URBAN DESIGN IN LONDON SUMMER 2017

EXPLORING BRITISH ARCHITECTURE

May 27, to June 24, 2017

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NYU –London  6 Bedford Square for the London support base but we do not attend any classes in Bedford Square.

To Prepare:  Go to the movies!!  Net Flicks for movies set in a historic time period. Downton Abbey, television series, Brideshead Revisited, Pride and Prejudice, Sherlock, Inspector Morse or Lewis.

To Prepare for the Class:

David Watkin’s small paperback book, ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE. See used book seller (David Watkin, ENGLISH ARCHITECTURE in the WOLRD OF ART series, 2001. Libraries may well have this small book also. The book gives a very broad survey of English architecture. Do familiarize yourself with the major monuments before you arrive.

There will be numerous handouts including a bibliography which will amplify the lectures. As we will be seeing works of all periods whilst in the Britain and out of a historical order, guide lines, and theme materials will be given out and used for the lectures.

Do bring a blank notebook or journal for the class

Perhaps a camera. Sketches and picture taking encouraged,

COURSE: REQUIREMENTS

Full participation. This is a small class and will be run as a seminar, so do speak when you wish. Class participation and full attendance is required! Only illness will be considered a reason to miss a class. Attendance required at all classes.

I have a thick set of readings and images for you all which I will give out the first day.

Written assignments will include three papers to be done over the weekends. The papers are to be thoughtful and analytical in nature.

You will be required to keep a journal for our class. You may embellish the journal as you wish. This journal should be done in the evening after class and contain your
observations and thoughts on each day’s material. The journal should include your own
thinking and reflections upon the city we are in and cities you already know. The written
material will be due by the end of the summer. The work on the papers should be done
weekly while in London and the entries in the journal every night. Then return home and
work up the papers to about 5 pages each. They are observation papers. When you
return home at the end of June, go to a library and read two books on London. The first,
a classic of the 1930’s on the nature of the city before World War II and the other on the
contemporary and future of London. Incorporate your thinking on these books in your
journal at the end of the entries.

The Books are:

Steen Eiler Rasmussen (1898-1990), A Danish architect who saw London with foreign
eyes. The book is quite famous. LONDON, THE UNIQUE CITY. 1937+.

Peter Ackroyd, LONDON, A BIOGRAPHY, 2003 paperback

OR

Ken Powell. Prolific writer on contemporary London buildings as 30 ST MARY AX, A
TOWER FOR LONDON.

The Grades will be as follows:

Class participation 15%
The Journal 40%
Papers 15% each.

Students will be encouraged to see as much as possible while in London and special
interests will be accommodated, so do ask and we will amend the visits or do an
exploration for your paper each week.

We will provide tickets to a Globe Theater performance on the last Thursday of the
course.

London is expensive, so think modestly about purchases and trips.

Parliament is falling down. The building is in terrible condition. I am hoping we can still
get in to see it. I am awaiting the reservation which may be for a Saturday if Parliament
is in session.

If you are thinking of a weekend trip for the second and third weekend, plan ahead as
prices are far more reasonable when tickets are bought early. Be certain to fill out a
travel form with the RA in the dorm if you will be out of the dorm for a night.