MEGA-CIVIC: STADIUM DESIGN + URBAN POLITICS

TOPICS IN ARCHITECTURE | ARCH 492 SECTION 01 | SPRING 2014

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Regardless of scale, in the United States and throughout the world, the Stadium is a persistent architectural typology. As an architectural type, stadiums revolve around political and social circumstances that prompt fundamental questions surrounding the role of Monumentality and the City. This condition has been evidenced through class discussions and preliminary study of the Nine Points on Monumentality (Sert, Giedion, Léger). To continue this dialogue throughout the semester, students will be asked to propose and investigate the civic nature of stadiums by pairing the study of a specific stadium with one of the Nine Points on Monumentality.

How can this pairing become a productive method for creating a research assertion? What type of relationships are formed between the theoretical, Nine Points on Monumentality, and the physical reality of the stadium? How is the stadium you are studying evidence of the validity of the Point on Monumentality you have chosen as its pair? How is the stadium you are studying evidence of the incompatibility or challenge to the Point on Monumentality you have chosen as its pair?

Within this framework, students are expected to develop both a written and graphic assertion that demonstrates their understanding of stadium design and its impact on urban politics. This research will be conducted using the same focus areas used to structure the seminar - History, Program, Technology, Economy.

THIS IS NOT SIMPLY A REPORT ON A PARTICULAR STADIUM. STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO RESEARCH THE FACTS AND CONDITIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR STADIUM AS A WAY OF DEVELOPING AN ASSERTIVE AND EVIDENCE-BASED RESEARCH ARGUMENT.

CONDITIONS + PARAMETERS

1. Only one stadium per research project. Other stadiums can be used as reference, but the primary research pairing should be between your stadium of choice and one of the Nine Points on Monumentality.
2. Existing or soon to be existing stadiums only.
3. Stadiums need not be in operation (IE: abandoned, re-used, etc)
4. Stadiums must exist within an urban context with a population greater than 50,000 people.
5. The architect (team) associated with the design and construction of the stadium must be on record.

*Additional conditions and parameters will be discussed on a case by case basis.
DELIVERABLES + SCHEDULE

As outlined in the syllabus and as discussed in class, the research project submission will be preceded by a presentation outlining the major findings of each student's project. Students will use images, diagrams and maps they have made and collected to support their argument. Each research project deadline will be accompanied by a visual component. The visual component will be outlined in class and on the course website. All parts of the research project will be submitted as hard-copy and digital format (PDF).

WEEK 5: FEB. 13th RESEARCH PROPOSAL (2.5 pts)
For the initial proposal, write a concise paragraph about the topic you will discuss in your research project. The paragraph should include the name of the stadium you will be studying, its location, and its accompanying Point on Monumentality. This paragraph must clearly state the initial subject matter you will cover in the research project. You must also include a list of five (5) books you will look at for this project. The books should be cited in Chicago Manual Style bibliographic format.

WEEK 8: MAR. 6th ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY + THESIS (2.5 pts)
This must include an initial title, a thesis statement, and an annotated bibliography that includes at least three (3) books. Develop a preliminary title using the word synthesis method we used to describe the Nine Points on Monumentality during our initial discussions. Your initial title should reference the stadium you are studying. Example title below:

Urban Parametric Design: Civic Flexibility in the Aviva Stadium in Dublin.

In the annotated bibliography, you must discuss what the book is about and how it relates to your research project. Example of an entry from an annotated bibliography is included below:


The study is focused more on the difference between civic identity and national identity and pride. Analysing the history and the behaviors of Brann (the main football team in Bergen) football fans shows how Bergen and Brann fans have developed a more sensitive civic identity which allows them to believe that they are “something different” from the rest of Norway. Bergen has a reputation for being something of a city-state in its own right, with an often-strained relationship to the nation-state and its political and economic center, Oslo. This is partly due to its past and history, being once an important trading center with England and Germany. Even the name of the town, Bergen, refers to the German term for “mountains”.

Supporting the football team of the city has to be seen as a reaffirmation of Bergen own identity. The club is integral to the common civic identity and the 17th May (the day in which the Constitution is celebrated) event is an occasion in which the citizens reaffirm who they are. It is an occasion to celebrate the city more than the nation although the patriotism of the city can sometimes be transferred onto a national frame of reference. However, this is usually conditioned by events taking place in Bergen rather than in other Norwegian towns. The research highlights that identity with a club representing a city, may occur at the expense of national loyalty.

WEEK 11: MAR. 27th OUTLINE + REVISED THESIS (10 pts)
After receiving comments on the annotated bibliography and thesis, make revisions to the initial thesis statement. The thesis statement should now be a part of an outline. The outline must be broken down into an introduction, body, and conclusion. The body must further break into the points you will discuss throughout the paper. These points can be organized around the pairing between the stadium and the Point on Monumentality you are studying. As a basis for structuring your outline, consider, History, Program, Technology and Economy. Your outline should also include relevant images and diagrams you are making and collecting.

WEEK 14: APR. 17th PRESENTATION (10 pts)
The presentation will be the culmination of the graphic portion of your research. All presentations will be due on this date. Presentations must be submitted as a PDF via flash-drive or D2L. You will have 5 minutes to present with 10 minutes left for questions. Presentations will be based in your overall research. However, these presentations will be driven by the graphics developed to support your research. Additional presentation criteria and formatting will be outlined on the course website.

WEEK 17: MAY 8th FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMISSION (25 pts)
The final research project submission will consist of 8-10 pages of written and visual information. You should have at least 5-6 pages of written information. Use Chicago Manual of Style for footnotes, endnotes, and the bibliography. The final paper will be your final exam and must be submitted both physically & digitally in PDF format by the end of the exam time. Formatting criteria will be posted on the course website.
RESOURCES

COURSE WEBSITE
doarch492stadia2014.wordpress.com

The course website will continue to be the primary resource for links, postings, lectures, readings and discussion materials. Throughout the research project additional criteria for formatting and presentations will be posted online.


CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE
http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html

PURDUE OWL ONLINE WRITING LAB
https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/

ARTSTOR
http://libguides.sdstate.edu/databases

avery index
http://libguides.sdstate.edu/databases

BRIGGS LIBRARY ARCHITECTURE RESEARCH GUIDE
http://libguides.sdstate.edu/architecture

INTERLIBRARY LOAN
http://www.sdstate.edu/library/service/distanceill.cfm

JSTOR
http://libguides.sdstate.edu/databases

*All other online resources must be cited and documented.

GRADING CRITERIA

1. ENGAGEMENT (Content + Evidence)
Grade is based on the amount, quality, and accuracy of your research content and its supporting evidence. I will assess the appropriateness of the quotations and images you are using, the quality and depth of your visual and textual observations, and usefulness of your sources. The combination of these factors will determine the level of engagement you have demonstrated through your research.

2. ASSERTIVENESS (Clarity + Organization)
Grade is based on your ability to develop an assertive argument through an iterative writing and graphic process. This written and graphic argument should be organized in a logical order, which can be easily followed by the reader.

3. COMMUNICATION (Presentation + Document)
Grade is based on quality of your presentation as well as organizing written and visual information, editing, proofreading, and spelling. Grade is based on the quality, logic, and inventiveness of your analysis.

50 pts = Research Project (Written + Graphic, 8-10 pages)
Proposal (2.5 pts)
Annotated Bibliography + Thesis (2.5 pts)
Outline + Revised Thesis (10 pts)
Presentation (10 pts)
Final Research Project Submission (25 pts)

25 pts = Class participation, Punctuality and Attendance
10 pts = Midterm Exam + Pop-up Exams
15 pts = Writing + Drawing Book

100 TOTAL POINTS