

Villa Vuoto: Design, Construction, Addition

Spring Semester 2024 (Cyert Hall)

Instructor: Matthew Schlueb

Format:

Six week course, weekly ninety minute academic lectures, with discussion and Villa Vuoto guided tour in last week. Bibliography provided for recommended further reading with each lecture.

Objective:

To offer a master level survey of architecture in the twenty-first century, examining the leitmotifs, manifestos, and partis pris in the education, practice and writings of residential architect, Matthew Schlueb and his house, Villa Vuoto.

Description:

This course will explore Matthew Schlueb's individual approach to residential architecture, through the lens of his own house, Villa Vuoto. He will recount his formal education at Ohio State and Pratt Institute, examining his thesis studying visual perception of form and space, followed by his published manifesto stating his schematic strategies and theoretic postulates in the material execution of Villa Vuoto. He will cover the design and construction of the house, through models, drawings and photographic documentation, continuing with case studies living in the house, exploring leitmotifs and partis pris in practice. The course will conclude with the addition, twenty years after the original house, learning from the experience and proposing a new way for architecture in the future.

Outline:

Lecture 1: Gestured Form and Activated Space

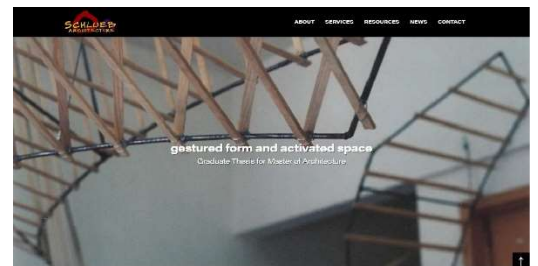
OSU: Eisenman, Kipnis & Fantauzzi: **Event-Structure & Weak Form**

Figure Drawing

Pratt: Johansen, Gans & Skalski: **Foundation & Space Exercises**

Mousetrap 1993 & 2016

Thesis: Gestured Form & Activated Space



Lecture 2: An Architect's Manifesto on the Origin of Creativity

Childhood Memories (422, 068)

Meaningful Grounding (354, 473)

Being Deformation (398, 510, 411)

Sensing Thresholds (268, 191)

Emotive Gestalt (394)

Folding Gesture (394)

Subconscious Design (383)

Memory Sketches (281)



Lecture 3: Design Drawings and Models

Egg Form & Refinement Drawing

Sectional Profiles

Imagery Overlays

Gesture Models

Inverted Tapered Form

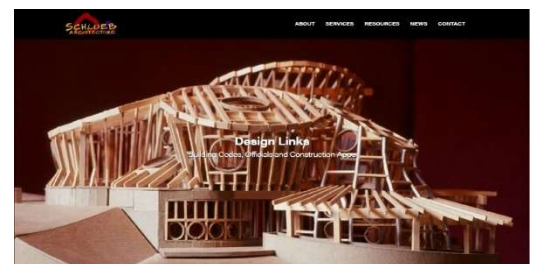
Front Door & Window Groupings

Framing Model

Perspective Renderings

Feng Shui Analysis & Mirror Plan

Bid & Construction Documents



Lecture 4: Construction

Clearing & Excavation

Footings & Foundation Walls

Posts & Beams

Cantilevered Decks & Sloped Walls

Fireplace, Front Door & Staircase

Concrete Floors, Shells & Staining

Interior & Exterior Plastering

Stacked Stones & Entry Gate

Master Bathroom, Trencadís Mosaics & **Glass Curtain** (427)



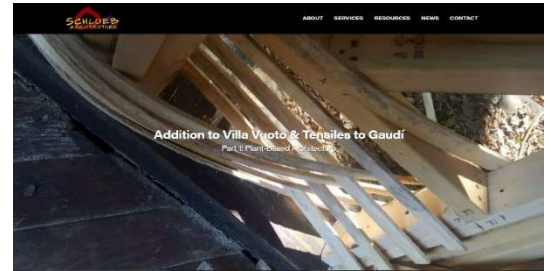
Lecture 5: Case Study

Windowsill Marbles & Discovery Channel Director
Tadao Door, Bedroom Doors & Bathroom Doors
Bach Nacht
Spatial Portraits
My Rotting Deck
Baking Planet, Food, Architecture



Lecture 6: Addition

Plant-Based Architecture
Pivot Window (Envelope) / Door (Threshold)
Woven Lath & Wave Plaster
Moss Roof
Garden Architecture & Artisan Retirement Development



Bibliography:

eave shakings: North Hills Monthly Magazine, vol.3 (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh, 2017)
mousetrap (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh, 2016)
Villa Vuoto: An Architect's Manifesto on the Origin of Creativity (Stella Cadente Publications, Pittsburgh, 2009)
creativity against the world (Villa Vuoto Publications, Pittsburgh, 2002/2005)
gestured form and activated space (Pratt Institute, New York, 1994)

Biography:

Matthew Schlueb is a licensed architect practicing architecture for over two decades. He owns and operates a sole-proprietorship private practice, where he specializes in residential architecture and is dedicated to mastering the art of exceptionally tailored homes crafted by hand. He has authored ten books on architecture and lectures from the kindergarten to post-graduate level. His designs have been awarded locally and nationally by juried competitions, receiving praise internationally in both print publications and television media. His own home, Villa Vuoto, is a manifesto on creativity, questioning the conventions of the building industry, while expanding the minds and sensitivities of his two sons raised within circular space, where rooms are rounded and walls sloped. The house is an ongoing experiment exploring human sensibilities to subtleties revealed only by a careful handling of soft, curvilinear, textural form. Matthew was awarded Master of Architecture from Pratt Institute, where his thesis studied the visual perception of architectural space, exploring proxemic relationships between inhabitant and inhabitable form, isolating perceptual thresholds and their influences on human behavior. He continues this experimentation through his collaborations with local artists, folding their knowledge of materials and technique into his search for a meaningful architecture.

Selected Milestones:

2023 - Began design for the Garden House Development, an artisan retirement community prototype.
2022 - Began construction of the Garden House prototype
2021 - Began design for the Garden House prototype, to restore architecture and preserve humanity.
2020 - Began construction of one-room, plant-based, addition to Villa Vuoto
2019 - Instructor, Carnegie Mellon University, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, The Architecture of Antoni Gaudí
2018 - Invited Entry, Laka Foundation, The End of Architecture
2017 - Invited Speaker, PechaKucha Night Pittsburgh 26, Are We the Last Architects?
2016 - Instructor, University of Pittsburgh, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Architecture in the Modern Era
2015 - Featured writer/monthly contributor to the North Hills Magazine
2014 - Launched 'Architectural Storytelling' initiative, Cherry Blossoms
2013 - Featured guest on the Discovery Channel Network, Epic Bathrooms
2012 - Profiled in Pittsburgh Business Times, Executive Living, A Well-Rounded Experience
2011 - Villa Vuoto featured in Wesley Spectrum Tour of Homes, charitable fundraiser
2010 - Inaugural SCHLUEBarchitecture Student Design Competition, Dream Home
2009 - Published An Architect's Manifesto on the Origins of Creativity
2008 - Villa Vuoto published in Pittsburgh Magazine, winner of Superior Interiors, Far Out
2007 - Launched 'the schlueb suite: Rifugio Collection', SPLASH Luxury Home Collection
2006 - Villa Vuoto published in Moodne Kodu, Estonia, Crusade Against Rectangle
2005 - Featured guest on the HGTV Network, OFFbeat America
2004 - Completed construction on Villa Vuoto
2003 - Registered Architect, State of Ohio
2002 - Launched the 'Why Learn to Draw?' initiative, creativity against the world
2001 - NCARB Certification, licensed to practice throughout North America
2000 - Registered Architect, State of Pennsylvania / Established SCHLUEBarchitecture studio, private practice, Pittsburgh
1994 - Master of Architecture, Pratt Institute
1993 - Bachelor of Architecture, Pratt Institute
1991 - Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Ohio State University
1968 - Born in Columbus, Ohio

Contact:

Matthew Schlueb, SCHLUEBarchitecture
website: <http://www.FINALmove.com>
phone: 724-934-7868
email: schlueb@FINALmove.com
abridged cv: <http://www.schluebarchitecture.com/schlueb.pdf>
publications: <http://www.amazon.com/author/schlueb>