

Instructor: Neal Robinson



Idiomatic Devils

Detailing Scarpa and the bespoke terrain

Course Overview

This course utilizes lectures, readings, student presentations, and micro construction exercises to look closely at the spatial production of Carlo Scarpa [Italian, 1906-1978] and his “personal” language of construction. Specifically, the course turns focused attention to the small, slow, and enigmatic details employed as testaments to both body and place.

The course is divided into three stanzas.

1) The first concentrates on the influence of culture, context and intellectual friendships that shaped the architect’s pursuit. Starting from the theoretical work of Gottfried Semper (1803-79) and continuing to the Italian post-WWII experience, identity politics and geographies of the early twentieth century will ground this stanza.

2) The second stanza consists of in-depth analysis and subsequent student-led presentations of a series of testimonial works and situational texts. Presentations include the study of drawing techniques, material pairings, complimentary landscapes, practice models, and social positioning.

3) The last section of the course involves the production of an original detail or “joint resolution” by each enrolled student. Scale varies.