We have the good fortune to be living in Chicago, the Florence of Modern Architecture - the place where a number of the creators of our modern architectural art lived and worked, the place people come to from all over the world to understand, and the place where we can - at our leisure - experience it, document it, and try to grasp it. Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Daniel Burnham and Mies van der Rohe are only the most famous designers who have worked here.

A national research project is being framed focused on just why Chicago architecture has been so influential - what is it about this new, fabricated city’s culture that it has not only created beautiful things, but things that designers all over the world understand and take as models and matrices for their own creative work. Thus the question I would like to examine during this seminar - what is it about Chicago architectural thinking that it produces other architectures around it? That is to say, how have Chicago architects thought through their solutions, and how does that thinking link with the broader thought processes of this new city’s culture.

This is a research seminar and thus will explore concrete problems of architectural analysis and documentation using local archival resources. There will be trips to examine buildings and to visit document collections.

Required Textbooks

- William Cronon, *Nature’s Metropolis*
- Alexander Eisenschmidt, editor, *Chicagoisms*
- Thomas Leslie, *Chicago Skyscrapers, 1871-1934*
- Neil Levine, *The Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright*
- Jonathan Massey, *Crystal and Arabesque*
- David Van Zanten, editor, *Drawing the Future*
- Detlef Mertins, *Mies*