

ARC 488/588 / Fall '08

Seminar in Design Theory: In-Between Architecture and Landscape

Thursdays, 8:30-11:10 am, Hayes 132

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The question of the reconciliation of nature with craft (...art...architecture) has lurked in the shadows of architectural thought and practice since Aristotle first suggested that "architecture fulfills nature without violating her". That we, intelligent, artifact-producing beings have a relationship with the natural world underscores the obvious. That we also have a relationship with the *idea* of nature is perhaps not so obvious; yet, there are few conundrums of human existence more dichotomous than that of the simultaneous human struggle with and dependence on the natural world.

This course assumes an intrinsic condition of overlap between architecture, landscape and nature where reciprocity operates at theoretical, ideal, conceptual, and real levels. We examine this overlap from the animistic perspective of speculative history, to allegories of the ideal, to the metaphysics of eastern space, to various post-Renaissance discourses on first constructions and the aesthetic theory of the beautiful and sublime, to the work of bioevolutionary theorists. A series of lectures on conceptual themes throughout landscape history will look at relevant examples in the built environment both in history and in contemporary architectural, landscape, and art production.

Lectures and discussions of assigned readings are intended to fuel a required paper centered on an investigation into one narrowly focused topic for research and thought.

This course satisfies the SUNE group intellectual domain requirement.