



Course title: **ARC 492/592 Special Topics: Blank Architecture**
Department: Department of Architecture, School of Architecture and Planning
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York

Faculty: **Sergio López-Piñeiro**
Semester: **Fall 2008**

Hours: Monday, 6.00 - 8.40 pm
Location: Hayes 132
Credits: 3.0
Eligibility: Open to upper level undergraduate and graduate students

Course Description: Architectural blankness can be defined as the condition that allows and enables (perhaps even encourages) the appropriation of a place by any urban player. With this unparalleled capacity to accommodate any urban agent's desire, blank architecture can be defined as an enabler with the capacity to establish protected spaces for their 'consumption.' However, due to its apparent lack of inherent ideological content, blank architecture remains constantly available for appropriation and is always on the verge of vanishing into excess and domination.

An enabler is usually defined as "one that enables another to achieve an end; *especially*: one who enables another to persist in self-destructive behavior (as substance abuse) by providing excuses or by helping that individual avoid the consequences of such behavior." Any architectural project demands from its architect, in one way or another, an enabling attitude and for this reason, any architect is required to address this essential contradiction. Blank architecture is a medium through which architects can individually address this predicament without having to escape the field of architecture.

Course Objective: The objective of this course is twofold: first, to analyze from a historiographic point of view several situations where architects have been able to define different types of blank architecture; second, to produce a set of design techniques for achieving a contemporary blank architecture.
