

ART 1600, The Aesthetics of Architecture, Interiors, and Design  
Fall Semester 2012  
Grover Center W115 M,W,F: 12:55 - 1:50

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Study Guide for Exam 4: Monday, October 22: 12:55 - 1:50pm

*Study for this exam. It will be lot like Exam 1 & 2 & 3. Be sure to go over the lecture/slide sets at least one full time. Be sure to watch the short videos as well.*

*This is not an especially 'difficult' class, but you will need to study to do well on the exams.*

Exam 4 will cover everything that has been presented in class on the power point slide image sets, including the videos that I showed, and everything that I have stated in lecture and discussion.

I have not yet added the content that I will cover during this Friday's class session. I will be adding this on Saturday or Sunday morning.

This includes:

## 1. Historical Overview 3:

This is a large set of images with supporting written content: read the written content! These slide images and writings take the place of a text book.

slide 1: know that the movement called 'Modern' within the world of architecture and design happened roughly between 1905 - 1970.

slide 2: know that these five architects are generally credited with having had enormous and long lasting influence on the fields of architecture, furniture design, and design education.

slide 4: to study, and learn about architecture requires that these six points be addressed. If you know all of these attributes of a building, or a piece of furniture, you will have a good beginning for 'appreciating' the piece as a work of design.

slide 5: know that 'The Radiant City' was the idea of Le Corbusier, in 1922, and that it was a proposal for a city plan. Corbusier saw it as an ideal was to solve the problems of cities at that time.

slides 6 - 10: know that urban poverty, crowding, sanitation, and safety were huge problems in many, if not most, cities during the early 1900's. These conditions were in part the reason why the Modernist architects, designers, and social critics wanted to find a different way to create an urban environment.

slides 14 - 21: know that contemporary cities, around the world continue to have many of the problems that LeCorbusier saw in the 1920's, and that The Radiant City may have in fact been a good alternative to the concrete environments that many cities have become.

slides 23 - 25: know that high rise low income housing projects, such as Pruitt-Igoe, and Cabrini Green, became dramatic examples of how Modern design ideas could lead to disastrous results.

**slide 26: VIDEO:** Mid-Century Modern: know that America in the 1950's was a growing economic and social time. Know that Modern design was widely embraced by large segments of the general public. Know that new, modern materials, such as plastic laminates, latex foam, and molded plywood made new shapes of furniture and objects possible.

slides 28 - 29: know that the company that is today called Steelcase began in the early 1900's and became famous for its introduction of a metal waste basket, called the Victor waste basket. this was a major innovation in the office work place as it reduced the fires that regularly happened because of the use of wooden waste baskets and burning cigarettes, cigars, and pipe tobacco ashes being thrown away in them.

slide 33: know that this desk, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for the Johnson Wax building in Racine, Wisconsin, in 1937, was an innovative design for its time.

**slide 34: VIDEO:** Frank Lloyd Wright's 'Johnson Wax Building': know that this building has an intentionally hidden main entrance, inside the car garage.

know that the main office work area is called "The Cathedral of Work", and is one of the great office spaces of American architecture.

know that a 'mezzanine' is a partial floor level, like a balcony.

know that the famous mushroom shaped columns were controversial, and thought by local building code officials to be incapable of holding the weight of the building's roof.

know that Frank Lloyd Wright proved to the local building code officials that the columns could in fact hold more weight than was required by piling sand bags on top of one of the columns until it collapsed under the weight of several times the required amount.

slides 38 - 42: know that the Herman Miller furniture company employed Gilbert Rohde as a furniture designer, and that he was very influential in creating new office furniture that helped to define the look of office interiors for years to come.

slide 43: know that this chair, the Eames Lounge Chair, of 1956, is one of the most significant, widely known, and critically acclaimed pieces of modern furniture, and that it is a classic example of the Modern ideas of visually expressing structure, using new materials (bent plywood), ergonomic form, using new technology, and lack of ornament.

slide 45: know that the 'Aeron' Chair, 1994, produced by Herman Miller, was the office chair that raised the standard of office chair design to unprecedented levels.

the Aeron chair is fully adjustable, uses contemporary high tech materials, such as the mesh back panel, is offered in three (3) different sizes to meet the needs of different sized individuals, and was designed to be truly comfortable and supportive for long periods of time, 8 hours or more.

the Aeron chair was intentionally designed to be 'biomorphic': it fits the human form, and it is designed with curved lines, in fact it has no straight lines whatsoever.

the Aeron chair provided a major challenge to other furniture companies, and it is one of the reason that such excellent chairs as the 'Think' chair by Steelcase, or the 'Embody' chair also by Herman Miller exist today.

slides 49 - 53: know that the Herman Miller 'Embody' Chair is another 'ergonomically' designed chairs, following in the same approach as the Aeron chair of a decade before.

slides 54 - 55: know that this kind of office environment furniture is called 'systems furniture' and that it is HUGE business today. Systems furniture represents billions of dollars of sales for companies like Steelcase, Herman Miller, Knoll, and others.

slides 56 - 60: know that Knoll was founded by Hans Knoll, and that his wife, Florence Knoll, became very influential in the world of office furniture design. It was essentially her vision of office interiors that created the contemporary office as it is shown in tv shows such as Mad Men.

slide 61: know that this classic furniture, the 'Barcelona' collection, was designed by Mies Van de Rohe, in 1929.

slide 62: know that these curvy red chairs were designed in the late 1940's, by Eero Saarinen, who was also, in 1965, the designer of the St. Louis arch, the Gateway to the West.

slide 64: know that this piece is a classic Florence Knoll cabinet.

slide 67: know that this red sofa is also a classic, 1954, Florence Knoll piece.

slide 70: VIDEO: know that the St. Louis Gateway Arch, built in 1965, was designed by Eero Saarinen, and that a major interaction of political, social, and architectural interests had to be coordinated to successfully bring this project to completion.

slides 71 - 78: know that John Lautner was an architect who went out on his own after he worked with Frank Lloyd Wright, and that the houses shown in these images are good examples of his classic Modern mentality with a futuristic vision.

slide 73: know that these adjustable wood panels are essentially an early example of an architecturally 'environmental' responsive component.

slides 75 - 77: know that these houses are constructed with steel reinforced concrete. know that building with concrete requires that form work be built, and that in the case of these houses, wood boards were used to make the form work. the liquid concrete is then poured into the forms (rather like cake batter being poured into a shaped cake pan) and allowed to harden, or 'set'. after the concrete has 'set' for a specified length of time the forms are stripped off and what is revealed is the surface of the concrete showing the impression left by the formwork.

slide 81: know that this drawing, by John Lautner, represents a classic way that architects and designer draw and design.

the use of a grid provides a system for controlling the alignment of everything being designed: floor elements can be lined up with things happening on the ceiling, the location of a door can be lined up with a skylight over head.

a grid is a very, very valuable tool for coordinating interior architectural components within two and three dimensional frameworks.

slide 88: know that John Lautner worked with Frank Lloyd Wright, and that this fireplace 'Inglenook' is a gesture, an homage, to Mr. Wright.

slides 89 - 92: know that the L.A. X, as it is known, 'Theme Building' is an iconic example of Mid-Century modern sometimes called 'Populuxe' or 'Googie'.

slide 95: VIDEO: know that the Pruitt-Igoe Public Housing Project was built with high and good intentions, with hopes that it would be an excellent way to house large numbers of people who otherwise would live in terrible urban decay, but that it turned into a total disaster and had to be destroyed.

slide 100: know that the Lever House stands as an excellent example of how Modern ideas can be put into architectural practice to good ends. Lever House is a beloved New York city building that has been given Historic Landmark status in New York City.

slides 102 -104: know that Modernism offered a way to build lots of buildings at much lower costs than would be the case with traditional 19th century building methods and materials.

slide 105: know that Levittown was the creation of a developer named William Levitt. the first Levittown was built in 1957.

**ergonomic:** know that ergonomics is the study of how the human body fits, and interacts with, physical objects such as chairs. An 'ergonomically' designed chair means that the chair was designed with the idea of fitting, supporting, and generally working with the physical shape of a human body.

Exam 4 will be multiple choice, approximately 50 questions. Each student will have a paper copy of the exam and a scantron answer sheet.

Bring a pencil for the exam.

Be sure to fill out your name and your PID number on the scantron sheet.

