This course explores new architecture that emerged since 1945 in urban North America. Lectures, discussion seminars, field trips and the assignment are based on the assumption that buildings are a form of material culture, and as such are manifestations of social and cultural history. Each lecture focuses on a specific architectural issue, typology, or case study, spinning out to broader societal ideas, including vernacular and everyday architectures. The lectures and readings offer new approaches to the subject, carefully chosen to nurture skills in critical reading and to encourage students to question the traditional canon of Architectural History. Which buildings matter and why? How do historians balance architectural evidence and how can architects engage historical evidence? Additionally, every effort is made to engage Montreal’s architectural offerings as a teaching laboratory, especially evident in the field trip and assignment.

Furthermore, this course serves as an introduction to writing about architecture, through hands-on “how-to” sessions and weekly analysis of readings. Architecture students can expect to gain significant skills in historical research, configuring a research proposal, the engagement of primary sources, the construction of arguments, the compilation of a bibliography, and study skills.

**Lectures:** Fridays, 8:30-10:30, Macdonald Engineering 279.

**Seminars:** Mondays, 8:30-9:30, 9:30-10:30, 212. Seminars will focus on required readings and offer an opportunity to ask questions about the lecture material. Note that the Monday seminars follow the Friday lectures, thus beginning Jan. 14.

**Teaching Assistant:** Magdalena Milosz, magdalena.milosz@mail.mcgill.ca

**Contact:** Prof. Adams and Magdalena Milosz are available by appointment. For Prof. Adams, phone 398-2915 or e-mail annmarie.adams@mcgill.ca

**Requirements:** Regular attendance at lectures, participation in weekly discussion sessions (10%); a research paper (topic 10% + final paper 30%); a midterm quiz (20%); a final exam (30%) during the university’s exam period.
Proposed Lecture Schedule:

January 11  Brave New World


January 14  Discussion: The Skyscraper


January 18  Glass Houses


January 21  Discussion: The Post-War Home


January 25  Brutalism and Free Speech


January 28  Discussion: Expo


February 1  Field trip to the CCA’s “Architecture Itself”

February 4  **Discussion: How to Write a Paper with Prof. Adams**

February 8  **Colonialism and Architecture (MM)**


February 11  **Discussion: Indigenous Architecture**


February 15  **Historic Preservation**  *submit paper proposal at beginning of class, see p. 6*


February 18  **Discussion: Cities**


February 22  **Women Architects**


February 25  **Discussion:** Review for Midterm Quiz

March 1  **Midterm Quiz - 1 hour**

*Four pairs of slides for fifteen minutes each.*
March 8     **Study Break - No Lecture**

March 11    **No discussion**

March 15    **Postmodernism 1** (Theme park cities), Jencks I


March 18    **Discussion:** Defining Postmodernism: Reading TBA

March 22    **Postmodernism 2** (European)


March 25:  **Discussion:** European Architects

- Rem Koolhaas, “From Delirious New York,” in Mallgrave and Contandriopoulos, 455-56; and “OMA, Rem Koolhaas, and Bruce Mau from Bigness, or the Problem of Large,” 566-68.

March 29    **Postmodernism 3** (High-Tech)


April 1     **Discussion:** Formalism

- Peter Eisenman, “From The End of the Classical: The End of the Beginning, the End of the End,” in Mallgrave and Contandriopoulos, 471-73.

April 5     **Postmodernism 4** (Starchitects) *submit paper at beginning of class*


April 8     **Discussion:** How to study effectively (what’s important in history)

April 12    **Architecture Today**
Participation
Please bring 2-3 questions or comments (can be in point form) to the discussion seminar in hard copy each week. These will be used to guide the discussion and handed in at the end of each seminar. Each will count for 1 mark in the participation grade (total of 10 percent).

Final exam – 3 hours (Date TBA, exam period is April 15-30)
The final exam covers the entire course including lectures, discussion sessions, and readings.

Assignment (more information to follow)
The assignment is to write an argumentative, research paper on Postmodernism by undertaking a close study of a single artifact or object in the current exhibition at the CCA, “Architecture Itself.” What does your object say about late 20th-century architectural culture? Note that we are visiting the exhibit on Feb. 1 and will provide a list of recommended objects to study.

The final paper, due April 5 at the beginning of class, should be ten pages of 12-pt text, double spaced excluding notes. Follow the Chicago Manual of Style for papers in the humanities for footnoting style. Please include acknowledgements and credits in your paper. Note a selection of excellent papers from past years is available through eScholarship@McGill.

General regulations
Language of submission
In accord with McGill University’s CHARTER OF STUDENTS’ RIGHTS, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.

Academic integrity
McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).
PAPER PROPOSAL

CCA object:

Proposed topic:

Proposed argument:

Please list any questions you might have or difficulties you have faced thus far in your research: