In 1929, when Le Corbusier first ventured on the Masilia towards South America, his expectations of its modern architecture would have been already defined through the network of his friends and associates. His first time in South America would be spent traveling, observing the people, their culture, and their customs, developing architectural and urban proposals, and rethinking some of his architectural principles. These would all find expression in the lectures that he delivered in Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and Montevideo that would become the basis for his book, *Precisions: On the Present State of Architecture and City Planning* (1930); a book that he wrote on his return trip to Europe.

Throughout his life, Le Corbusier would maintain a close relationship with Latin America though the multiple trips he would undertake there, his publications, lectures, proposals for cities, and polemical positions for it that addressed all aspects of design, art, and urbanism. He would also remain an important influence as he kept in contact and continued his exchanges with architects, intellectuals, and artists that he met prior, during, and after his multiple trips to South America and through the International Congress on Modern Architecture (CIAM).
The seminar will examine the impact and expression of Latin America on Le Corbusier and the Le Corbusier that Latin America understood. Of the first, the focus of our attention will include a close reading of Precisions, an examination on the similarity/influence of the Chilean poet Vicente Huidobro to his thinking, on his experiences flying over the territory, and on the palpable ways that South America affected his theories, architecture, and urban planning throughout the first half of the twentieth century; characterized by a few proposals (one built and the rest un-built). Of the second, we will focus on how his presence both reinforced the stature of his architecture and of his ideas and, at the same time, opened them for (mis)interpretation and transformation from Mexico all the way down to Brazil and Argentina. This will be addressed by studying the materialization of his influence in the built and theoretical work of twentieth-century Latin American architects such as Juan O'Gorman, Emilio Duhart, Juan Borchers, Alberto Prebisch, and others.

Schedule:

September 10   Introduction *


September 24   Remedial Le Corbusier


Le Corbusier, Toward an Architecture (Santa Monica, CA: Getty Research Institute for the History of Art and the Humanities, 2007), pp. 81-144, 177-191, 291-307. [In general, you should (re)familiarize yourself with the main points, argument, and organization of, Toward an Architecture (1923/2007).]


Vicente Huidobro, “Pure Creation,” L’Espirit Nouveau 7 (April 1921). [Translated Luis E. Carranza]


* Readings can be found at: [Link]
September 24  

**Le Corbusier: An American Prologue**

Danielle Ortiz dos Santos, “Le Corbusier and the Americas: Affinities, Appropriations and Anthropophagy” in *Le Corbusier, 50 Years Later* [Registros Gerais](http://dx.doi.org/10.4995/LC2015.2015.918)


Further Reading:

October 1  

**Precisions, Part 1**


Further Reading:
Jorge Francisco Liernur, “Precisions” in *La Red Austral* (trans. Luis E. Carranza)

October 8  

**Precisions, Part 2**


October 15  

**The Architectural Projects: Presentations 1**

Villa Ocampo, Paulo Prado House, Junia Martinez House, Errasuritz House, Ministry of Education and Public Health (MESP), Rio de Janeiro University, Curutchet House


October 22 The Urban Projects: Presentations 2
Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Montevideo, Buenos Aires


Further Reading:


October 29 Direct/Formal/Discursive Influences:
O'Gorman, Prebisch+Vautier, Reidy, Williams, Grupo Austral


Presentations/Production/Organization/Design/ Discussion

November 5 No Class
Material Influences/Corrupted Influences
Guaranta+Correa, Borchers, Duhart, Testa, Niemeyer, Matta


Further Reading:

Presentations/Production:
The goal of the seminar consists in analyzing and evaluating the Latin American work by or inspired by Le Corbusier (including proposals, writings, built works, etc.) with the intention of writing historical accounts and critical essays about it and of collecting and gathering information—from many available but scattered resources at Avery Library, the MoMA, etc.—in an effort to develop and curate a small (virtual) exhibition of our findings. Given that there are no holistic publications or other reference works that extensively or exclusively address these issues, we will develop vehicles for the dissemination of the material including an exhibition check-list, a small exhibition catalogue, short documentary films with computer reconstructions and historical footage, contemporary views of the projects, etc. to be created collectively by all of the members of the seminar.

The case study/thematic presentations will be based on continued investigation into the architect(s), work, context, polemics, etc. in relationship to the issues addressed in the seminar and discussions. Tentatively, the organization of the material will be based on 5 themes: lectures, copies, translations, experiments, and visuals.

For this, it is imperative that everyone provide any reading and/or graphic material prior to the class in order for us to prepare for and better understand the material you will be addressing, allow us to formulate questions, find parallels between the
This includes a “checklist” of the important material (with basic information, order, small image, etc.), rough outlines of possible catalogue entries and essays, possible ideas about images or videos, etc. In addition, use your presentation as a “model” for the order, content, structure, and graphic design of what the final version of the project can be [we will choose collectively what this will ultimately be and how to split the work evenly.]

The order of the presentations will be established in relationship to students’ deadlines, material gathered/processed, and/or other circumstances; or, if all else fails, randomly.

General information on the topics can be found in:


**November 19**  
Presentations + Proposals 1

**November 26**  
Presentations + Proposals 2

**December 19**  
Final Project Due
Bibliography:


Olivier Cinnqualbre and Frédéric Migayrou, eds., Le Corbusier: The Measures of Man (Zurich: Verlag Scheidegger & Spiess AG, 2015).


http://www.lecorbusierenbogota.com
http://www.fondationlecorbusier.fr/corbuweb/lclars/Lc_Lars.html