

## ARCHITECTURAL PHENOMENOLOGY (or Topics in Phenomena and Architecture)

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Dr. Hui Zou, School of Architecture

Architectural history & theory graduate seminar, Course #: ARC6212, Time: W / Periods 10-E1 (5:10 PM - 8:10 PM), Rm: AH215

3 credits

### **Introduction:**

Since the 1990s, architectural phenomenology has emerged as a significant historical movement of design theories and continuously provides the theoretical foundation for reviving humanism and extending cultural and comparative cultural studies in 21<sup>st</sup>-century architecture, urbanism and humanities. This seminar introduces the most important scholarship sources about this movement, which resists Cartesian dualism and seeks reunion of body, mind and soul in the built environment. In the class, students will present and discuss these literature sources in philosophical phenomenology and their application in architectural scholarship of history, theory, and design. From the perspective of phenomenology, we will explore the primary issues of architecture such as truth (*aletheia*), poetical dwelling, historicity, temporality, sense of space and place, perception of surfaces and depth, atmosphere, bodily experience, landscape (gardens), embodiment, memory, linguistic analogy, hermeneutic meaning, cultural identity, technology (*techne*), mysticism, materiality, crafts, representation, cross-cultural imagination, etc. The readings also include some phenomenological architectural cases in modern and contemporary ages. The central objective of this course is to enhance the student's theoretical and philosophical ability of approaching the "truth of the world," in Heidegger's sense, through the art of building. This history/theory graduate seminar provides solid training for architectural or design research and thesis writing. Each week we focus on one thematic topic. The student will be basically assigned 2 texts for presentations and required to complete a research paper. The reading list includes the book-chapters and texts by Alberto Perez-Gomez, Edmund Husserl, Martin Heidegger, Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Jacques Derrida, Jean-Paul Sartre, Jorge Luis Borges, François Jullien, and Edward Casey.

### **Textbook:**

Alberto Pérez-Gómez, *Attunement: Architectural Meaning after the Crisis of Modern Science* (MIT, 2016). Its paperback and kindle editions are available on amazon.com.