

SWARTHMORE COLLEGE
ART DEPARTMENT
History of Architecture I

ARTH 072

Classroom: Beardsley 316

Prof. Thomas Morton

Office hours: T & Th, 2:30ish-4:00 pm and by appointment

Fall 2013

Tu & Th 9:55-11:10 am

Office: Beardsley 203

tmorton1@swarthmore.edu

SPATIAL ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT

Examine two public interior spaces on the Swarthmore College campus and write a comparative visual and spatial analysis of four to five, double-spaced pages (one inch margins, 12 point Times New Roman font). For this paper, select two comparable spaces; for example, one could contrast the lobbies of Sharples Dining Hall and Lang Performing Arts Center, the grand staircase lobby of Parrish and Trotter (Tarble Atrium), or the coffee bar/lounge areas in Kohlberg and the Science Center. Since the spaces, which you choose, must be accessible to the general public, areas within residence halls cannot be used for this assignment.

The purpose is for you to compare one architectural space to another in a meaningful way; a thesis statement will organize and direct your paper. Do not simply list the differences or similarities. When reviewing the space, please consider the elements of design, i.e., materials, light, scale, color, space, surface/texture, etc. For example, is the surface flat, smooth, coarse, undulating, pierced, colorful, etc.? Is the light direct, natural, artificial, diffuse, bright, etc.? Are the materials shiny, dull, complementary, contrasted, etc.? Are the colors bright, bold, subdued, contrasted, etc.? For your paper please choose the three most important features and analyze them in detail. *Your analysis of the key features can lead to the development of a thesis for your paper.*

Please include with your paper at least one hand drawn sketch (each sketch should be 8.5 x 11 inches) of each interior space. I do not expect everyone to be gifted artists. One does not have to be a skilled artist to create effective drawings. The purpose of executing the sketches is to acquaint you with the details of the space. Try to capture the essence of the space. Drawing tips for non-artists: sketch with a pencil and eraser, do not expect your first drawing to be your final drawing, take your time, and feel free to use grid paper. **PHOTOGRAPHS DO NOT COUNT AS DRAWINGS. IN ADDITION, COMPUTER AIDED DRAWINGS DO NOT COUNT AS YOUR HAND-DRAWN SKETCHES. NOTE:** To complete this assignment successfully, you will need to spend a significant amount of time in these spaces – looking, experiencing, listening, writing, and drawing.

-The paper is due at 9:55 am, the beginning of class, on 26 September 2013. Late papers submitted by 6 pm on the due date will receive a half letter grade reduction; those submitted after 6 pm will result in a full one-letter grade deduction (thus an A paper becomes a B paper). Unexcused late papers will be reduced one letter grade for each day late. In general, papers are not accepted after being two days late. Failure to submit a paper will result in the student receiving a zero on the assignment.

