

GSAHA GUEST LECTURE

May 1, 2008 5:30 PM



A Meditation on Interpretative Methods for Architectural History or How to Talk About Buildings You Haven't Seen

By Alice Tseng, assistant professor of Japanese art and architecture at Boston University

According to Pierre Bayard, professor of literature and author of *How to Talk About Books You Haven't Read* (2007), reading is not a black-and-white activity but a vast gray zone that encompasses different levels of contact with and understanding of books. Can the same be said about our comprehension of buildings? Think of the last time you talked about a building convincingly after having only seen one or two published photos of it. How about the time you discussed at length a building you studied so long ago that you're not even sure of its name or date. And don't forget the time you bluffed your way through a heated debate over a Rem Koolhaas or Tadao Ando project that is completely unknown to you. You are invited to

come ponder the gradations of seeing/knowing/interpreting architecture with Alice Tseng, who will take the lead and share her strategies of talking about buildings she has not seen.

Questions? slacorie@bu.edu or sloutsk@bu.edu
Please join us for this very exciting lecture:

Thursday, May 1
5:30 p.m.
CAS Room 200

Q&A to be followed by reception.