



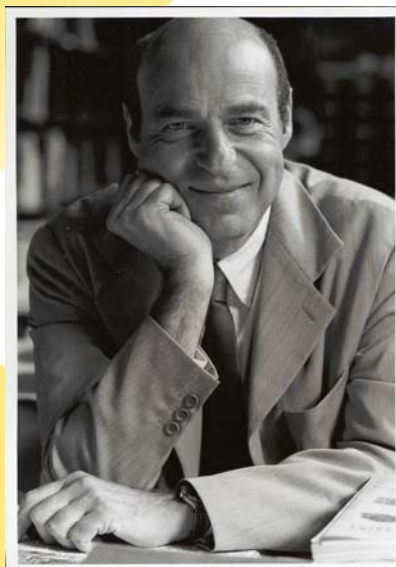
# Events

## JEAN-LOUIS COHEN

Friday, June 6, 2008

9:30 am

Communications 202



### Writing a History of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Architecture: Questions and Methods

A possible narrative for a new architectural history book should be less a history of the "Modern Movement" or of Modernism, than one of the modes and methods through which the modernization of architecture has happened. Architectural interpretations of modernization based on conservative or traditionalist views, themselves often rejected or ridiculed by mainstream and militant historians alike, should therefore also be taken into account. In short, a possible new book should map the constant relations between theories, structuring ideas, designs, and buildings. But the buildings have to remain the center of attention, together with their reception—both in the domestic and international scenes—and use.

**Jean-Louis Cohen** holds the Sheldon H. Solow Chair for the History of Architecture at New York University's Institute of Fine Arts. His research focuses on twentieth-century architecture and urban planning, particularly German and Soviet architectural cultures and Le Corbusier's work. He is the author of numerous books, including *Ludwig Mies van der Rohe* (2007), *Casablanca: Colonial Myths and Architectural Ventures* (with Monique Eleb, 2002), *Scenes of the World to Come: European Architecture and the American Challenge, 1893-1960* (1995), and *Le Corbusier and the Mystique of the USSR, Theories and Projects for Moscow, 1928-1936* (1992).

This talk is part of the *Forum for Urban Studies in South Asia* research cluster, which investigates the processes of urbanization in colonial and postcolonial contexts.

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