



The Ceiling

Graduate seminar at the Oslo School of Architecture and Design, spring 2023

A ceiling is the upper interior surface of a room. Sometimes simply the underside of the structure above (be it a roof or a floor), other times an independent membrane, the ceiling has an ambiguous tectonic status. Miming structure but rarely structural, and often with an unobvious materiality, ceilings offer an unsurpassed field for representation, metamorphosis, and architectural “Nachleben”. This course explores the richness and ambiguities of the ceiling - an architectural element charged, so says Gottfried Semper, with the task of overcoming “the oppressive feeling evoked by any separation between us and the open sky.”

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Course director: Mari Hvattum

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| 24.01. | Introduction of the course & the case studies |
| 31.01. | Adam Sharr (University of Newcastle), <i>The Tectonics of the Suspended Ceiling</i>
+ Case study presentations |
| 07.02. | Desmond Kraege (University of Lausanne), <i>Illusionistic Ceilings in the Italian and French Baroque</i>
+ Case study presentations |
| 14.02. | Tim Anstey (AHO), <i>On Finishing</i>
+ Case study presentations |
| 21.02. | Erik Langdalen (AHO), <i>Eero Saarinen, atrium ceiling in the American Embassy, Oslo (1959)</i>
+ Case study presentations |
| 28.02. | Mari Lending (AHO), <i>Anish Kapoor, Mount Moriah at the Gate of the Ghetto, Palazzo Manfrin, Venice, 2022.</i>
+ Case study presentations |
| 07.03. | EXCURSION WEEK |
| 14.03. | Adrian Forty (The Bartlett), <i>William Kent, ceiling of the Blue Velvet Room at Chiswick House (1729)</i>
+ Case study presentations |
| 21.03. | Christian Hermansen (AHO), <i>Chapel ceiling in La Ciudad Abierta, Valparaiso (ca 1990).</i>
+ Case study presentations |
| 28.03. | Exhibition planning |
| 04.04. | EASTER |
| 11.04. | Exhibition planning |
| 18.04. | Exhibition production |
| 24.-28.04. | ELECTIVE WEEK: Exhibition production and hanging |