

# **ARCH 591PHO/CRN 77079: Topics in Architectural History**

## **ARCHITECTURE AND PHOTOGRAPHY/ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY** **Prof. Heather Grossman**

**SPRING, 2025**

**Thursdays 2 – 4:50pm**

**How have the fields of photography and architecture intersected? This seminar examines how photography, since the first daguerreotype was made of a Parisian street in 1839 to today's digital and AI imagery, has played an integral role in how we conceive of and perceive the built environment. We will study architectural photography from multiple sources and for many audiences: fine art photography, commercial and advertising photography, journalistic photography, travel photography, and personal and social media photography to explore how these different modes of image making have constructed the image(s) of architecture and urban environments. Critical approaches to these media will include the lens of gender, race, class, consumer cultures, nationalism/imperialism, and how these interact with the professional practices of architects and photographers alike from the nineteenth century to today. Visits to campus collections (Rare Book Library, Krannert Art Museum) and other venues will allow us to assess primary visual materials.**

**As a graduate history seminar, the course will focus on reading and discussing scholarly texts; regular and lively participation in weekly discussion of assigned readings and short periodic written responses are core to the course. In addition, we will explore cell phone and other photographic media to make our own architectural photographs periodically throughout the semester and will learn from architectural photographers about best practices. Taking these lessons from both history and practice into account, students will create a final photographic portfolio of their own work in relationship to a particular critical theme and body of earlier work. Students will present this individual project both at a preliminary review and finally in graphic/media format with an accompanying, explanatory research text.**

**3 graduate hours (or 4 with petition).**