

# The Architecture of a Metropolis: Berlin from the 19th Century to Today

Dr. Gernot Weckherlin

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| Email Address:           | <a href="mailto:info@fubest.fu-berlin.de">info@fubest.fu-berlin.de</a> |
| Time Slot:               | Wednesday, 4:30 p.m.   |
| Language of Instruction: | English  |
| Contact Hours:           | 45   |
| ECTS Credits:            | 6  |

---

## Course Description

This course provides an overview of the development of public and private architecture in Berlin during the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries. Following an introduction to architectural terms and an examination of the urban development and architectural history of the Modern era, the Neo-Classical period will be surveyed with special reference to the works of Karl Friedrich Schinkel. This will be followed by sessions on the architecture of the German Reich after 1871, which was characterized by both modern and conservative tendencies, and the manifold activities during the time of the Weimar Republic in the 1920s. The architecture of the Nazi period will be examined, followed by the developments in the “divided city” East and West Berlin after the Second World War. The course concludes with a detailed review of the city’s contemporary and future architectural profiles, including an analysis of the conflicts concerning the re-design of “Berlin Mitte”, Potsdamer Platz, and the government quarter and other more recent developments, i.e. the housing problem and concepts for a more sustainable architecture in a growing city. We will critically examine architectural examples in Berlin from well-known and less prominent architects like Aldo Rossi, Norman Foster, Frank O. Gehry, Daniel Libeskind, David Chipperfield and many others.

As a complement to the lectures, formal field-trips to historically significant buildings and sites constitute an integral component of the course. Learning on site will give students the possibility of discovering the city in a unique way. The course aims at offering a deeper understanding of the complex interdependence between Berlin’s architecture and the city’s social and political structures. It considers Berlin as an example for the development of a modern European capital.

## Learning Objectives

- Students will learn to distinguish and classify general tendencies in architecture of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> through the study of the case of Berlin as a rapidly growing European metropolis.
- Gain a deeper understanding of the complex interdependence between Berlin’s architecture and the city’s social and political history.
- Learn to interpret and contextualize architectural form, typology and detail through on-site analysis and field trips.
- Learn to read and understand theoretical approaches in architectural and urban history.

## Student Profile

Should be in their fourth semester of college/university education or beyond.

## Assignments and Grading

Active Participation: 100 Points

Independent Project Report and Presentation 1: 150 Points

Midterm Exam: 250 Points

Presentation 2 in class or during field trip: 150 Points

Final Exam: 350 Points

Completion of the Midterm Exam as well as the Final Exam is needed for a grade.

| FUB Grade | Points of 1,000 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1.0       | 980-1,000       |
| 1.3       | 950-979         |
| 1.7       | 900-949         |
| 2.0       | 850-899         |
| 2.3       | 800-849         |
| 2.7       | 750-799         |
| 3.0       | 700-749         |
| 3.3       | 650-699         |
| 3.7       | 600-649         |
| 4.0       | 500-599         |
| 5.0       | < 500           |

## Attendance

Attendance in class is mandatory. We also expect you to be punctual out of respect to both your instructor and your fellow students. If you cannot attend class because you are ill, please report sick to the FU-BEST office ([info@fubest.fu-berlin.de](mailto:info@fubest.fu-berlin.de)) and to your instructor by e-mail before class.

Absences are **excused** in case of **illness**; however, for the fifth sick day and every other sick day after that (consecutive or cumulative, counted not per individual course but for the program overall), you will need to turn in a doctor's notice ("Attest" in German) to the FU-BEST office in order for them to count as excused, too.

If you miss an exam due to an excused absence, your instructor and the FU-BEST team will arrange a make-up exam for you; you may also be entitled to a term paper deadline extension. If you, however, do not fulfill all course requirements needed for a grade by the (later) date determined by the program, passing the course is no longer possible.

Please also note that if you miss more than half of a course's sessions (even if due to excused absence), passing the course is no longer possible.

Personal travel and visits by relatives or friends are **not** accepted as reasons for absence (i.e., absences for these reasons always count as unexcused).

Regarding **unexcused** absences, please note the following:

- Any unexcused absence has consequences for at least the participation portion of the grade.
- Two unexcused absences lead to a formal warning and a lowering of the course grade by a fraction.
- Three unexcused absences will result in an "F" (5.0) on the transcript.

An absence for more than half of a particular day's session will be considered an absence for that day.

## Literature

Digitized readings posted on the online learning platform Blackboard.

Course Schedule

| Calendar                | Topics, Readings, etc.  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Session 1               | <p><b>Topic: Urban history of Berlin. Basic concepts and terms in historic architecture.</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• C. M. Harris (1983), Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture.</li> <li>• E. A. Gutkind (1964), Urban Development in Central Europe, pp. 415-425.</li> <li>• H. G. Pundt (1972), Schinkel's Berlin: A Study in Environmental Planning, pp. 4-33.</li> </ul>   |
| Session 2<br>Field Trip | <p><b>Topic: Field trip to the Historical City Center. Church St. Nicolai, Knoblauch house, Humboldt-Forum, Friedrichswerder Church and Altes Museum.</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• D. Watkin, T. Mellinshoff (1987), "A Style for a Nation", in: German Architecture and the Classical Ideal, pp. 59-75.</li> <li>• G. Riemann (1991), "Schinkel's Buildings and Plans for Berlin", in: M. Snodin, ed., Karl Friedrich Schinkel A Universal Man, pp. 16-25.</li> <li>• Potts, (1987), "Schinkel's Architectural Theory", in: M. Snodin, ed., Karl Friedrich Schinkel A Universal Man, pp. 47-55, 117-132, 166-171.</li> </ul>  |
| Session 3               | <p><b>Topic: Berlin after 1800.</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G. Peschken, T. Heinisch (1983), "Berlin at the Beginning of the Twentieth Century", in: D. Clelland ed., Berlin – An Architectural History, pp. 40-47.</li> </ul>  |
| Session 4<br>Field Trip | <p><b>Topic: Field trip Berlin-Mitte. A new capital city: Pariser Platz, U.S. embassy, Academy of arts, Brandenburg Gate, Gendarmenmarkt.</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• P. B. Jones (2005), "Akademie der Künste, Berlin" in: The Architectural Review, Nov. 2005, pp. 60-67.</li> <li>• R. J. Goebel (2003), "Berlin's Architectural Citations: Reconstruction, Simulation, and the Problem of Historical Authenticity, in: PMLA, Vol. 118, N. 5 pp. 1268-1289.</li> <li>• Henry-Russell Hitchcock (1987), Architecture, Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries, pp. 455-468. G.A. Platz (1930), Die Baukunst der neuesten Zeit.</li> </ul>  |
| Session 5               | <p><b>Topic: German empire: Architecture and Berlin's Industrialization 1871–1918.</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• V. M. Lampugnani (1993), "Modernism and the Metropolis: Plans for Central Berlin 1910-41", in: J. P. Kleihues, C. Rathgeber, eds., Berlin–New York Like and Unlike, pp. 248-263.</li> <li>• F. Neumeyer (1992), "Nexus of the Modern: The New Architecture in Berlin", in: T. Buddensieg ed.: Berlin 1900-1933. Architecture and Design, pp. 35-79.</li> <li>• D. Worbs: "The Berlin 'Miethaus' and Its Reforms" in: J. P. Kleihues, C. Rathgeber, eds., Berlin–New York Like and Unlike: Essays on Architecture and Art from 1870 to the Present, pp. 144-157.</li> </ul> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Session 6</b></p>   | <p><b>MIDTERM EXAM</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Session 7</b></p>   | <p><b>Topic: Weimar culture: Architecture for the Metropolis.</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B. Miller Lane: Architecture and Politics in Germany, 1918-1945, 1968, pp. 11-68, 87-124.</li> <li>• V. M. Lampugnani: "Modernism and the Metropolis. Plans for Central Berlin 1910-1941", in: J. P. Kleihues and C. Ratgeber, eds.: Berlin - New York. Like and Unlike, 1993, pp. 249-264.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Session 8</b></p> <p>Field Trip Option</p> <p>Visit at Federal Ministry of Finance/ Olympic Stadium, depending on accessibility</p> | <p><b>Topic: Architecture of the Third Reich, 1933-1945.</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• B. Miller Lane (1968), Architecture and Politics in Germany, 1918-1945. pp. 11-68, 87-125. (ctd.)</li> <li>• R. R. Taylor (1974), The World in Stone, The Role of Architecture in the National Socialist Ideology, pp. 1-14.</li> <li>• Scobie (1990), Hitler's State Architecture, The Impact of Classical Antiquity, pp. 97-108.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Session 9</b></p>   | <p><b>Topic: Post-war architecture, 1945-1990.</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• F. Fischer, (1990), "German Reconstruction as an International Activity" (pp. 131-144); K. v. Beyme: "Reconstruction in the German Democratic Republic" (pp. 190-207), both in: J. M. Diefendorf ed., Rebuilding Europe's Bombed Cities.</li> <li>• V. M. Lampugnani (1991) "Town planning and architecture in Berlin 1945–1985", in: Irit Rogoff ed., The divided heritage, themes and problems in German Modernism. pp. 291-308.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Session 10</b></p>  | <p><b>Topic: Rebuilding the Divided City: From the Berlin Wall to the International Building Exhibition 1987</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. P. Kleihues (1993), "From the Destruction to the Critical Reconstruction of the City: Urban Design in Berlin after 1945", in: J. P. Kleihues ed., Berlin–New York Like and Unlike, pp. 395-409.</li> <li>• H. Stimmann (2000), "The Physiognomy of a Major City 1945–1953–1989–2010" in Hans Stimmann ed.: Berlin: Physiognomie einer Großstadt (Catalogue of the 7th Architecture Biennale Venice, 2000), pp. 17-21.</li> <li>• D. Hoffmann-Axthelm (2000) "Planwerk Innenstadt Berlin" in: H. Stimmann ed., Berlin: Physiognomie einer Großstadt, pp. 29–31. Fritz Neumeyer (2000), "Nodes in the Network. Urban Texture and Urban Form in the 'City West'", in Stimmann ed., Berlin: Physiognomie einer Großstadt, pp. 39-41.</li> <li>• Martin Kieren (2000), "The Physiognomy of the City Derived from its Architectural Potential. The Planwerk Innenstadt and its Consequences", in Stimmann ed. Berlin: Physiognomie einer Großstadt, pp. 51-54.</li> </ul> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Session 11</b><br/>Field Trip</p> | <p><b>Topic: Field trip: Hansaviertel (1956-57), and Karl-Marx-Allee (1952–65), IBA 1987.</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J. P. Kleihues (1993), "From the Destruction to the Critical Reconstruction of the City: Urban Design in Berlin after 1945", in: J. P. Kleihues ed., Berlin–New York Like and Unlike, pp. 395-409.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Session 12</b></p>                | <p><b>Topic: Berlin Architecture after 1990</b></p> <p><b>Readings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• E. Rubin (2016), Amnesiopolis: Modernity, Space and Memory in East Germany, pp. 1-10, 77-103.</li> <li>• F. Urban (2018) "Large Housing Estates of Berlin, Germany" in: D. B. Hess, M. van Ham, T. Tammaru eds., Housing Estates in Europe. Poverty, Ethnic Segregation and Policy Challenges. (The Urban Book Series). <a href="https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-92813-5">https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-92813-5</a> [<a href="http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/">http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/</a>]</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Session 13</b></p>                | <p><b>FINAL EXAM</b></p>   |