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2015 AASCU Japan Studies Institute Curriculum Development Project

“Japan and Architecture: Stimulating Interest in Japan Among Students in Architecture” (Kenchiku)

The architecture, gardens, culture and arts of Japan are rich and timeless to the soul. Japanese architecture and in particular the Katsura Imperial Gardens in Kyoto have influenced many architects and designers with its serene and introspective experience. Alternately, modern and contemporary Japanese architects were influenced by several Modern architects from outside Japan, in particular, Le Corbusier from France, Mies van der Rohe, a German -American and Louis Kahn from America. Japanese architecture says so much with so little and addresses the mind and place rather than ornament and extravagance. FAMU SAET students can learn so many lessons in design from both traditional and contemporary Japanese architecture.

Typically I teach two undergraduate courses a year that Japanese culture and the built environment can be introduced, Design and Introduction to the Technology of Architecture. I also teach an elective in my area of research, Sustainable Design, for both undergraduate and graduate Architecture student. Below are brief project assignment descriptions focusing on Japanese Architecture for each proposed course.

Undergraduate Architectural Design Second Year Assignment ARC 2304: (design course in second year of the design sequence for undergraduate students in Architecture)

1. **Research and Analysis of traditional Japanese architecture**, gardens, influences (from and to), climate, materials and methods of construction.
 - a. Graphic presentation and posting online
 - b. Class discussion of this assignment, lessons
2. **Research and Analysis of contemporary Japanese architects**, architecture, gardens, influences (from and to), climate, materials and methods of construction.
 - a. Graphic presentation and posting online
 - b. Class discussion of this assignment, lessons learned
3. **Design project (building or design) assignment** in Japan using previous lessons learned from research and analysis (such as Comfort Women Memorial/Center, Japanese Women’s Center, Museum or Institute)
 - a. Precedent study for building type or project assigned
 - b. Environmental, context and climatic analysis for particular site in Japan
 - c. Schematic Design sketches
 - d. Functional and Programmatic diagrams
 - e. Sustainability diagrams and sections
 - f. Design Development to scale assigned
 - g. Models and Presentation drawings

Introduction to the Technology of Architecture class ARC 2470: (an introduction to architectural structures, environmental systems and materials of construction in second year of undergraduate curriculum in Architecture)

1. In this course I would cover the structure, climate control measures, materials and methods of construction of Japanese architecture compared to other cultures through time relative to the regional materials, culture, religion and most importantly climate.
2. Students would be assigned research on different types of construction, sustainable environmental strategies and structural systems used in contemporary Japanese architecture.

Sustainable Construction Elective class ARC 4293 (topic varies)

1. Propose elective be focused on Sustainable Japanese Architecture
2. Assignments, research, discussions, lectures and class projects on Japan and the need for responsible, restorative, resilient, sustainable design strategies dealing with issues of site, transportation, water, materials, human environment and energy.