

**Fin-de-Siècle Prague Art and Architecture**  
**FA 3293: Independent Study in Art History**  
**Prague Summer Seminars 2008**

Instructor: Carol Sherwood  
Email: [sherwood@swcp.com](mailto:sherwood@swcp.com)

Turn of the century Europe saw an unprecedented explosion of artistic activity in all of the arts: from the decorative arts to architecture, from graphics to sculpture to theater and poetry. In this class we will look at the art and architecture in Prague at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Through discussions, readings, walking tours and museum visits we will examine the theories and the artistic and technological advancements of this exciting time. We will look at how the industrial revolution created a whole new world: A world apparent in the art of the era and in the fabric of the city of Prague. We will consider our subjective experience of the place while examining turn of the century artistic expressions from the center of Europe. The class will include visits to the National Museum, the Art Nouveau Obecni Dum, the Bilek villa and other outstanding examples of Prague architecture, along with analysis of the works of turn of the century Czech artists including Alfonse Mucha, Frantisek Bilek, Emil Filla, Jan Zrzavy, Vladislav Saloun, Max Svbinsky, Jan Priesler and others.

Students are required to keep a journal/sketch book where they will include class notes, sketch assignments, gallery visit assignments, and personal observations about the works we are reviewing. Do not combine notes from other classes in this journal. This journal is for this class only. The journal/sketch books will be turned in for review the 2<sup>nd</sup> and final weeks of class. These books are worth 25% of the final grade. They are Required. No exceptions.

Attendance is Mandatory. UNO allows one unexcused absence. Any other absences will affect the final grade by 10% per absence. Three absences will affect the final grade according to the determination of UNO administration.

There will be two projects:

Two-week project

A formal analysis of a work by an approved architect or artist introduced in class.

This project will be composed and turned in on Monday 21 July. It will include an illustration of the chosen work, a brief written historical background and a thorough formal description of the work.

This project is worth 25% of the final grade

Final project – Presentations Wednesday 30 July 2008

A formal and subjective analysis of a work by one of the architects or artists covered in class

This project will be presented to the class in a 10 to 15 minute av presentation.

It will include illustrations of the chosen work, a thorough formal analysis, an historical overview – setting the work into the time it was created – and a subjective review – what the work says to you and why.

This project is worth 35% of the final grade

The last 15% of the final grade is based on class participation. This is based on attendance, attentiveness, participation in class discussions, etc.

### Proposed Calendar

Week one:

Crossroads lecture  
walking tour to National Museum  
visit to Alfonse Mucha Museum  
visit to Obecni Dum  
discussion - lecture: experience of place

Week two:

Historicism or Art Nouveau?  
lecture: beyond ornament  
visit to Bilek Villa  
walking tour through Josefa  
visit to Vinohrady, Jose Plecnik: our lady of the sacred heart  
Kotera's villa and Lassiter house, Pavel Janek's church, Riegrovy sady

sketch book review

2 week project due Monday 21 July 2008

Week three:

Art Nouveau to Cubism and Rondo cubism  
visit to National Gallery  
visit to Cubist Museum  
walking tour to Art Nouveau embankment and cubist houses below Vysehrad  
Parizka street

Week four:

Concluding lecture  
visit to Muller villa  
final presentations Wednesday 30 July 2008  
final sketch book review  
vltava perspective