



# ARCH 591 HG:

Topics in Architectural History

## MEMORY and ARCHITECTURE

Thursdays 2 – 4:50pm, in person  
Prof. Heather Grossman

### SPRING, 2022

How do groups physically locate their shared identity? How do societies remember their triumphant or traumatic pasts and project their desires for the future? Why are buildings targeted in in turmoil of war, even as they comfort in its aftermath? How do cities contain their past histories in the urban form?

This graduate seminar examines the relationships between memory, architecture, space, and place to understand how monuments, their arts, and the designed environment contain and convey human experiences. Individual and collective memories are embedded in stone, metal, and soil, giving meaning to architectural spaces. We will read both theoretical/conceptual texts in memory studies (Halbwachs, Assman, Nora, Connerton, Whitehead, Carruthers, et. al.) as well as pursue a number of past and contemporary case studies, addressing such topics as the destruction or preservation of cultural heritage, iconographies of remembrance in the designed environment, the construction of memorials to trauma and its victims, memory in the urban form, and the vestiges of home and family in personal landscapes.

3 graduate hours (or 4 with petition). Graduate standing *recommended*, though well-prepared seniors will be considered. Significant amounts of reading are assigned each week; assessment by participation in and leading weekly discussions, presentation, and research project. This course seeks students from Architecture, Art, Art History, Landscape Architecture, Anthropology, History, and other fields for a lively, participatory exploration of ideas, giving students considerable flexibility in their personal research and final projects.