

Housing Ourselves: Domestic Architecture As It Shapes Lives Around the World



Location
**Pruyne Lecture Hall @ Fayerweather Hall
Amherst College**
6:30 P.M.

How do we house ourselves? How do we experience the built environment? Is architecture playing a significant role in our lives? Can film further inform our understanding of architecture? Join us for a stimulating evening of film and conversation. Each screening will be followed by a discussion with a guest speaker. Program Moderated by Andy Grogan, Assoc. AIA

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Fall 2010 Architecture Through Film

Housing Ourselves

SEPTEMBER 27

Tulpan

Directed by Sergey Dvortsevoy
Discussion led by Erica Rioux Gees, AIA

Acclaimed Kazakh documentarian Sergey Dvortsevoy's first narrative feature is a gorgeous melange of tender comedy, ethnographic drama and wildlife extravaganza. Following his Russian naval service, young dreamer Asa returns to his sister's nomadic brood on the desolate Hunger Steppe to begin a hardscrabble career as a shepherd. But before he can tend a flock of his own, Asa must win the hand of the only eligible bachelorette for miles--his alluringly mysterious neighbor Tulpan. Tulpan's gentle humor and stunning photography transport audiences to this singular, harshly beautiful region and its rapidly vanishing way of life.

OCTOBER 18

The Scent of Green Papaya

Directed by Anh Hung Tran
Discussion led by Ray Kinoshita, AIA

"Watching it is like seeing a poem for the eyes." That's how Chicago Sun-Times critic Roger Ebert described this exquisite, Oscar-nominated, French-Vietnamese film from 1993, which begins in the 1950s and ends more than a decade later during the early years of the Vietnam war. The story is set almost entirely in a Saigon house where a 10-year-old orphan girl named Mui arrives to work as a servant. The film takes its visual cues from Mui's observations--it's a placid, soothing film that lingers over the physical and emotional details of its setting and story.

NOVEMBER 8

The Electric House + One Week

Directed by Buster Keaton
Discussion led by Andy Grogan Assoc. AIA

The Electric House: Botany major Buster mistakenly graduates in electrical engineering and is hired to wire a new home. He installs lots of fanciful gadgets, but his efforts are undermined by his rival.

One Week: Buster and Sybil exit a chapel as newlyweds. Among the gifts is a kit house you can easily put together in one week.

NOVEMBER 29

He Died with a Fallafel in His Hand

Directed by Richard Lowenstein
Discussion led by Meg Vickery, Ph.D.

A darkly humorous search for love, meaning and bathroom solitude. Faithful to the cult novel by John Birmingham upon which it is based, the film follows Danny (Noah Taylor) through a series of shared housing experiences in a succession of cities on the east coast of Australia.

Presented by: The Western Massachusetts Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and the Five College Architectural Studies Program. CEUs will be available for AIA members at no charge.

