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Class meeting: Monday – Friday 9-12noon – May 11 – 29 (No Class Meeting on May 25th, Memorial Day)

*Spaces for Living/Design in Mind – May Term 2009**

PSYC 205 or IDIS 205

We live amidst architecture—buildings, houses, interiors, and landscapes—but we rarely take the time to think about the spaces where we live. Why have our homes, communities, cities, and public spaces evolved as they have? Are some spaces more pleasing to the eye and the mind than others? How do our physical spaces affect our mental life? To explore these questions, we will read about domestic life (the idea of “home”), architecture, and design. We will learn about architects who reconceived ideas of space and design (e.g., Frank Lloyd Wright) in order to influence the viewer’s experience. Finally, we will look around and walk around our campus, Bethlehem neighborhoods, and the downtown area to consider how we live (and how we might improve our living space).

***This course fulfills the M6 (Aesthetic Experience) category of the LinC curriculum**

Required texts:

Busch, A. (1999). *Geography of home: Writing on where we live*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

de Botton, A. (2006). *The architecture of happiness*. New York: Pantheon.

Farrelly, E. (2008). *Blubberland: The dangers of happiness*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Rybczynski, W. (1989). *The most beautiful house in the world*. New York: Penguin.

Other readings will be placed on reserve in Reeves Library.

Course Requirements

Attendance and class participation. Our time together is short, thus attending class and participating is important. Simply put, I expect each student to come prepared to discuss the readings.

Short papers. There are four short reaction papers (2-4 pages each). The topics and due dates are noted in the course schedule. These are not research papers, rather, they are opportunities for you to reflect on your experience of public and private spaces.

Final exam. The final exam is comprised of essay questions based on class discussion, films, and readings. The final will be given during the last class meeting.

Course Grade. Your final course grade will be based on:

Class participation	20%
4 reaction papers (15% each)	60%
Final exam	20%

Class Schedule

- M May 11 Organizational meeting and opening remarks on public and private space, design, and architecture; Home in the American Mind

Film: *Monticello: Home of Thomas Jefferson; Poplar Forest*
- T May 12 Public spaces for living I (Read: de Botton chs. I and II);
Communities in the American Mind

Film: *Shakers* by Ken Burns

Reaction paper due: *How would you improve the Moravian College Campus in order to make it a more inviting public space?*
- W May 13 Public spaces for living II and spaces for death (Read chs. III and IV in de Botton; Harris, ch. 9 (The Natural Cemetery); Ragon, chs. 5, 6, 17; and Lindley, ch. 5 on reserve).

Film: *Cemetery Special*
- Th May 14 Cemeteries as public spaces – Walking tour of Moravian burial ground and Nisky Hill cemetery (Meet at Benigna statue on South Campus at 9 am); in the event of rain, a film on *Secrets of the Parthenon* will be shown.
- F May 15 Film: *Frank Lloyd Wright* [rain date for cemetery tour]
- M May 18 Cities and Frank Lloyd Wright I and Blubberland
Finish reading de Botton chs. V and VI
Frank Lloyd Wright I and Homes
(Read Farrelly chs. 1 and 2)

Reaction paper due: *Write about cemeteries as public spaces —what are they like, what should they be like*

Film: *Frank Lloyd Wright*
- T May 19 Frank Lloyd Wright II and Blubberland
(Read Farrelly chs. 3 and 4; pps. 67-85 in Wright's *The Natural House*)

Films: *Frank Lloyd Wright's Falling Water; Restoration of Frank Lloyd Wright's Heurtley House*

- W May 20 Blubberland con't
 (Read Farrelly chs. 5 and 6)
 Reaction paper due: *Describe your ideal house—where would it be, what would it be like?*
- Film: *My Architect*
- Th May 21 End Blubberland (Finish Farrelly chs. 7, 8, and 9)
- Film: *I. M. Pei – First Person Singular/The Museum on the Mountain*
- F May 22 *The Most Beautiful House in the World* (chs. 1 - 3)
 Reaction paper: *Describe the inside of your ideal living space—What does it look like? How is it furnished (or not furnished)?*
- Film: *Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio; Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin West*
- M May 25 Memorial Day – No Class Meeting
- T May 26 *The Most Beautiful House in the World* (chs. 4 - 6)
- Film: *Maya Lin—A Strong Clear Vision*
- W May 27 Finish *The Most Beautiful House in the World*
- Films: *In Search of Clarity: The Architecture of Gwathmey Siegel & Association Architects; Frank Gehry*
- Th May 28 Where We Live
 Read all of *Geography of Home*
- Film: *Philip Johnson: Diary of an Eccentric Architect*
- F May 29 In class *Final Exam*
- Have a great summer. . .

References on Reserve in Reeves Library

- Harris, M. (2007). *Grave matters: A journey through the modern funeral industry to a natural way of burial*. New York: Scribner. **Chapter 9 (The Natural Cemetery)**
- Lindley, K. (1972). *Graves and grave yards*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul. **Chapter 5 (Signs and Symbols)**
- Ragon, M. (1983). *The space of death: A study of funerary architecture, decoration, and urbanism*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press. **Chapter 5 (Funerary Furniture), Chapter 6 (The Cemetery as Museum), and Chapter 17 (The Mortiferous Architects)**
- Wright, F. L. (1954). *The natural house*. New York: Meridian. **The Usonian House I**