Countermodernism in Architecture: Nationalism & Imperialism

Fall 2019
Mondays 11am-1pm
Instructor: Nathan Bullock

This course examines how modernist movements of architecture existed and were expressed in non-Western contexts through local adaptations and countermodernist movements. These contexts include the colonial, imperial, and postcolonial sites of architectural and urban development primarily in the 20th century. Examples will be drawn from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East to South America. Assigned readings will provide historical and theoretical grounding for class discussions and participation in lectures. Significant representative samples of countermodernist architectures will be studied and shown in class with the expectation that students will become familiar with and able to identify architectural precedents and locations. Students will become fluent in the concepts of countermodernism, nationalism, imperialism, and postcolonial theory.

The required readings draw from selections and excerpts in scholarly monographs and edited collections as well as journal articles made available to students through Sakai or online. The architectural theory presented is in conjunction with cultural and critical theory from other fields and followed by its use in architecture by architectural historians. Throughout the duration of the course students will select a countermodernist architect or building to study further and to present to the entire class at the end of the semester. The presentation will inform the class of the architectural history of the chosen site and its social, economic, and cultural contexts. Students will visually analyze the building or buildings chosen and relate them to others in the same region or connect them across distant geographies to their contemporary structures and precedents. Students will explain the overlapping connections of the specific architecture to nationalism and imperialism and how it fits or does not fit with the theories of countermodernism and postcolonialism as explored in the course. Students may supplement their presentation with digital or physical models, recreations, or renderings as appropriate.

Assessment:
Attendance/Participation – 20 %
Presentation – 35%
Paper – 45%

Week 1 – Intro to Countermodernism
Week 2 – **Intro to Postcolonial Theory**

Week 3 – **Intro to Imperialism**

Week 4 – **British Empire**

Week 5 – **Japanese Empire**


**Week 6 – Countermontinist Asia**

Victoir, Laura and Zatsepine, Victor (Eds.). *Harbin to Hanoi: The Colonial Built Environment in Asia, 1840 to 1940*. Hong Kong: Hong Kong University Press, 2013.

**Week 7 – Countermontinist Southeast Asia**


**Week 8 – Countermontinist Singapore**


**Week 9 – Countermodernist Middle East**


**Week 10 – Countermodernist South America**


**Week 11 – Countermodernist Africa**


**Week 12 – Student Presentations**

**Week 13 – Student Presentations**