

Summer 2010
INTRODUCTION TO JAPANESE ARCHITECTURE
Professor John Klingman

This course is offered in conjunction with the Summer Abroad Japan Program. It presents an overview of the cultural and historical background for the significant works of Japanese architecture that we visit.

While there is a rich history of Western interpretation of Japanese architecture, a premise of the course is that it is important that the architecture be appreciated on its own terms and to the greatest extent possible through the lens of its own culture.

The course begins with some fundamental conditions of Japanese culture, the historical importance of the country's religious and cultural traditions. Significant works of architecture can be discussed in reference to these traditions. As in the study tour, works will generally be considered chronologically.

Three themes will thread through the course. One is the engagement between building and landscape throughout history, much stronger than in Western architecture. Related to this is the responsiveness of Japanese architecture to climate and environmental conditions. Second is the issue of scale, with considerations of intimacy and monumentality very different from the West. Thirdly, is the different attitude toward tectonics and materiality, distinctly different uses of stone, wood, bamboo, and paper compared to Western sensibility.

In addition to readings and discussion, the class requires a travel journal and a research paper upon return from the journey.

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
TULANE UNIVERSITY**

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Class Meetings: 1:00 to 5:00 Tuesday May 11 and Thursday May 13
Two meetings will also be scheduled upon return, in late June.

Study Tour: Monday May 17 through Tuesday, June 1. The entire trip may be considered as a component of this class.

Grading:	Japan Journal, preliminary submittal	30%
	Japan Journal, final submittal	30%
	Research Paper	30%
	Engagement, Study Tour	10%

Required Texts: *In Praise of Shadows*, Junichiro Tanizaki

Japan-ness in Architecture, Arata Isozaki

Recommended Texts: *The Arts of Japan*, Hugo Munsterberg

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The Great Wave, Christopher Benfey

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