

HARC S-183. The Architecture of Boston (CRN: 31320)

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This course examines Boston's architecture and urban design from the city's founding to the present. Through lectures, readings, and walking tours, it explores the works of major designers such as Charles Bulfinch, H. H. Richardson, Frederick Law Olmsted, Charles McKim, Walter Gropius, I. M. Pei, and Philip Johnson. Together we will investigate the development of Boston's urban landscape, its architecture, and neighborhoods: from an archipelago of early American settlement to major urban node within the contemporary eastern seaboard's megalopolis. The course focuses on the social and economic context of Boston's architecture and urban design, and the city's contributions to American architecture. Other themes will include the emergence of the architectural profession, the use of materials and technology, the domestication of nature through procedures of land-fill and in-fill, and the making of an artificial ground datum.