project using research from books, periodicals and online sources. Be sure to list research sources at the conclusion of your writing. If you find additional images please include with the document and list image sources.

**Class 3, Representation**

February 5

This class will investigate the creation of 2d and 3d materials for our Never Built Paris Lab exhibition and discuss how representation should be firmly informed by research and place. We will learn from examples from other exhibitions that help articulate form, narrative and historical and urban context. Guest presenter Joshua Jordan will share how forensic research helped shape his 3D printed models for Never Built New York, and discuss new possibilities for Paris, including new materials, techniques, and inspirations. Bika Rebek will discuss the employment of digital media for representation.

**Class 4, Exhibition Design**

February 12

We will explore how research and ideas can be transformed into a unique spatial experience reflecting the themes of Never Built Paris. We will share examples from earlier Never Built exhibitions, and other successful shows, and tour the nuts and bolts of making it happen. This will include checklists, object placement, didactic materials, and spatial sequencing. Never Built New York exhibition designer Christian Wassmann will share his techniques and inspiration for his work at the Queens Museum.

**Class 5, Working Class**

February 19

Students will hone their projects prior to the midterm.

**Class 6, Midterm Review**

February 26

**Class 7, Paris as a Modern City**

March 5

We’ll learn how Paris has always been a very modern city, and how our work in the Never Built Paris lab should reflect that. We’ll start by taking a virtual tour of Paris, and look at examples from the past and the present that flesh out Paris’s thirst to re-imagine itself, and the way cities in general function. How has that ability slowed in recent years. Has Paris become more difficult to build in? Why? Students will also review their plans moving forward after the midterm.

Reading: *How Paris Became Paris: The Invention of the Modern City* (selected chapters).

**Class 8, Working Class**

March 12

Students will continue to hone their projects in preparation of the exhibition.

**Spring Break, March 19**

**Class 9, The thing about Never Builts (OR JLC)**

March 26

We will look in more depth at the themes of Never Built**.** These include alternative histories, “ghost” projects, domino theory, artistry, showmanship, and unsullied architectural visions. Why are Never Built propositions so powerful? Why do so many projects fail? What is their influence? Why study this at all?

**Class 10 Working Class**

April 2

Students will present models and exhibition design mockups, and review all aspects of installation.

**Class 11, Exhibition Installation**

April 9

Finalize exhibition plans and begin installation.

**Class 12, Exhibition Installation**

April 16

Continue exhibition installation. This will continue throughout the week and until the exhibition opening.

**Class 13, New Final Review and Presentation of Exhibition**

April 23

Students, broken down into groups, will provide tours of the exhibition. Exhibition opening date TBD.

Required Reading:

*How Paris Became Paris: The Invention of the Modern City,* by Joan Elizabeth DeJean

*Paris des Utopies,* by Yvan Christ

Suggested Reading:

*Never Built New York,* by Sam Lubell and Greg Goldin

*Never Built Los Angeles,* by Sam Lubell and Greg Goldin

*Paris Architecture et Utopies*, by Pavillon d’Arsenale

*Paris Architecture 1900-2000,* by Jean-Louis Cohen

*Paris the Heroic City*: 1945-1958, by Rosemary Wakeman

*L'urbanisme, utopies et réalités: Une anthologie*, by Francoise Choay

*Transforming Paris:**The Life and Labors of Baron Haussmann*, by David P. Jordan

*Les Tours a Paris, bilan et prospectives*, APUR(<https://www.apur.org/sites/default/files/documents/134.pdf>)

*Skyscrapers : a history of the world's most extraordinary buildings,* by Judith Dupre

*Architects do it with models: the history of architecture in 16 models*, Architectural Review, by Jon Astbury

(<https://www.architectural-review.com/essays/architects-do-it-with-models-the-history-of-architecture-in-16-models/8658964.article>)

*From Romantic Ruins to the Ultra-Real: A History of the Architectural Render,* ArchDaily, by Yiling Shen

(<https://www.archdaily.com/894662/from-romantic-ruins-to-the-ultra-real-a-history-of-the-architectural-render>)

*100 Years of Architectural Drawing: 1900-2000*, by Neil Bingham

*Drawing Architecture****:*** *The Finest Architectural Drawings Through the Ages,* by Helen Thomas

*The Art of Architectural Drawing* by Thomas W. Schaller

*Architectural Renderings:**Construction and Design Manual*, by Fabio Schillaci