

Architecture and Society: Sample Final Exam

ARC 308 Final Exam

Larry Speck Fall 2009

PART I. SHORT MULTIPLE CHOICE (30 points)

Mark the *best* selection in the space provided to the left of the number.

_____ 1. Which of the following was designed by Alvar Aalto?

Paimio Sanatorium

Exeter Library

Library, Stockholm

La Tourette Monastery

_____ 2. Which of the following was designed by Le Corbusier?

a. Viipuri Library

b. Dormitory, Bryn Mawr

c. Villa Sarabhai, Ahmedabad, India

d. Capital Buildings, Dacca, Bangladesh

_____ 3. Which of the following was designed by Eero Saarinen?

a. Deere & Co. Headquarters, Moline, Illinois

b. Maisons Jaoul

c. Capitol Complex, Chandigarh

d. Paimio Sanatorium

_____ 4. Which of the following was designed by Louis Kahn?

a. Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao

b. City Hall, Boston

- c. History Faculty, Cambridge
- d. Ayub Hospital, Dacca, Bangladesh

_____ 5. Which of the following was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright?

- a. John Hancock Building, Boston
- b. Taliesin West, Scottsdale, Arizona
- c. Modern Art Museum, Ft. Worth
- d. Kresge Auditorium, M.I.T.

_____ 6. Which of the following was *not* designed by Louis Kahn?

- a. Exeter Library, Exeter, New Hampshire
- b. Dormitory, Bryn Mawr College
- c. Sarabhai Residence, Ahmedabad, India
- d. Kimbell Museum, Ft. Worth

_____ 7. Which of the following was *not* designed by Le Corbusier?

- a. Chapel Ronchamps
- b. Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain
- c. Maisons Jaoul, Neuilly, France
- d. La Tourette Monastery, Lyon, France

_____ 8. Which of the following was *not* designed by Mies van der Rohe?

- a. Lake Shore Drive Apartments, Chicago, Illinois
- b. Idea Store, London
- c. Barcelona Pavilion, Barcelona, Spain
- d. Farnsworth House, Plano, Illinois

_____ 9. Which of the following was *not* designed by H. H. Richardson?

- a. Ames Gate Lodge, North Easton, Massachusetts
- b. Stoughton House, Cambridge, Massachusetts
- c. Strimling House, Weston, Massachusetts
- d. Town Hall, North Easton, Massachusetts

_____ 10. Which of the following is *not* designed by Frank Gehry?

- a. Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao, Spain
- b. Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles
- c. Stata Center, M.I.T., Cambridge
- d. DeYoung Museum, San Francisco

_____ 11. Which of the following was noted in class as an example of a project responding to the geography, topography and ecology of its place?

- a. Lake Shore Drive Apartments
- b. Sea Ranch, California
- c. Maisons Jaoul
- d. Boston 5¢ Savings Bank

_____ 12. Which of the following was noted in class as an example of a very expressive steel frame structure?

- a. John Deere Headquarters, Moline, Illinois
- b. Ames Gate Lodge, North Easton, Massachusetts
- c. Casa Mila, Barcelona
- d. Morse and Stiles Colleges, Yale

_____ 13. Which of the following was noted in class as an example of humanism at a personal scale?

- a. Guggenheim Museum
- b. Bryn Mawr Dormitory

- c. Resurrection Chapel, Turku, Finland
- d. Centre Pompidou, Paris

_____ 14. Which of the following was noted in class as an example of a challenging and inventive solution to a problem of construction process?

- a. Sydney Opera House
- b. Baker House, M.I.T.
- c. Viipuri Library, Finland
- d. Bryn Mawr Dormitory

_____ 15. Which of the following libraries was noted in class for its very even distribution of natural light to reduce glare on the page for readers?

- a. Viipuri Library, Finland
- b. Exeter Library, Exeter, New Hampshire
- c. History Faculty, Cambridge, England
- d. Library, Delft University, The Netherlands

PART II. LONG MULTIPLE CHOICE (30 points)

Mark the *best* selection in the space provided to the left of the number.

_____ 1. In the final lecture of the course we looked at several “good” buildings. Which of the following best describes characteristics they were deemed to share in that lecture?

- a. They lacked the kind of distinction and high level of quality of buildings noted in the previous lecture that dealt with “perfection.”
- b. They demonstrated an inclusiveness and pluralism not evident in buildings noted in the previous lecture.
- c. They were good embodiments of the principles attributed to Paul Rudolph in the lecture on “Perfection and Compromise.”
- d. They each reached a high level of achievement because they evidenced the signature style of their “star” architects.

_____ 2. In the second to last lecture on “Perfection and Compromise,” the History Faculty in Cambridge (which we also viewed in an earlier lecture) was noted for:

- a. The way its red brick walls blended beautifully with surrounding buildings.
- b. The way its glass skylights provide just the perfect quantity and quality of light for its function as a library.
- c. The way its functional arrangement of uses is an excellent representation of the way the building operates.
- d. The way its quiet, subdued visual character almost disappears on the Cambridge campus.

_____ 3. In the second to last lecture on “Perfection and Compromise,” the Centre Pompidou in Paris (which we also viewed in an earlier lecture) was noted for:

- a. The durability and ease of maintenance of its materials which have grown more beautiful with age.
- b. Its sympathetic fit with the historical district in which it is located in Central Paris.
- c. Its explicit expression of structural and mechanical systems—steel frame, ductwork, pipes, elevators, escalators, etc.
- d. Its very specific accommodation of each of its diverse functions—the ideal fit between function and the space that is designed to facilitate it.

_____ 4. In the final lecture on “A Few Good Buildings,” the DeYoung Museum in San Francisco was noted for:

- a. How the uniform gallery spaces accommodated the very consistent collection of late 20th century art works.
- b. How the extremely varied gallery designs accommodated the extremely varied collection of art works.
- c. How the uniform gallery spaces accommodated an extremely varied collection of art works.
- d. How the extremely varied gallery designs accommodated the very consistent collection of late 20th century art works.

_____ 5. In the final lecture on “A Few Good Buildings,” the Thermal Baths at Vals were noted for:

- a. The use of a local green stone laid in horizontal bands that contributed to the building’s distinction both in terms of physical considerations and form.

- b. The use of a local green stone laid in horizontal bands that contributed to the building's distinction in terms of human factors but was somewhat detrimental in terms of physical considerations and form.
- c. The use of a very elegant white Italian marble that reminds visitors of the historically significant Roman baths on which the spa was based.
- d. The use of long thin, dark red Roman bricks that remind visitors of the historically significant Roman baths on which the spa was based.

_____ 6. In the Synthesis lecture on Physical Considerations, the Simpson-Lee House was noted to have all but one of the following environmental features. Which one?

- a. Rectangular massing with long faces north/south and short faces east/west
- b. Rain water collection
- c. Extensive solar shading
- d. High thermal mass

_____ 7. In the Synthesis lecture on Human Factors, the Stata Center at M.I.T. was noted to have a particular emphasis on programming—the early stage of design where functional relationships are dealt with. Which of the following best describes that process?

- a. Each future occupant of the building was interviewed and their own preferences for the look and feel of the building were incorporated into the design. The architect put aside his own preferences and worked as an advocate for the users.
- b. The donor requested that the architects place a particular emphasis on encouraging informal interaction among the scientists working in the building.
- c. The Computer Science department created a very simple diagram of functional relationships, which the architects converted, literally, into a very simple building form.
- d. Every effort was made to exclude extraneous functions so that this would be a real *laboratory* building with no distractions for scientists working there.

_____ 8. Rasmussen uses the chapel at Ronchamps (which we also looked at in class) as a prominent example in his chapter on “Daylight in Architecture.” Which of the following is an accurate description of his observations about it?

- a. On entering the church the first thing that strikes you is that it is very dark. It has an emotional appeal based on the shadowed dimness of indirect lighting.

b. Like other works by Le Corbusier, it consists of direct daylight-flooded spaces, so well suited to precise forms and pure colors.

c. As a good, modern architect Le Corbusier provides good, even, diffuse lighting for the main room. This is excellent for accommodating the reading of texts and charts in services.

_____ 9. The Parthenon in Athens was described in an early lecture as accurately depicting the values of a culture which was:

a. a fresh new society that had rapidly risen from oblivion to a great power—one full of innovation, rebelliousness, and ferment.

b. a romantic intuitive culture which reveled in spirituality and mysteries—one enamored of strangeness, quirkiness, and irresolution.

c. a refined, sophisticated, ordered culture which had made significant advances in science, mathematics, philosophy, and logic.

d. a brash, showy culture characterized by intense power concentrated in the hands of a corrupt and decadent elite.

_____ 10. Which of the following best describes values held by Hugo Haering as noted in an early lecture in the semester?

a. Society depends on its institutions for real progress. Collective knowledge is man's great teacher. Reason is, above all, the first principle of human work. Design is a rational process.

b. Society depends on individuals. Nature is man's great teacher. Design is an intuitive, spiritual process.

c. Society depends on great leaders. Fate is the controller of human destiny. Design is a tool for communicating ideas.

PART III. SHORT ANSWERS (40 points)

1. Briefly describe the work of Frank Lloyd Wright we discussed in class this semester, saw in the video and read about in "Experiencing Architecture" and "The Place of Houses." Name as many of his buildings as you can. Give a pretty thorough description of at least one of his buildings.

2. Briefly describe the work of Alvar Aalto we discussed in class this semester and read about in "Experiencing Architecture" and "The Place of Houses." Give a pretty thorough description of at least one of his buildings.

3. List as many as you can of the eight characteristics of neighborhoods/communities that contribute toward making humane environments at a large scale. Select two of them which you

consider particularly important in your own judgment of an environment's "humaneness" and describe why.

4. Using the building you chose for your papers, analyze the way it balances or fails to balance issues of "Form," "Human Factors," and "Physical Considerations" as we discussed in the last two lectures.

5. List as many as you can of the reasons why we designate and organize uses in architecture as noted in the lecture on "Designation and Organization of Uses."

6. In the synthesis lecture on "Physical Considerations," we spent a large portion of the class talking about the Dominus Winery in Napa Valley. Briefly recap that discussion including the architect's name, how the building dealt with "Physical Considerations" and how it might have dealt with other issues of "Form" and "Human Factors" if you have observations about that as well.

7. In the synthesis lecture on "Human Factors," we spent a large portion of the class talking about the Stata Center at M.I.T. Briefly recap that discussion including the architect's name, how the building dealt with "Human Factors" and how it might have dealt with other issues of "Form" and "Physical Considerations" as well if you have observations about that as well.

8. Briefly describe one building from the lectures, books, or essay questions, which seemed particularly successful to you. Why do you find it admirable? (You should not use the building you chose for your papers).