

**ARC 1015**  
**Fall 2020**  
***Why Architecture Matters***

*Directions: Complete the reading assignment from [Why Architecture Matters](#) (Paul Goldberger) listed below. Answer the questions on this page prior to the next class meeting.*

**Ch. 3, "Architecture as Object" (pp. 65-108)**

To what extent are the formal (physical/aesthetic) characteristics of a building (especially with historical references) related to its social and political presence?

To what extent is the Lincoln Memorial an emulation of the Parthenon?

Explain how the author makes a case for the employment of simple geometric shapes, especially considering the potentials and limits of their symbolic and functional capacity (pp. 82-93)

Summarize the main distinction between the Modernist ideology (espoused by Mies and Le Corbusier) and Post-Modern theory (most famously recorded by Robert Venturi, pp. 104-05).

## **Group Discussion**

*Directions: Each week, two designated people in your discussion group will lead your conversation (either online or face-to-face) based on the questions below. You are not bound to answering only these questions (indeed, it's great to go beyond them); they are just a basis to begin your conversation.*

Following the author's description of the relationship of the Lincoln Memorial and Parthenon (pp. 74), analyze the Tennessee Capitol with its sources.

Is the author consistent with his praise and condemnation of formal aesthetics in this chapter? (E.g., is his criticism of the Hirshhorn and the original design for the Washington Monument consistent with the rest of his critique? Compare with his discussion of the Haughwout, for example.)

What are the implications of the author's query on p. 97 "How, then, does an architect assure that you and I will notice and remember them?" Should architects' goals be for their names to be recognized, or for something else?

*Take time to see if anyone in the group had remaining questions to pose or answer, need for clarification, or general commentary on the week's lessons.*