

# CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE

ENAR 302

**Lecture** : 3  
**Tutorial** : 0  
**Practical** : 1

**Year : III**  
**Part : I**

## Course Objectives:

The objective of this course is to introduce the development of architecture in global and Nepali contexts. The course emphasizes on the major modern movements (1920–1970) and their cultural, social, and technological influences, critique modernism, and trace contemporary directions since 1970. By the end of the course, students will be able to critically evaluate contemporary architecture as ecological, technological, and socially responsive, while connecting global theories and trends to Nepal's architectural practices and developments.

## Part I: History of Modern Architecture (1920–1970)

- 1 Defining Modern and Contemporary Architecture (2 hours)**
  - 1.1 Modern and contemporary architecture
  - 1.2 Architecture as evolving practice: global discourses and local responses
  - 1.3 Spectacle and substance; Iconic and contextual approaches
  - 1.4 Contemporary Nepal: Influence and stereotypes
  
- 2 Early Modern Roots (Pre-1920 Foundations) (5 hours)**
  - 2.1 Industrial revolution: New building types (Factories, exhibitions)
  - 2.2 Arts and crafts, art nouveau (Morris, Gaudí, Mackintosh, Loos)
  - 2.3 Chicago school pioneers (Burnham and root, Jenney, Sullivan, Wright)
  
- 3 High Modernism (1920–1970) (12 hours)**
  - 3.1 Werkbund and Bauhaus: Behrens, Gropius, Mies van der Rohe
  - 3.2 International style and interwar planning (CIAM, Weissenhof)
  - 3.3 Masters: Le Corbusier, Wright, Aalto, Kahn
  - 3.4 Post-WWII modernism: Brutalism, metabolism, De Stijl legacy
  - 3.5 Early modernism in Nepal (1950s–1970s): Civic and institutional buildings

## Part II: Contemporary Architecture (1970–Present)

- 4 Postmodernism and Pluralism (1970–1990) (8 hours)**
  - 4.1 Crisis of modernism and “Crisis of meaning”
  - 4.2 Postmodernism: Venturi, Rossi, Graves, Johnson, Stirling

- 4.3 Neo-rationalism, Neo-functionalism
- 4.4 Pluralism and early Nepali encounters with global idioms

**5 Deconstructivism, High-Tech and Globalization (1990–2010) (8 hours)**

- 5.1 Deconstructivism: Eisenman, Hadid, Tschumi, Gehry, Koolhaas, Libeskind
- 5.2 High-Tech: Foster, Rogers, Piano, Grimshaw
- 5.3 Globalization: Star-architecture vs context-driven practice
- 5.4 Nepali architecture engaging with global discourse

**6 Contemporary Practice (2010–Present) (4 hours)**

- 6.1 Diversity: Regionalism, identity, participatory/community design
- 6.2 Ecology and sustainability: Green building, biophilic design, passive strategies
- 6.3 Technology: Parametric design, smart materials, digital fabrication
- 6.4 Global examples with Nepali case comparisons

**7 Contemporary Architecture of Nepal (Past to Present) (6 hours)**

- 7.1 Trajectory from early modern influences to contemporary diversity
- 7.2 Kathmandu Valley and beyond: Civic, cultural, public projects
- 7.3 Post-2015 earthquake reconstruction: Heritage-sensitive practices
- 7.4 Current tendencies: Climate responsiveness, material craft, community engagement

**Practical (15 hours)**

- 1. Study seminar discussion on what makes architecture contemporary with global vs Nepali perspectives, including debate on iconic vs contextual buildings
- 2. Comparative analysis of early modern and high modern works such as Bauhaus Dessau, Villa Savoye, and Unité d'Habitation, with Nepali parallels in early modern civic buildings
- 3. Field visit or virtual study of a recent Nepali public building, group presentation on philosophies of contemporary Nepali architects, and seminar on post-earthquake reconstruction and resilience

## Final Exam

The questions will cover all the chapters in the syllabus. The evaluation scheme will be as indicated in the table below:

Chapter	Hours	Marks distribution*
1	2	4
2	5	6
3	12	16
4	8	12
5	8	12
6	4	4
7	6	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>60</b>

\* There may be minor deviation in marks distribution.

## References

1. Benevolo, L. (1977). History of modern architecture (Latest Edition). MIT Press.
2. Curtis, W. J. R. (1982). Modern architecture since 1900 (Latest Edition). Phaidon.
3. Frampton, K. (1994). Modern architecture: A critical history (Latest Edition). Thames & Hudson.
4. Jencks, C. (2007). The story of post-modernism. Wiley.
5. Mallgrave, H. F., Goodman, D. (2011). An introduction to architectural theory: 1968 to the present. Wiley.
6. Tobolczyk, M. (2021). Contemporary architecture: The genesis and characteristics of leading trends. Cambridge Scholars.
7. Haddad, E., Rifkind, D. (2014). A critical history of contemporary architecture: 1960–2010. Ashgate.
8. Kathmandu Institute. (2024). Modern encounters in architecture Kathmandu Valley. Ekata Books.