Arch 201   Introduction to Architecture

Instructor: James W. Givens   9:00-9:50 MWF Room 177 Lawrence Hall

This class will introduce the unique purpose of architecture: to accommodate and ennoble the ordinary acts of living, make them poetic, while also aspiring to capture our imagination and to open our lives to the beauty of the world that great architecture always illuminates.

To help us understand this purpose, this class offers a structure of principles for the making of good places for people. Specifically, it explores how the profound accommodation of human activities and purposes is, in part, a response to:
 - specific physical settings;
 - particular historical and cultural contexts;
 - evocative materials and methods of construction;
 - recurring, archetypal strategies for organizing space;
 - the need for spatial structure that will remain useful
   and meaningful over time;
 - the desire for rooms that are beautiful and memorable.

By introducing a fundamental body of principles that are essential and archetypal, it will demonstrate how those principles create unique and profound form as they become integrated within a broad range of specific cultures, buildings and physical settings.

       "The essential, defining purpose of architecture is the creation of good places for people: evocative, particular, protean places that will contribute significantly to human well being and awaken 'profound echoes'. But good places are very hard to find today. Many architects seem trapped in papery intellectualism or magazine trends. Many schools seem to favor showy media and 'statement-making' over broadly based, informed, and balanced design development. Many designs--both in school and out--seem more about expediency than response to the full range of architectural concerns. The results are all around us: constructs that are pretentious, off-target, and wasteful--that are indifferent, adrift, and dull.

       The need for good places brings about a need for a comprehensive theory base: a coherent, always-to-be considered structure of principles--*an architectural ethic*-- that will help architects (and others) make good places for people."
         William Kleinsasser
         From the Introduction to *Synthesis 9*
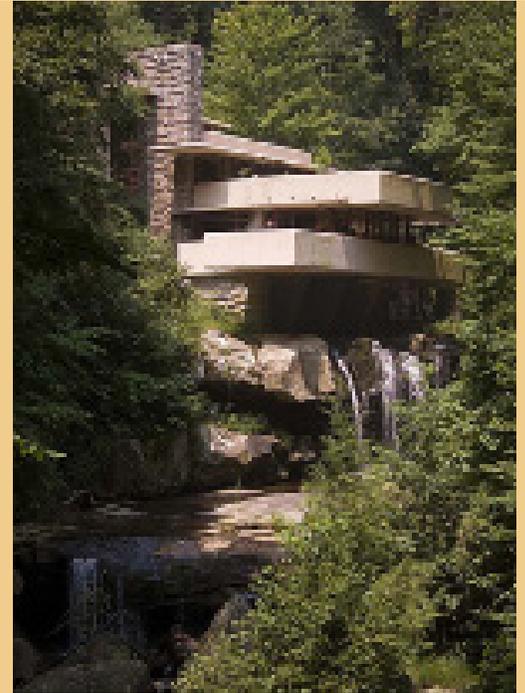
Images from top left: Henry Mercer, Fonthill, Doylestown, PA; Pike Place Market, Seattle, Washington; Stair, Villa Savoye, Le Corbusier; Fallingwater, Bear Run Pennsylvania, Frank Lloye Wright; Ellis Lawrence, Art Museum Courtyard, University of Oregon.