

ARCHITECTURES OF SEDUCTION

What role has architecture played in the relation between power and the senses? Why would power be interested in questions of the sensorial, of affects or pleasure? And how does such a history open up new questions about contemporary architecture that go beyond the critique of iconic architecture, or those that reduce architecture to a representational medium?

We will interrogate architecture not only in how it represents power, but more importantly, in the way it can seduce, persuade, coerce, stupefy, or subtly control us by operating at the level of the sensual. Throughout the course we will discuss, speculate and read on these issues, but especially we will cultivate a critical curiosity towards that which constitutes our sensorial surroundings today. We will explore these questions through two parts. The first one will consist in a historical examination of the topic by pairing architecture case studies with readings from political theory. The second part will speculate on the difficult entanglements between power and the senses that persists today, for which we will seek possible insights through engaging with contemporary aesthetic and media theory.

**Open to 4th year, 5th year and Graduate students as well as students with permission from the instructor.