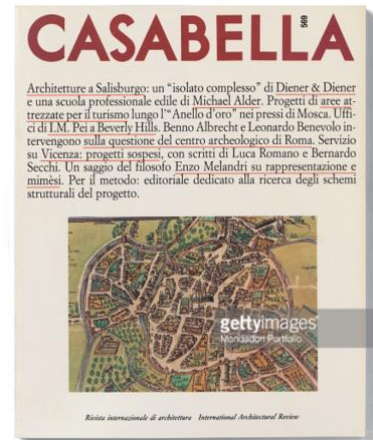


Cities

Professor

Henri T. de HAHN

Seminar: Place: Cowgill Hall, Room 400
 Time: M/W: 5:30-8pm
 Office hours: MWF 11:00 – 12:00 or by appointment
 Contact: Office: 540-231-2680
 Email: hdehahn@vt.edu



An Italian way of thinking...

What role did Europe, Italy and most particularly the city of Milan, play in the development of the ideology of modernism/post modernism at the end of the twentieth century? Italian architectural journals such as *Abitare*, *Casabella*, *Domus*, *Lotus* and *Rassegna* were the catalyst and the emblematic expression of Italian culture that mapped the terrain of architectural theory. *Casabella*, in particular, played a leading role in the development of architectural criticism that had far reaching repercussion on the state of design thinking, both in academia and throughout the profession.

This course will examine the written works of architect Vittorio Gregotti in his role as *Casabella's* chief editor. For over 10 years, from the early 1980's to 1995, Gregotti used *Casabella* as a forum to develop his ideas "as well as an attempt to reconcile the dilemmas and shortcomings of modern orthodoxy with a renewed vision of modernism."¹ In this course, focus will be placed primarily on the editorial essays Gregotti wrote month after month in a sometimes Machiavellian manner, and on a series of topics including: the conceptualization of the territory of architecture; the unpleasantly conspicuous courting of architecture protagonists; architectural history and its typological project; the discourse of the European city, its territory and urbanism; the ideologies and nihilism of planning; and the democratization of architecture.

Through guest writers promoted by *Casabella* (Carlo Aymonino, Bernardo Secchi, Massimo Cacciari, Pierre-Alain Croset, and Gulio Carlo Argan to name a few) we will also examine how the essay was seen as an architectural form *par excellence* opposed to an *architecture parlante* in its ultimate built form.

This seminar is tailored for both **graduate** (priority) and **undergraduate** students in architecture who wish to learn about Italy and the culture of Italian architecture, develop an interconnectivity of knowledge between various disciplines that are key to the production of architecture, and, above all, learn how to develop an argument in the form of an essay, through personal writings on chosen topics.

¹ Excerpt of on-line The Amazon Book Review description for (accessed 04.08.2017)