

Architekturtheorie: Theorie II

Monday 6-8 pm

Start: October 23, 2017

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Jörg H. Gleiter

Tutor: Sarah Gretsche/ Sofia Oropeza Higuera

Typology I: Memorials and the Lived Space of Recollection

The seminar will look into the various forms of collective remembrance and how they change over time. Memorials are very unique cultural practices; they evade clear and unambiguous definition. Unlike houses they have no interior that can be accessed. This brings them close to sculpture, while on the other hand they are more than just objects for individual aesthetic contemplation. Like buildings, they are part of the public realm and shape the cityscape. Typologically, memorials are mixed media practices located between architecture and art, image and text, materiality and spirituality, as well as between past, present and future. They refer to events of monumental historic dimension, while simultaneously evoking most intimate sentiments in the individual onlooker.

Berlin has a diverse collection of memorials. Traditionally, they remember what was considered the heroic past, including the Prussian state coming to political power, the freedom battles of the Napoleonic wars, and the foundation of the second German Empire. Others commemorate the eternal achievements of inventors (Siemens), philosophers (Hegel), scientists (Virchow, Humboldt), architects (Schinkel) and artists (Wagner). Yet since 1945 a new type of memorial made its way into the public realm: memorials that commemorate the darker side of German history, particularly the atrocities of the Nazi Regime and those committed against Jewish citizens and other minorities.

Since the mid-1980s, there has been a conceptual change in the memorials commemorating the Holocaust. While formally these memorials had been characterized as works of art— on account of how they communicated their message through artistic means and how they stood out in the public realm— the new memorials pursue an opposing strategy of dissimulation into everyday life. This can even include total disappearance, as with the *Memorial against Fascism, War and Violence* in Hamburg-Harburg. Some scholars try to conceptualize these new memorials as counter memorials (Young), others as abstract memorials (Hoormann), some even call them negative memorials. The fact is that these new memorials are indicators of the changing self-awareness and public consciousness of the society as a whole.

This seminar will critically assess the architectural, intellectual, philosophical, social and historical background of these changing concepts of public recollection. Furthermore, it will focus on the many examples in Berlin and highlight their historic and cultural backgrounds. The seminar will include excursions to some of the more outstanding memorials and talks with the artists/architects.

Course is held in English.

Requirements: a. continuous participation in class, b. a presentation and c. a final paper (max. 10 pages).

B. Program**Memorial****Required Reading**

1.	Oct 23	Introduction	
		National Monuments	
	Oct 30	<i>no class</i>	
2.	Nov. 6	Brandenburg Gate – Changing Semantics	Pohlsander: National Monuments and Nationalism; MacGregor: Germany...
	Nov 13	<i>no class</i>	
3.	Nov 20	Monument to the Battle of the Nations - Leipzig	Pohlsander: Monuments to German Arms; Hutter: Die feinste Barberei
4.	Nov 27	Bismarck Towers	Assmann: Collective Memory and Cultural Identity; Pohlsander: The Iron Chancellor
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		Memorials Remembering the Holocaust	
5.	Dec. 4	The Warsaw Ghetto Monument	James E. Young: The Texture of Memory
6.	Dec 11	<i>no class</i>	
7.	Dec 18	<i>guest lecture</i> R. Stih and F. Schnok: Places of Remembrance	Gleiter: The Lived Space of Recollection
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		Memorial for the Murdered Jews of Europe and The Jewish Museum	
8.	Jan 8	Memorials to the Sinti/Roma and Homosexuals	Schult/Popescu: Revisiting Holocaust Representation in the Post-Witness Era
9.	Jan 15	Competition for the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe	Heimrod, Schlusche, Seferens: Der Denkmalstreit -- Das Denkmal?
10.	Jan 22	Peter Eisenman's Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe	James E. Young: Visualizing National History; Helene Binet: Holocaust Memorial
11.	Jan 29	<i>no class</i>	
12.	Feb 5	Daniel Libeskind: Jewish Museum Menashe Kadishman: Shalekhet – Falling leaves	Daniel Libeskind: Architecture and Writings
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		Individual Consultations for Papers	
13.	Feb 12	individual consultations	