

Assignment 2—An Untold (or Lesser Known) Story of the Building (or Site) (13% of course grade)

Issued: W 12 April

Due: Tu 25 April, uploaded as a pdf to d2l with a time stamp no later than 11:59pm.

Architectural descriptions of individual buildings are often presented as metanarratives, a linear story that fits the building into the political, cultural, economic and intellectual power structures of its era. These narratives often conceal or leave untold other pertinent stories that offer a more diverse understanding of history and architecture. "The Farnsworth Saga: 1946-2003" by Franz Schulze and Edward Windshorst is an example of one of these untold stories that is not often represented in the meta-narrative of modern architecture or the career of Mies van der Rohe.

For this assignment you will investigate and describe in a written report an untold story of your building or site. These stories can be ones about the clients, the users, the designers (stories or publications) prior to the design of the building, a historical story of something that happened there (positive or negative) or what existed on this site before the building arrived, just to name a few examples. Stories that focus on the architectural design of the building are NOT untold or lesser known stories and will result in an automatic 0 (e.g. the sustainable design elements of the building are not an untold story).

Required Format for Written Document:

- Uploaded to d2l as a pdf (any other format is an automatic 0).
- Time stamped on d2l NO LATER THAN 11:59 pm on Tu 25 April; otherwise it is considered late and will incur late penalties.

Required Content:

- Your name, the building's name, the building's location, word count (in parenthesis after narrative response header)

- Narrative Response: 475 minimum words-600 maximum words

You are required to address the following three topics in your description but you may do them in any order that produces the strongest and most coherent telling of the untold architectural story of your building:

1. Broader Context – Tell us what is happening politically, economically, socially, educationally, environmentally, etc. that is most relevant to the untold story of your building that you have chosen to describe for this assignment. This could include regional, national or international trends.
2. Untold Story – Describe the untold story of your building. This is the emphasis of your narrative. Provide details of what role the building played in the untold story. What makes this a relevant and important story to include in the history of your building? How does it help to gain a wider understanding of the historical context during the era your building was constructed?
3. Outcomes – What were the outcomes resulting from the events of the untold story? How did the untold story influence architecture or the broader context?

- Graphics

You are required to illustrate your untold story with AT A MINIMUM one image. This could be a photograph, drawing, newspaper article, construction photo, diagram, map, postcard, etc.

- References

This assignment will require research in order to identify the broader context, the untold story and its outcomes. In addition to the PSU library, you are encouraged to visit the downtown Public Library's historical archives and take a look at the Sanborn maps. The Oregon Historical Society may also be a great resource for old images (suggestion: bring a copy of proof of residence in Oregon and your student ID for free access, otherwise you have to pay a small fee in order to access the Oregon Historical Society archives).

Grading Rubric:

	Excellent	Good	Average	Substandard
Technical Proficiency of Writing —15 points	[13-15 points] No spelling or grammar errors	[12 points] Few spelling and grammar errors	[11] Some spelling and grammar errors	[9] Many spelling and grammar errors
Narrative Content of Writing: Broader context —15 points	[13-15 points] Clearly and concisely describes the relevant broader context contemporary to the untold story you are telling	[12 points] Identifies historical/social/cultural influences generally related to when/where the untold story occurs	[11 points] Identifies some historical/social/cultural influences but not clearly related to when/where the untold story occurs	[0 points] No relevant description of historical/social/cultural influences contemporary to the untold story
dc - Narrative Content of Writing: Untold story —35 points	[33-35 points] Describes in detail and with conviction an untold story and clearly identifies the relevance of the story to the history of the building	[29 points] Describes with some detail an untold story and indicates the relevance of the story to the history of the building	[26 points] Generally describes an untold story and generally describes its relevance	[0 points] Little to no mention description of an untold story
Narrative Content of Writing: Outcomes —15 points	[13-15 points] Identifies and clearly describes multiple influences of the untold story on the architecture or broader context	[12 points] Identifies and clearly describes one outcome of the untold story on the architecture or broader context	[11 points] Identifies an outcome of the untold story with vague indication of its influence on the architecture or broader context	[0 points] No indication of any outcome of the untold story
Graphics —5 points	[5 points] Includes a minimum of one graphic	- N/A -	- N/A -	[0 points] Does not include any graphics.
References —15 points	[13-15 points] Sources include at least one journal reference	[12 points] Has URL and outside book reference(s)	[11 Points] URL sources only	[0 points] No references cited

Grading Penalties:

- Late Work
 - Unexcused late work between 1 minute and 1 day late (-10 points)
 - Unexcused late work between 1-2 days late (-20 points)
 - Unexcused late work between 2-3 days late (-30 points)
 - After 3 days a 0 will be entered in d2
 - If you uploaded on time but forget your hardcopy (-10 points)
- Word Count
 - If you are under, one word or many (-10 points)
 - If you are over, one word or many (-5 points)
- Formatting
 - If you do not submit as a pdf (-10 points)
- Plagiarized work will result in an automatic 0.