instructor: Annmarie Adams
course title: The Cultural Landscape of Home
institution: McGill University
date offered: Fall, 2006

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stable URL: www.vafweb.org/resources/syllabi/adams1.pdf

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Objectives: This graduate reading seminar engages the plan of a 20th-century North American house to study the cultural landscape of home. We move through familiar rooms—kitchens, living rooms, and bedrooms—informed by classic readings in housing research, welcoming opportunities to discuss the methodologies, scope, and subject framing. In the final phase of the course we revisit the authors previously encountered on the house tour, and take a closer, comparative look at their approaches to research.

Meetings: Wednesdays. 9:00-11:00 am. Attendance and full participation are mandatory. Each student should speak at least once in each class meeting. If for any reason you need to miss a class, please inform Prof. Adams and submit an abstract and response to the readings discussed that day.

Office: Room 309, 398-6706, annmarie.adams@mcgill.ca


Assignments:
1. The major assignment (50%) of the course is a cultural-landscapes analysis of a specific house in North America that you have visited. Please include the following in your study: typological context (2) historical context (3) description of exterior and interior (4) plan analysis (5) photos and drawings, including credits (6) bibliography of relevant sources (7) acknowledgements. Many of the articles we read in class make ideal models for this assignment.
2. 15-minute oral presentation of your research (10%) during the last three weeks. Students present in alphabetical order.
3. A book review of 750 words (30%) of Jan Jennings’ *Cheap and Tasteful Dwellings* (2005), due Nov. 1, written as if it is for an academic journal.
4. Weekly participation, 10%.

Website: Note that this course outline will be updated as necessary on:
http://www.mcgill.ca/domestic-environments/courses/

Schedule:
**Sept. 6: Introduction to the seminar**

**Sept. 13: Approaching the House Busch 15-27**
Strongly recommended for background information:

**Sept 20 and 27: The Kitchen, Bathroom and Laundry Busch 39-50, 61-70, 135-142**
http://thenewatlantis.com/archive/11/rosen.htm
http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/technology_and_culture/v043/43.4vanslyck.pdf
Annmarie Adams, "'The House and All That Goes On In It': The Notebook of Frederica Shanks," *Winterthur Portfolio* 31 (Summer/Autumn 1996), 165-172.

**Oct. 4: Front door/Front Porch Busch 29-38, 103-114**

**Oct. 11: Guest instructor: Dr. Robert Mellin**

**Oct. 18: Guest instructor: Dr. Tania Martin, Université Laval**
Readings not included in reader.
Tania Martin, “From Object of Poverty to National Treasure: The Ambiguous Place of


**Oct. 25:** **Guest instructor:** Dr. Cynthia Hammond, Concordia University

Readings TBA

**Nov. 1:** Living/dining rooms Busch 51-60, 151-160

[book reviews due]


**Nov. 8:** Bedroom/Dressing Room Busch 115-134


Alice Friedman, Chapter 4, *Women and the Making of the Modern House*

Rebecca Ginsburg, “‘Come in the Dark’,” *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture VIII*, 83-100.

**Nov. 15:** Library/Home-office Busch 81-92, 93-102


**Nov. 22, 29, Dec. 6**

Student presentations.

Final papers due Dec. 13, 11:00 a.m., in my mailbox in room 201.

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see [http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity/](http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity/) for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie,
plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity/).

Further Reading:

Books:
Adams, Annmarie. Architecture in the Family Way
Adams, Annmarie and Peta Tancred. Designing Women
Attfield, Judy and Pat Kirkham eds., A View from the Interior
Bauer, Catherine. Modern Housing
Carruthers, Annette, ed. The Scottish Home
Clark, Clifford. The American Family Home
Cromley, Elizabeth. Alone Together
Cummings, Abbott Lowell. The Framed Houses of Massachusetts Bay
Friedman, Alice. Women and the Making of the Modern House
Glassie, Henry. Folk Housing in Middle Virginia
Glassie, Henry. Passing the Time in Ballymenone
Green, Harvey. The Light of the Home
Gowans, Alan. The Comfortable House
Grier, Katherine. Culture & Comfort
Grover, Kathryn, ed. Dining in America
Handlin, David. The American Home
Hayden, Dolores. The Grand Domestic Revolution
Herman, Bernard. The Stolen House
Jackson, Kenneth. Crabgrass Frontier
Kidder, Tracy. House
McDannell, Colleen. The Christian Home in Victorian America
McMurry, Sally. Families & Farmhouses in 19th Century America
Mellin, Robert, Tilting
Ogle, Maureen. All the Modern Conveniences
Oliver, Paul. Dwellings
Parr, Joy. Domestic Goods
Peterson, Fred W. Homes in the Heartland
Pocius, Gerald. A Place to Belong
Rybczynski, Witold. Home
Scully, Vincent. The Shingle Style and the Stick Style
Simpson, Pamela. Cheap, Quick and Easy
Upton, Dell. America’s Architectural Roots
Upton, Dell and John Michael Vlach, eds. Common Places
Ward, Peter, A History of Domestic Space
Warner, Sam Bass. Streetcar Suburbs
Wright, Gwendolyn. Building the Dream
Wright, Gwendolyn. Moralism and the Model Home

Journals:
Many academic journals feature articles on domestic topics. The following are highly recommended: Design Book Review, Home Cultures, Material History Review, Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture, Technology & Culture, Winterthur Portfolio.