

New York Institute of Technology,
School of Architecture and Design
AAID 160 – Section 05
Alan Smart

Project 1: *In Nomine Patris*

People wanted “proper” buildings, shaped and built like those of their fathers and fit not just for themselves but for their children and their children’s children . . . Now many people do not want to build like their fathers did, but as they do on tv or in magazines.

– Peter Buchanan, “Only Connect”, *The Architecture Review*,
Vol. 175, No. 1052, October 1984

01.01.01 (due 01/29)

Read:

Buchanan, Peter, “Regional Identity, Only Connect”, *The Architectural Review* (London), October, 1984.

How does Buchanan define the concept of “vernacular” and “regional/regionalism”? What are the stakes of his definition of these terms? Do you agree with his definitions and with the polemical position he takes in the piece?

01.01.02 (present in class 01/29, due 02/05)

Identify and “vernacular” building type either in your neighborhood or in a place that you have access to and feel some connection with. Document this building type with photographs and diagrammatic sketches that illustrate how the buildings you look at represent a type.

Define the type: What do all instances of your type have in common? What variation occurs from type to type? Do these buildings scale or multiply?

Analyze: What technical, environmental, social, economic and cultural factors determine the form of these buildings? Where do they occur? How do they fit into the city? How do they relate to conditions of site and context?

Study: Who owns, designs, builds, and uses these buildings? What purposes are/were they built for? What other uses are these buildings put to and how are

the buildings changes and adapted to these uses? Are there primary and explicit uses and other secondary, marginal or excessive uses?

01.02.01 (due 02/12)

Select an exemplary case of your building type and perform any documentation you have not already. Interview its owner, designer, builder, or a knowledgeable user or inhabitant. Interview questions will be discussed in class on 02/05.

Record audio or video of the interview and transcribe the interesting and relevant parts.

01.03.01 (due 02/12)

Write a 800 - 1200 word presentation of your vernacular type study that both presents the specific type you considered and explains your conception of vernacular architecture in relation to the texts read in class. Define the stakes of architectures engagement with site and context and develop your position on conceptions of "regionalism." Supplement your text with annotated diagrams and rigorously deployed, analytic photography and includes and edited transcript of your interview. Feel free to quote sources (including your interview) extensively but always maintain a critical approach to source material and cite this material carefully so that your readers can have access to it as well.

Upload to DropBox an editable .doc file of only the text and a multi-page .pdf of the images.