Digital Humanities Lab Teaching Fellows Grant Report (2019-2020)
Whitney Moon, Assistant Professor of Architecture, UWM-SARUP

Instructor: Whitney Moon
Course: Architecture 585: Architectural Research Methods

Digital Humanities Tool/Method: creating a podcast episode (recording, interviewing, sound editing, etc.)

Description of Course:
ARCH 585 was a graduate-level seminar course, focused on both traditional and contemporary methods of architectural research. Class meetings were predominantly comprised of roundtable conversations about a range of weekly topics, guided by required readings, and where applicable, complimented by research site visits and/or guest lectures & critics. Weekly topics, readings, discussions, and assignments were structured around two primary focuses: 1) RM = Research Methods; and 2) P = Podcasts. Students were expected to complete weekly assignments to develop their ongoing research interests in two different, but complimentary forms: 1) as a writing-based academic endeavor; and 2) toward the production of a podcast episode.

Outcomes:
final podcast episodes created by each student were posted to the following Soundcloud accounts:
https://soundcloud.com/user-6432386
https://soundcloud.com/yash-mehta-37627064

Assignment:
Although students were <u>not</u> asked to produce a conventional term paper in this course, it was expected that they identify and significantly develop an architectural research project of their choosing. This research was developed into a research prospectus due towards the end of the semester, which was guided by a series of smaller assignments, under guidance and consultation with the instructor. The second form of creative and scholarly output for this course was the production of a podcast episode by each student which was posted and shared on Soundcloud.

Learning Outcomes:
Although academia has historically privileged the printed word as a form of scholarly output, the 21st Century has seen an increased role in alternative modes of disseminating knowledge. The podcast, which is certainly no stranger to popular culture, has also emerged in recent years as a platform for generating new knowledge both in and around the discipline and profession of architecture. The goal of this course was to provide students with the necessary tools to conduct various types of architectural research, as well as a range of ways in which to creatively produce and effectively share architectural knowledge. Through a series of weekly assignments, student both identified and developed a research topic that was geared towards the production of a podcast episode. By conducting archival research, interviews, and other forms of investigative inquiries, students who successfully completed this course not only possessed a working knowledge of architectural research and writing, but the skills and experience to share their critical thinking, theoretical arguments, and creative voices through contemporary forms of media. Moving beyond conventional text-based linear narratives of architectural history and theory, students were encouraged to develop projects that brought visibility to pressing contemporary concerns in an inclusive, diverse, cross-cultural, and interdisciplinary context.

Projects:
There were two primary projects that students developed in the seminar:
• <u>Research Prospectus</u>: As part of this seminar, each student was expected to identify and develop a significant architectural research project of their own choosing. This could either be a research project already under way, or an entirely new endeavor. Students worked in close collaboration with their instructor to shape this ongoing body of work through a series of smaller written assignments. The intent of the Research Prospectus was to create a substantial working document that identified, planned, and provided for further scholarly and/or creative inquiry by

the student beyond the limits of this course. This was conceived as a working proposal for either an M.Arch or M.S. thesis project, or a doctoral dissertation.

• Podcast Episode: In this course, each student researched, planned, and produced their own podcast episode. On a bi-weekly basis, students were exposed to a range of resources and experts relating to podcasts and were asked to complete a series of written exercises, oral presentations, and audio recordings relating to the study, review, and development of podcasts. The final podcast episodes were approximately 15 minutes in length and uploaded to a collective course website (SoundCloud).

Site Visits:
• w/ Ann Hanlon, Digital Humanities Lab, Golda Meir Library
• w/ Katherine Bowes, Senior Academic Librarian, Golda Meir Library
• w/ Abigail Nye, Reference & Instruction Archivist, Archives Department, Golda Meir Library

Guest Lecturers/Critics:
• architect Ashley Bigham of *Site Visit,* https://sitevisitpod.com
• writer/journalist Lauren Viera, https://www.laurenviera.com
• architect Sean Lally of *Night White Skies* http://seanlally.net/2019/03/14/night-white-skies/

Required Texts:
• Abel, Jessica Abel. *Out on the Wire: The Storytelling Secrets of the New Masters of Radio*. New York: Broadway
        Books, 2015.
• Eiman, Mike. *Podcast: Learn how to stop babbling & start podcasting like a pro*. Mike Eiman, 2017.
• Groat, Linda & David Wang. *Architectural Research Methods (2nd ed)*. Hoboken, NH: Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2013.

Recommended Texts:
• *The Chicago Manual of Style.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2010/2017.
• Lucas, Ray. *Research Methods for Architecture.* London: Laurence King Publishing, 2016.
• Borden, Iain and Katerina Rüedi Ray. *The Dissertation: A Guide for Architecture Students*. London/New York:
        Routledge, 2014.
• Eco, Umberto. *How to Write a Thesis.* Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2015.
• Lange, Alexandra. *Writing About Architecture: Mastering the Language of Buildings and Cities.* New York: Princeton
        Architectural Press, 2012.
• Strunk, William, E. B. White and Maira Kalman (illustrator). *The Elements of Style Illustrated*. New York: Penguin
        Press, 2005.

References & Research Resources:
• UWM Digital Humanities Lab (https://uwm.edu/libraries/dhlab/)
• Chicago Manual of Style (http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/home.html)
• UWM-SARUP Resource Center (https://uwm.edu/sarupresourcecenter/)
• The following are available online via UWM Library Databases:
        - JSTOR (to access scholarly articles in PDF format)
        - AVERY Index of Architecture Periodicals (to locate scholarly articles)
        - ARTstor (digital library of art and architecture images)
        - Oxford English Dictionary