

Waterloo Architecture Cambridge
READING COURSE
Spring Term 2011

1115
685-001

DECOLONIZING ABORIGINAL ARCHITECTURE
Christina Carney

Based on ARCH 285, TWELVE ARCHITECTURES
Aboriginal Culture & Architecture in the Grand River Watershed

Dr. William Woodworth *Rawenokwas*, B.Arch., Ph.D.
Mohawk, Six Nations of the Grand River

BASIC READINGS

Cajete, Gregory, **Native Science: Natural Laws of Interdependence**, Clear Light Publishers, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 2000, ISBN 1-57416-041-9 [paper]

Nabokov, Peter and Robert Easton, **Native American Architecture**, Oxford University Press, 1990. ISBN 0195066650

Saul, John Ralston, **A Fair Country: Telling Truths About Canada**, Viking Canada, 2008, [Part 1 - A Metis Civilization]. ISBN 0413168428

Snow, Dean, **The Iroquois**, Blackwell, 1998. ISBN 1557869383

Woodworth, William, ed., **Selected Readings - Twelve Architectures**, Spring 2011.*

*Available as a *Courseware* publication at the bookstore.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Battiste, Marie, and James Youngblood Henderson, **Protecting Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage**, Purich, Saskatoon, 2000, ISBN 1-895830-15-X.

Benyus, Janine, **Biomimicry: Innovation Inspired by Nature**, William Morrow, 1998, ISBN 0-688-16099-9.

Devereau, Paul, **Re-Envisioning the Earth**, Simon and Shuster, 1995. ISBN 0684800632

Gold, Peter, **Navajo and Tibetan Sacred Wisdom, The Circle of the Spirit**, Inner Traditions, 1994. ISBN 089281411X

Mohawk, John, and others, **Basic Call to Consciousness**, [Haudenosaunee position paper delivered to the Non-Governmental Organizations of the United Nations, Geneva, 1977] Akwesasne Notes, 2005. ISBN 1570671591

Peat, F. David, **Lighting the Seventh Fire**, Birch Lane, 1994. ISBN 1559722495

Slavid, Ruth, **New Wood Architecture**, Yale, University Press, 2005 ISBN, 0-300-10794-3.

Smith, Linda Tuiwai, **Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples**, Zed Books, London, 1999, ISBN 1-85649-624-4.

Swan, James, editor, **The Power of Place: Sacred Ground in Natural and Human Environments**, Quest Books, 1991. ISBN 0835606708

Swan, James and Roberta Swan, **Dialogues with the Living Earth**, Quest Books, 1996. ISBN 083560728

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Haudenasaunee translates “people who build the long house” imparting the culture with a uniquely architectonic identity and duty making it particularly relevant to architects.

The course is directed at understanding the relationships of aboriginal culture and land to architectural expression, through the lens of Haudenasaunee [Iroquois] culture, now based in the Grand River watershed. Initiating with Haudenasaunee Creation narrative, the course of the development of the culture and its architecture is traced through a set of twelve periods culminating in its modern expression.

In the deepest sense, all true architecture is practiced as cultural “duty”, but to do this one must be conscious of what actually comprises one’s culture as an indigenous person, and out of respectfully acknowledging place as “settler” in adopted the homeland of the indigenous ancestors of the place. The course is designed to help one understand this identity, and to begin the process of assuming this deeper sense of place as a part of the process of “decolonization”. The architectural implications are enormous. A recovered indigenous relationship to fabrication, measurement, and the materials and techtonics of the natural world will give expression and form in a new/old architecture.

COURSE ASSESSMENT

In additions to the assignments and experiences of ARCH 285, the student will be required to keep a detailed reflective journal based on attendance at the lectures, experiences of the course, and complete readings of the course. This will be the central basis for final evaluation.