

Valerio Olgiati, *Atelier Bardil*

UNDERSTANDING ARCHITECTURE

Instructor:

Keith Mitnick

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Course Overview:

This course will introduce students to foundational architectural ideas. Intended for non-majors, the course will survey a range of architectural themes and examples, from the analyses of basic construction systems, building materials, representation, and spatial narratives, to the manner in which architecture appears in such narrative forms as art, literature, photography, and film.

We will examine the elements of building design and form, explore how buildings impact the lives of their inhabitants, and question the many ways that architecture embodies different forms of narrative structure that relates it to other disciplines of thought and societal orderings.

Weekly lectures will be organized around such themes as: *space*, *representation*, *climate*, *abstraction*, *construction*, and *site*. Students will respond to the lecture themes in the form of the weekly exercises and a final creative project with which they respond to the course material.

Course Organization:

The class meets three times each week, in two one-hour lectures on Mondays and Wednesdays (9-10am in Angel Hall) and in a one-hour Friday discussion section (TB)