ARCH 591 HG (CRN 69099): Topics in Architectural History MEMORY and ARCHITECTURE

Thursdays 2-4:50pm Prof. Heather Grossman

How do groups physically locate their shared identity and collective memory? How does architecture help a society remember (or forget) its triumphant or traumatic past and project its desires for the future? Why are buildings targeted in in turmoil of war, even as they comfort in its aftermath? This seminar examines the relationship between memory, architecture, history, and place to understand how buildings, monumental arts, and the designed environment contain, convey, obscure, and, at times, alter the collective memory of human experiences. We will explore these interactions through both historical 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 racial, gender, and social identities, and to trauma and its victims. Theoretical/conceptual texts will help us understand architecture in relationship to the field of memory studies, though the focus of the course is on the built environment itself. This term, cultural heritage and monuments in times of war and upheaval will be a particular focus.

3-4 graduate hours. Graduate standing *required*. This course seeks students from Architecture, Art History, Landscape Architecture, Art & Design, History, and other fields for a lively, participatory exploration of ideas, giving students considerable flexibility in their personal research.