PART 01: BACKGROUND RESEARCH
The VAS Manifesto

DUE
PPT, Oral Presentation & Paper submission: Monday 26 January @ 2:00 PM

OBJECTIVE
This first phase offers you the opportunity to become familiar with the philosophy and architecture championing minimal attitudes and responses towards the challenges of today. The objective is to produce your VAS Manifesto. A manifesto is a document that makes public a fundamental, often controversial, position addressing art, architecture, politics, etc. Its goal is to establish a benchmark from which a new movement critiques the status-quo, explains its intentions, attracts followers and guides its future development. Manifestos are synthetic, memorable, and clear expressions of an ideal, a set of beliefs that define a new practice, approach, or viewpoint.

Once written, your VAS Manifesto will be the hypothesis (not dogma) guiding your design process throughout the semester. Hence, make it simple, straight-forward and prescriptive, yet open enough to accept improvements. Eventually, you will submit a revised version of this Manifesto along with your final design at the end of the term, once you have had time to test it in practice and make the necessary adjustments.

PROCESS
You will engage the 2 parallel tracks comprising the professing of architecture. By studying the philosophical track you will define the mindscape wherein VAS takes place. This conceptual realm has clear environmental, political, social, behavioral, and technological axiologies. You will need to extract the heuristics behind them and, critically, adopt, transform or reject them. At the same time, you will be investigating concrete ‘exemplars’ (i.e., exemplary buildings) embodying VAS and produced by historical and contemporary master architects. This work should provide you with empirical evidences of how highly theoretical principles become realized in the here and now, and how in turn, they help to define the VAS paradigm.
You will need to organize your research both at the group and individual levels. This means to develop a research methodology.

**PRODUCT**

You will present your Manifesto in a 20 minutes PPT lecture. This presentation should include evidences (i.e., analysis, logic) supporting your claims. Allow for a 10 minute discussion afterward. You are also to submit a 3-5 page long paper (1,500-2,500 words). This document will be your VAS Manifesto and cover (1) philosophical arguments in dialectic relationship to (2) architectural expressions. Images are necessary and should be used meaningfully. If you feel so compelled, you may include some rationale before them (i.e., research analysis), but it’s not necessary. You will upload both the paper and PPT presentation to our secure VAS FTP site.

**READINGS**

You will be in charge of finding your own resources. These references are provided as a guide. They are not a prescriptive list. Still, you should definitely cover the following areas (* on Reserve at the Marriott Library):

*Voluntary Simplicity. Simple Living. Contemporary World, Etc.*
Guggenheim, Davis (2006) *An Inconvenient Truth* (Film) *(required)*

*Minimal Architectures*
A.D. 110 (1994) *Aspects of Minimal Architecture* (*
A.D. 139 (1999) *Aspects of Minimal Architecture II* (*
Denmark: Royal Academy of Fine Arts: ACSA Press; pp.66-71
http://www.arch.utah.edu/people/faculty/Julio/tecto.pdf

*Examples (Embodiments)*
You will study two relevant buildings of each one of the following pairs of architects (assigned by Lottery):
Glenn Murcutt + Rick Joy + Herzog-de Meuron + Dominique Perrault
Rafael Moneo + Steven Holl+ Luis Barragan +Yoshio Taniguchi
Mies Van der Rohe + Claudio Silvestrin + Peter Zumthor + Kazuyo Sejima
Alberto Campo-Baeza, Shigeru Ban, Louis Kahn, Jean Nouvel
Other architects you may want to check: Tadao Ando, John Pawson, Gluckman Mayner Architects, Aldo Rossi, James Turrell (not an architect, but still excellent)

Your analysis of buildings should include at least one large building for each architect (i.e., over 30,000 sq.ft.). The other building may be small. Again, the objective here is to extract general yet concrete architectural design rules, principles, methods, strategies, ideas, technologies, etc. that provide insights as to how embody VAS architecture.

See websites:
http://www.climatecrisis.net/
http://www.affluenza.org/
http://www.gdrc.org/uem/1000-village.html

TEAM 4/5 students

GRADE 10 % of the course grade