

American Architecture
ARHI 3140
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Project Guidelines

Your project for the course can be a paper, presentation, magazine, or model. The presentation should be 5 minutes (and will follow the pecha kucha format); the paper should be 5-6 pages long, the magazine should be 8 pages long, and a model should be accompanied by a 1-2 page explanation. Here are more details.

Your topic

Everyone in the class will do their project on a different building on campus. The goal of this class project is that we build a timeline of the university's physical growth and design. There is currently a university website under construction on this topic and your material—if good enough!—may end up on it! This would be a good item to list on a resume.

Presentation

Because you will be speaking to a classroom full of people that know nothing about your building, you must make the presentation easy to follow with clear statements and visuals. Therefore, the presentation should follow the pecha kucha format: a timed presentation in which you limit your presentation to ten powerpoint slides and speak about each slide for twenty seconds. Pecha Kucha presentations are short but require substantial work up front because you have to sift through and organize all your material clearly. You cannot ramble! I have included a link on the wiki page to pecha kucha presentation.

You must provide me with a copy of your script, typed, double spaced, and proofread.

Paper

The paper is a formal writing assignment. It must be typed, double-spaced, with page numbers. You must **PROOFREAD** it ahead of time!

Magazine

NOTE: THIS OPTION MAY BE RESTRICTED TO GRAPHIC DESIGN

MAJORS: it requires specialized knowledge of specific software used in graphic design. Please speak with me if you are interested in this format for the final project.

A magazine is a collection of images and text that convey the history of your building. You can think of it like a sales brochure or like a tour guidebook. Your magazine must be eight pages in length and include "credits" (or a work cited list) for your sources.

Model

You may build a model of the building/complex. This can showcase a point of construction technology, of design, or change over time. It must be accompanied by a 1-2 page explanation.

FOR ALL PROJECTS REGARDLESS OF FORMAT:

As you discuss your building, it is essential that you document your sources. Whether you use footnotes, endnotes or parenthetical documentation is your choice, but a reader should be able to backtrack through your text to your sources. This means textual information as well as visual. All illustrations—photos, maps, etc. must have a citation that includes the date and the location of the image.

PLEASE KEEP TRACK OF YOUR SOURCES! This typically includes author, title, date and page number. Any paper without documentation of sources **WILL NOT** be accepted.

Documenting your sources allows other interested researchers to follow up on related areas of interest; it also protects you from the charge of plagiarism. Plagiarism on this assignment will not be tolerated.

Avoid Plagiarism:

Please do not plagiarize on this assignment. To avoid confusion about plagiarism, I have copied the text from the University of Massachusetts Lowell Undergraduate Catalog (p. 42):

[p]lagiarism is defined as 1) direct quotation or word-for-word copying of all or part of the work of another without identification or acknowledgement of the quoted work, 2) extensive use of acknowledged quotation from the work of others which is joined together by a few words or lines of one's own text, and 3) an abbreviated restatement of someone else's analysis or conclusion, however skillfully paraphrased, without acknowledgment that another person's text has been the basis for the recapitulation.

If you plagiarize you will fail the course.

MATERIAL TO INCLUDE IN YOUR PAPER/PRESENTATION

What should be included in your paper and presentation (note: you need not follow this order; these are just suggestions).

Introduction: provide the name, date and location of your building. What was it used for? Who was the architect?

The architectural description: what style is it and what details indicate this? What materials? This is where you want to demonstrate the proper vocabulary.

Provide a national context for this style: what are the best known examples? Who are the best architects associated with it?

Provide a local context for this style. How does your example follow the national examples or deviate from them? Is the architect for your building known? If so, what other structures did they design here or elsewhere? Are there any other buildings in this style in Lowell?

Provide a local context for the building. What were the local constraints that accompanied this building? What was happening in Lowell at the time? Where did the money come from? Was much building going on or a dearth? What other buildings were around your building—has the character of the locale/neighborhood changed?

Historical and social context:

What was happening at the university at the time your buildings was constructed? What was happening statewide or nationally?

The building over time:

Has your building remained the same or changed over time? Answer this both in terms of architecture and in terms of use. What explains the changes/lack of changes? Is the building in good shape currently?

Keep in mind as you organize your paper/presentation that a visual example might help make your point effectively (i.e. using an atlas page, an historic photo, etc).

Resources at the Library and at the Center for History.

In order to get a sense of the history of Lowell, be sure to ask at the Center for History about any pertinent articles or books. Although dated, Coburn's *History of Lowell* may be of some use.

At O'Leary I have put the following on reserve:

Parrot, C. *Lowell Then and Now*. 1995

Blewett, M. *To Enrich and To Serve*. 1995.

Frank, M. University of Massachusetts Lowell, 2012.

Handlin, D. *American Architecture*. 1985

Whiffen, M. *American Architecture 1607-1976*.