THE ELEMENTS OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE: THE IONIC ORDER

INSTRUCTOR: Mason Roberts; T.A. David Case

DESCRIPTION:
Acting as a base to the wider canon of classical architecture, the five classical orders have been used since antiquity as a means of proportioning buildings in a harmonious way, while simultaneously giving logic and meaning. The purpose of this course is to provide an in-depth study of the Ionic Order, including its history, proportioning, and meaning. The history portion will cover the evolution of this order from its roots in Ancient Hellenic Cultures in the near East through its rediscovery in the modern-day movement of New Classicism. The study of Ionic proportions will include a hand-drawn tutorial in which participants will compose the base, capital and entablature of the order according to the American academic William Ware. Special attention will be given to the geometry of the volute in the Ionic capital. Ware, who founded the schools of architecture at Columbia and MIT, in turn took his cues from the Renaissance treatise of the architect Giacomo Barozzi da Vignola.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:
- A brief introduction of the classical orders
- A history of the Ionic Order, showing its evolution and variations from Antiquity to the Present
- An introduction to the proportioning system of the Ionic Order, as seen in antiquity, the Renaissance, and the Neoclassical eras.
- A look at the application of the Ionic Order to actual buildings and design elements

COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:
Course content is designed for those with limited exposure to the classical language, as well as for those seeking to refresh their literacy with the elements of classical architecture.

COURSE FORMAT:
Course instruction includes an illustrated introduction and drawing exercises.

MEETING TIME:
June 2, 9:00AM – 2:00PM

REFERENCED TEXT:
Note: copies of essential plates from books below and additional sources will be provided.

- Plates and text on the Ionic Order and related elements based on Vignola’s codification of Ancient Roman examples, as interpreted by the American William Ware.

- A narrative describing the origin of the Classical Orders and their evolution and use from Antiquity through the Renaissance.
MATERIALS:
For in class drawing and notes:

- Sketchbook or Drawing Pad (loose leaf paper acceptable) – recommended size 11x17
- Drawing pencils or lead holder with drawing leads (recc. F, HB, B, or 2B)
- Eraser
- Ruler or Architectural Scale – 12 inches minimum
- Pencil Sharpener or Lead Pointer
- Simple drawing compass (optional; highly recommended)

RECOMMENDED TEXTS FOR FURTHER STUDY:


Gibbs, James. (various reprints, ) *Rules for Drawing the Several Parts of Architecture*.


