In this class we define modernism as an aesthetic that stylistically registers the spatial, temporal, social, and economic dislocations of modernity. The “modern” in Mexico City looks different than it does in Moscow, and manifests in diverse ways whether the location is Brussels, Barcelona, Beijing, or Brasília. Certainly we will attend to these variations on the local, regional, and individual level. But throughout the course we will attempt to grasp the characteristic look and feel of twentieth-century architecture as a product of larger forces unfolding on a planetary scale. The course proposes that building in the twentieth-century has been structured by shared tensions between the technological and the natural, the objective and the subjective, the material and the abstract. Investigating these dialectical pairs across a variety of national contexts, we will build an understanding of the forms, materials and meanings associated with modern architecture.