

ARC 496B/596B: The Architecture of International Expositions

Fall 2019, 3-credit units

Instructors: Lisa Schrenk, Associate Professor and Altaf Engineer, Assistant Professor

This course can be taken either as a History/Theory Stream elective or a MS. Arch HBE elective.

This research course explores a specific aspect of the history and/or theory of architecture in depth. Students may take 496b/596b or 497b/597b up to four times provided the topics are different.

The seminar will explore the architecture of international expositions held between 1851 and 2017. It will look at how world's fairs both reflect and are set apart from developments in architecture taking place outside the gates of the fairgrounds. Course discussions will incorporate a wide range of cultural issues that impacted the designs of expositions, including national identity, colonialism, technological and scientific advances, political agendas, economics, and sustainability. In addition to lectures by the instructor, students will be responsible for a series of short writings, brief presentations on specific readings, buildings, or issues that relate to international expositions, and a research paper on a related topic of their interest, as well as contribute to a class design project related to Minnesota's bid for Expo 2027.

Objectives and outcomes:

1. Achieve an understanding of design developments at world's fairs since the Crystal Palace in 1851 and how these changes reflected the cultural of the era in which they were produced.
2. Apply historical, and health and well-being research to produce creative, real-world design solutions as a contribution to Minnesota's bid for Expo 2027 – the U.S. entry for a world's fair with the theme: *Healthy People, Healthy Planet: Wellness and Well-being for All*.
3. Have the opportunity to travel to Minnesota to meet with Minnesota Expo Bid Committee and organizers and engage with them through design presentations, critiques, and discussions during the semester.
4. Create a publication that documents class work at the end of the semester and potentially have work exhibited in the USA Pavilion at Expo 2020 in Dubai.
5. To further basic research, writing, and design skills.

Texts: All recommended.

Larsen, Erik. *The Devil in the White City*. (2003)

Rydell, Robert. *World of Fairs: The Century-Of-Progress Expositions*. (1993)

Schrenk, *Building A Century of Progress* (2007)

Rydell, *Designing Tomorrow: America's World's Fairs of the 1930s* (2010)

Course assignments

Short Presentations

We will spend part of the course exploring the design of past international expositions and how they reflect issues such as national identity, colonialism, technological and scientific advances, political agendas, economics, and sustainability. In addition to lectures by the instructors, students will present several 10- to 15-minute presentations during the course of the semester on specific issues relating to that week's focus. These presentations are designed to help facilitate classroom discussions. The talks must be clear, carefully organized, and well-illustrated. In most cases students will need to do additional reading to successfully present their topics. If you need help finding information or clarifying your topic,

please do not hesitate to talk to the instructors. There will also be short reading responses paper assignments.

Class Project

Students will contribute to a major class design project connected to Minnesota's current bid to host Expo 2023. This will include two optional trips to the Twin Cities. The first trip in September will involve meeting with fair organizers to formulate the specifics of the design project, visiting the proposed fairgrounds site, as well as other site of architectural and historical interest in order to gain an understanding of the place and the goals of the proposed exposition. The second trip will involve presenting the work of the class in a public forum. If well done, the work will be displayed in the US Pavilion at Expo 2020 in Dubai.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to International Expositions & Course Overview

Course Introduction. What is an international exposition?

Week 2: The Birth of International Expositions: The Crystal Palaces

London (1851) New York (1953)

Week 3: 19th-Century Paris Expositions

Paris expositions of 1867, 1878, 1889, 1900.

Week 4: 19th-Century American Expositions

Philadelphia (1876), Chicago (1893).

1st Expo 2027 trip to Minnesota: September 19-22

Week 5: Early 20thC American Expositions

Buffalo (1901), St. Louis (1904), San Francisco (1915), San Diego (1915)

Week 6: European Expositions of the 1920s and 1930s

Paris (1925), Barcelona (1929), Seville (1929), Antwerp (1930), Paris (1931), Brussels (1935)

Week 7: Chicago's Century of Progress Exposition

[Expo 2027 Interim Presentations 1]

Philadelphia (1926), Chicago (1933).

Week 8: Paris, New York and San Francisco

Paris (1937), New York (1939-40), San Francisco (1939-40)

Weeks 9: Fairs of the 1950s-1960s

Brussels (1958), Seattle (1962), New York (1964-65)

Week 10: Expositions in the "Age of Aquarius" and Beyond

Montreal (1967), San Antonio (1968), Osaka (1970), Knoxville (1982), New Orleans (1984), Vancouver (1986)

Week 11: Late 20thC – Early 21stC Fairs

[Completed Expo 2027 Project Draft Due]

Seville (1992), Lisbon (1998), Hanover (2000), Switzerland (2002), Aichi (2005), Zaragoza, Spain (2008),

Week 12: Recent Expos

Shanghai (2010), Korea (2012), Milan (2015), Astana (2017)

Week 13: Expos of the Future

Dubai (2020), Buenos Aires (2023), Twin Cities (2027?)

Week 14: Research Presentations

Week 15: Research Presentations continued [Completed Expo 2027 Project Due]

Week 16: 2nd Expo 2027 Trip to Minnesota