

## critical theory reading list (short, non-standard)

Standard reading lists for architecture theory courses begin with Vitruvius and go from there. The standard guide is K. Michael Hays' compendium of theory "standards" based on the weight-loss reduction program instituted by Peter Eisenman in the 1970s. (See Douglas Spencer, "The New Phantasmagoria: Translating the Violence of Financial Capitalism," in Nadir Lahiji, ed., *The Missed Encounter of Radical Philosophy with Architecture*, Bloomsbury, 2013.) The standard texts are not to be ignored. You will be presumed to know what they say, even if you have not read them to any extent. But, one must know the difference between speculative thinking/writing about architecture and treatises that support an ideological position which, like Corbusier, Wright, and Tschumi, should be understood for what they are but never trusted to lead in any direction other than the architect's utopia. In contrast to the standard lists, this one is laughably eclectic, incomplete, and erratic. Yet, is essential to find, in "non-architectural" authors, a means of operating that stays true to a discipline of imagining, speculating, and evaluating that, no matter what the discipline or field, remains constant.

1. Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*
2. Italo Calvino, *Six Memos for the Next Millennium*
3. Jorge Luis Borges, *Labyrinths*
4. Slavoj Žižek, *Looking Awry, Event*, any other
5. Georges Perec, *A Void*
6. Edgar Allan Poe, "The Purloined Letter"
7. Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire*
8. Pavel Florensky, *Iconostasis*
9. Edward Hussey, *The Preocratics* ([chapter on Heraklitus](#))
10. Slavoj Žižek, *Parallax View, Looking Awry, Absolute Recoil ...*
11. Giambattista Vico, *The New Science*
12. Ernst Cassirer, *Philosophy of Symbolic Form* (4 vols.)
13. Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *Visible and Invisible*
14. Mladen Dolar, *A Voice and Nothing More*
15. G. W. F. Hegel, *Phenomenology of Spirit*
16. Norman O. Brown, *Hermes the Thief*
17. Robert Graves, *The White Goddess*

FILM LIST (SUGGESTED, NOT REQUIRED)

1. *Johnny Stecchino*
2. *Vertigo*
3. *Rear Window*
4. *Veronika Voss*
5. *Dead of Night (1945)*
6. *City Lights*
7. *Citizen Kane*
8. *Rebecca*
9. *Strangers on a Train*
10. *Shadow of a Doubt*
11. *High and Low*
12. *Red*
13. *Double Life of Veronique*
14. *Girl on the Bridge*
15. *The Truman Show*

ARCHITECTURE LIST

1. *Mastery*
2. *University*
3. *Analysis*
4. *Hysteria*