

AA School of Architecture

Visiting School
Prospectus 2013–14



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AA School of Architecture

Visiting School
Prospectus 2013–14

Global workshops
and short courses

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AA SCHOOL

Unique, dynamic, independent and international, the Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA) was originally set up in 1847 as a public forum and learned society, in/famously founded by 'a pack of troublesome students'. However, the AA is much more than the UK's oldest school of architecture. It is the nexus of a global conglomeration of contemporary architectural culture, as well as its pasts, which includes: a professional association; a vibrant membership organisation; AA Publications; AA Bookshop; as well as a high-profile public events programme that runs throughout the year.

What makes the teaching and learning of architecture unique at the AA is simply this: the demand it places on both teachers as well as their students, to clearly communicate the larger cultural agendas relating to where they think architecture is heading. Decades ago the AA threw away the idea of having a fixed curriculum of permanent topics or problems that its students had to learn as part of their coursework. In the place of a fixed curriculum the school introduced to the world of architectural education the

idea of a 'unit system', driven by each student's enrolment in a series of single, year-long design units, during which all facets of architectural knowledge are embedded, and which leads to the creation of the AA design portfolio, which every one of our 700 full-time students present to panels of tutors from across the school as the basis for not only final assessment, but also collective (and highly animated!) discussion and debate. All this takes place at the AA's newly consolidated campus home on its historic site in Bedford Square in Bloomsbury, central London and its site in Dorset for the development of rural architectures and sustainable technologies.





Previous: AA 166th Birthday Party, photo Valerie Bennett; top: Inter 11 building an astral temple through meditation with artist via Skype, photo VB, bottom: Olympic Legacy Symposium, photo Liam Denhamer; right: AA Honours 2012 exhibition installation view, Front Members' Room, photo Sue Barr











Previous: First Year Open Jury, photo VB; top: Queue for Zaha Hadid lecture, photo VB; bottom: Emtech Masterclass Bootcamp Final Jury, photo VB; left: Inter 2 plaster-casting workshop translating a Palladio stair drawing with Willem de Bruijn, photo VB



Top: AA 166th Birthday Party, photo VB;
bottom Diploma 11 tutorial in unit space with tutor
Shin Egashira, photo VB; right: Design & Make
TSS in Hooke Park Big Shed, photo VB





Top: AA Christmas party, Fasten Your Seatbelts, photo VB; bottom: Intermediate Unit Presentations, photo VB



Top: Students in the AA Library, photo VB;
bottom: Diploma 11 final jury, photo VB;
next: Projects Review opening, photo VB









Top: AA terrace, photo VB; bottom: a Foundation jury, photo VB; opposite: Ceramica Cumella exhibition, installation view, AA Gallery, photo SB

The AA Visiting School is an extension to and embodiment of the AA School's 'unit system' of teaching and learning architecture. The hallmark of this model is the delivery of distinctive, highly focused design agendas by talented teachers who lead a small, collaborative group of students, architects and other creative people in the development of projects. The AAVS is similarly about learning, exploring, collaborating and experimenting with a diverse group of international partners – schools, cultural institutions, local teachers and practitioners – in order to reimagine the shape, form and expectations of architectural education. The courses listed here show some of the dizzying range of architecture and other design, cultural and professional disciplines which aim to forward architectural knowledge and practise by direct engagement with the world's larger, often untested realities of today.

From this intensively socialised, collective teaching and learning model, new projects, ideas and agendas are not only defined, but also communicated, disseminated and transmitted across the world's most international school of

architecture. Which, of course, is the easy way to explain how one small, sometimes very inward and locally-engaged school has become the site for such a continuing production of young architects who go on to become the recognised leaders of architectural life worldwide. Simply put, this is a school that sees the world as not only an architectural stage, but also – as the agenda of our AA Visiting School makes plain – a staging area. A staging area occupied by not only many of our full-time students and teachers at each of the 50 or more platforms that the Visiting School arranges each year, but one actively enjoyed by and benefitting from the addition of hundreds of visiting students and teachers who take time off from their already-busy academic, professional or creative lives, to dip into a short, sharp and intensive introduction to the kind of learning environment that in London we have taken for granted – and continue to believe in deeply – as part of our work at the AA School. Work, thinking and learning that we know will be made hugely better by your involvement alongside us. Welcome to a world of continuous architectural investigation, proposal-making, and communication. A world where not only architecture, but also architectural learning is everywhere.

UK



QUICK GUIDE

HOOKE PARK, DORSET

LociMAKE

6–10 January 2014

MakeLab

5–10 April 2014

SummerMAKE

7–18 July 2014

Maeda

Summer 2014

AA SCHOOL

BEDFORD SQUARE,

LONDON

Independents' Group

November 2013 – June 2014

Spring Semester Programme

13 January – 9 May 2014

Visiting Teachers

25 May – 13 June 2014

Summer School

7–25 July 2014

Visioning Architecture

21 July – 1 August 2014

Summer DLab

21 July – 8 August 2014

t-sa forum

August – September 2014

Autumn Semester

Programme

15 September –

19 December 2014

Night School

Ongoing



Where the other five sections of this prospectus detail more than 50 global workshops generally of one- to two-weeks, the UK section includes programmes ranging from one hour to one year. It includes workshops at both Bedford Square and Hooke Park, Dorset; an international research fellowship programme for emerging professionals; a semester-long design programme in the autumn and spring for architecture students from around the world; a three-week programme giving teachers an opportunity to engage with the teaching and research of the AA; a programme offering places to students from overseas schools who want to take part in an AA unit during one year away from their home institution; the three-week Summer School and our newest addition – t-sa forum – bridging the gap between academia and practice by bringing together professionals and students of many disciplines, including end users and clients, in a month-long summer workshop. All of these programmes, you might say, offer a wider and fuller engagement with the AA School at its two UK locations.



Stone Cutting, Sagrada Familia, photo Mark Burry

Independents'
Group

AA School
London & RMIT
Melbourne



Technological
Abundance

November 2013
– June 2014

The Independents' Group (IG) is an international research platform for interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration that brings together leading academic and industry partners to develop prototypes for the future of the built environment. It aims to enable new models of collaborative practice and to address divisions between academia and practice; between design culture and industry; between different sectors of the building industry.

In 2013 four fellowships are being offered by the AA London and RMIT University, Melbourne under the shared research agenda of Technological Abundance. In London, two fellows will work within the local agenda Re(form) to develop novel architectural and technical systems for the adaptation of existing buildings. In Melbourne, two fellows will work within the local agenda Rapid(Form) to investigate novel lightweight architectural systems that are easily transportable and quickly erected in the remote Australian interior.

The fellowships will provide academic research guidance, connection to a network of industry expertise, and financial support for project-related costs over a six-month period. A school workshop and conference will engage interested members of the school community and communicate outcomes to a wider public audience.

Director

Alan Dempsey

RMIT

Mark Burry

Jane Burry

Nicholas Williams

Website

independentsgroup.net

Local currencies

GBP

AUD



Coiled 50m length of steam-bent ash

6–10 January
2014

LociMAKE is an opportunity to engage in an intensive, live architecture project at Hooke Park, the AA's 350-acre woodland site in Dorset, using pioneering greenwood working techniques developed by celebrated regional master craftsmen. Daily hands-on workshops will be undertaken exploring methods such as steam bending, greenwood joinery, cleaving, carving and timber framing.

The theme for LociMAKE 2014 is Buoyancy, exploring how architecture can maintain neutral gravity and float or remain buoyant even in challenging environments. Participants will make an inhabitable architectural structure, exploring the unique flexibility, strength and durability of greenwood.

Directors

Guy Mallinson

Luke Olsen

Petter Southall

Jim Tory

Websitelocimake.aaschool.ac.uk**Local currency**

GBP



Davis Butner, Benidorm-TerraLife, Spring Semester Programme, 2013

Spring Semester
Programme

AA School
London



Microrayons

13 January –
9 May 2014

The standard layouts of Soviet cities were shaped by uniform large blocks. These created inexpressive residential complexes where context was not significant. In this programme students will look at the existing inner spatial organisations and outer empty spaces of these standalone buildings. Explorations into new ways of inhabiting and humanising these superblocks will start by evaluating and testing the tension between the human and the neighbourhood scale. New configurations and insertions of living, working, playing and learning environments will challenge the coexistence of oppositions such as private vs public; constant vs flexible; hard vs soft; that will let unexpected dynamic neighbourhoods flourish from the existing rigid layouts.

The Semester Programme is a full-time 15-week studio-based course open to undergraduate and graduate students. The programme is integrated with the AA's undergraduate History and Theory seminars and Media Studies courses, and is designed to allow transferable study credits. The AA School awards a Certificate of Completion.

Director

Naiara Vegara

Website

semester.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

GBP



Michael Grau and students, The Gridshell, MakeLab, 2011, photo Martin Self



5–10 April 2014

MakeLAB is a six-day programme engaging in innovative architectural design and fabrication experiments. Using custom-built digital manufacturing devices and design workflows, the programme aims to explore new modes of design conception based on environmental and social performance data. Using Hooke Park's forestry and workshop resources, the programme offers the unique opportunity to explore, test and evaluate experimental structures and methodologies at 1:1 scale.

This year the programme will focus on 'microclimates', designing and testing the potential environmental, social and ergonomic performance characteristics of lightweight and site-specific inhabitable structures. Using straightforward rule-based design processes set up within simple parametric design software, the projects will explore synergies between digital fabrication and the principles of generative design.

The programme is open to architectural students, teachers and professionals interested in the collaborative discussion and hands-on exploration of advanced digitally driven design and make processes.

Director

Jeroen van Ameijde

Websitemakelab.aaschool.ac.uk**Local currency**

GBP



Visiting Teachers 2013 in the photo library, photo VB



25 May –
13 June 2014

The AA's innovative model as a place of education and debate attracts the interest of academic visitors from all over the world. In response we offer a short programme to give teachers of architecture an opportunity to engage with the teaching and research of the school and to develop a debate about the aims and strategies of teaching architecture. The programme offers meetings with students and teachers, involvement in the review and assessment activities throughout the school, and the opportunity for detailed discussion of ideas and methods of education. Participants will present work for debate in a seminar on educational ideas and methods. Immersion in the culture of the school through its programme of lectures, seminars and exhibitions is encouraged. Visits are also organised to important examples of architecture and planning in London, a city that offers a rich historical and contemporary record and is a laboratory of urbanism and architecture. The programme is open to a small group of participants who are currently teaching architecture or related subjects.



Traditional dwelling, Papua New Guinea, 1885

SummerMAKE

AA School
Hooke Park



Dangerous
Dwellings

7–18 July 2014

AA SummerMAKE 2013 is an opportunity to engage in an intensive two-week, live architecture project at Hooke Park, the AA's 350-acre woodland site in Dorset. This hands-on programme provides workshop-driven classes in design and production methods leading to the completion of a 1:1 architectural intervention built into the forest landscape. This year's agenda is Dangerous Dwellings. Participants will be asked to design, make and live in their own Dangerous Dwelling. Our aim is to live comfortably in a dwelling designed to be on the edge of an exhilarating sense of danger.

Director

Luke Olsen

Website

summermake.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

GBP



Summer School 2013, final presentations, photo VB

Summer School

AA School

London



Unbuilt London

7–25 July 2014

The further backward you can look, the further forward you can see.

Winston Churchill

From Cedric Price's Fun Palace, to Winston Churchill's War Rooms, and the hundreds of spaces and buildings in between, London is characterised by the seminal projects – built and unbuilt – that define the form and culture of the city.

This year's Summer School will revisit the neglected legacy of unbuilt architectural genius in London. The workshop will invent and describe Unbuilt London through compelling perspectives: spatial, social, economic, ecological, cultural and technological. It will use London as its primary experimental laboratory of ideas and actions. Individual and collective discoveries are encouraged as well as innovative, evocative proposals. The course emphasises techniques of interpretation, recording, drawing, making and thinking through diverse media types, both analogue and digital. This year will present a unique opportunity to take part in FORMAT, a public programme at the AA, which will include lectures by designers, architects, artists and others.

Director

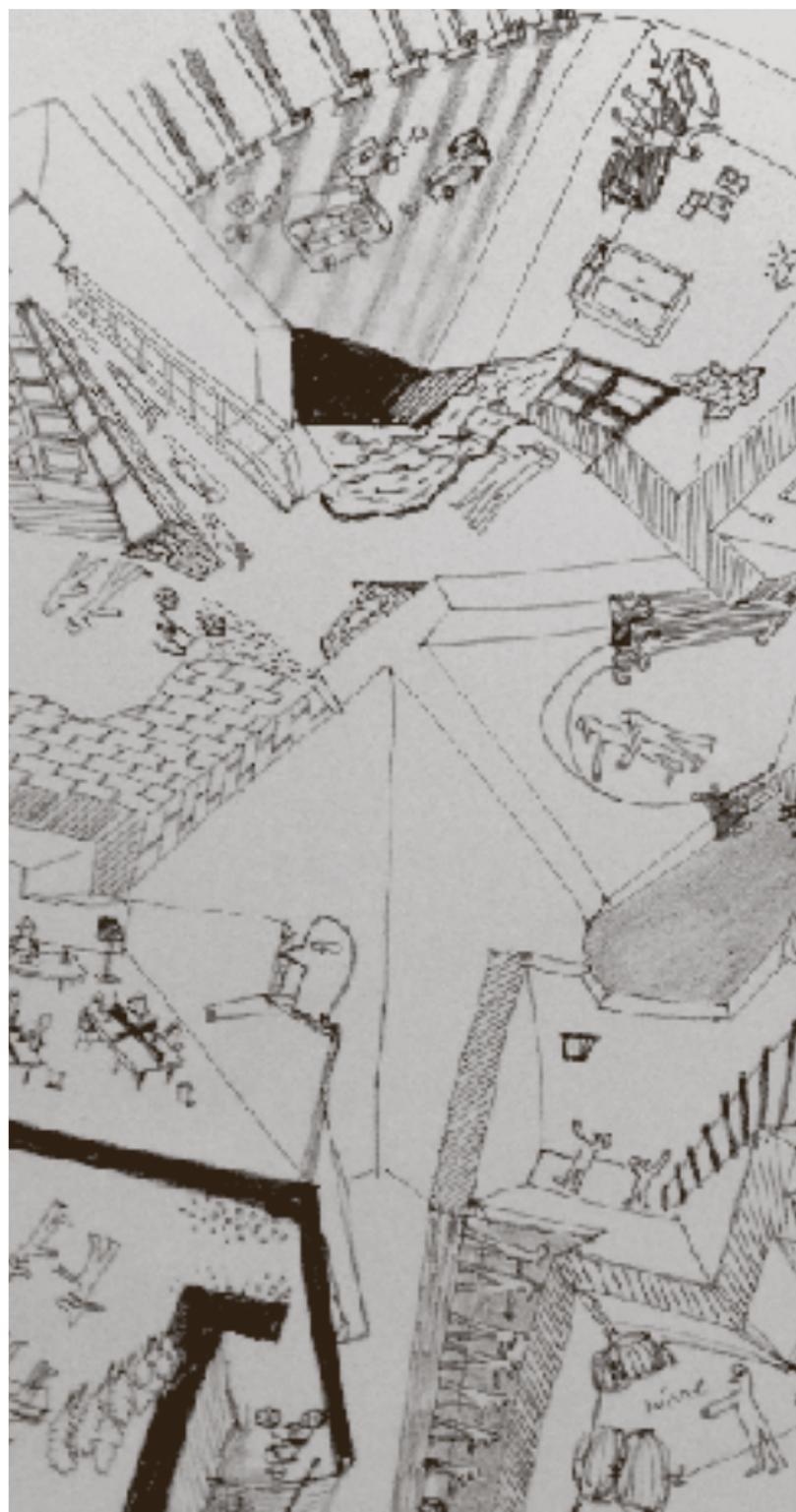
Natasha Sandmeier

Website

summerschool.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

GBP



Observational drawing the in the Clock Room of the British Museum



21 July –
1 August 2014

*Draw what you see, know what you see, draw what
you know you see.*

John Ruskin

Visioning Architecture is a ten-day immersion into visualisation techniques for architecture. Acting as archaeologists, forensic observers and oracles, we will extract evidence from the city, of its people, stories and architecture. Using rich and diverse sites within the area between the AA and the Thames in Central London we will discover and construct new realities of the city by weaving together visions of past, present and future.

The course will instill in participants a core understanding of hand and digital drawing techniques. Through a period of intense production, collaboration and investigation of the properties of drawing, we will cross the boundaries between the actual and the visionary. Visioning Architecture takes full advantage of the historic AA premises in Bedford Square and the vast riches of its central London setting.

Directors

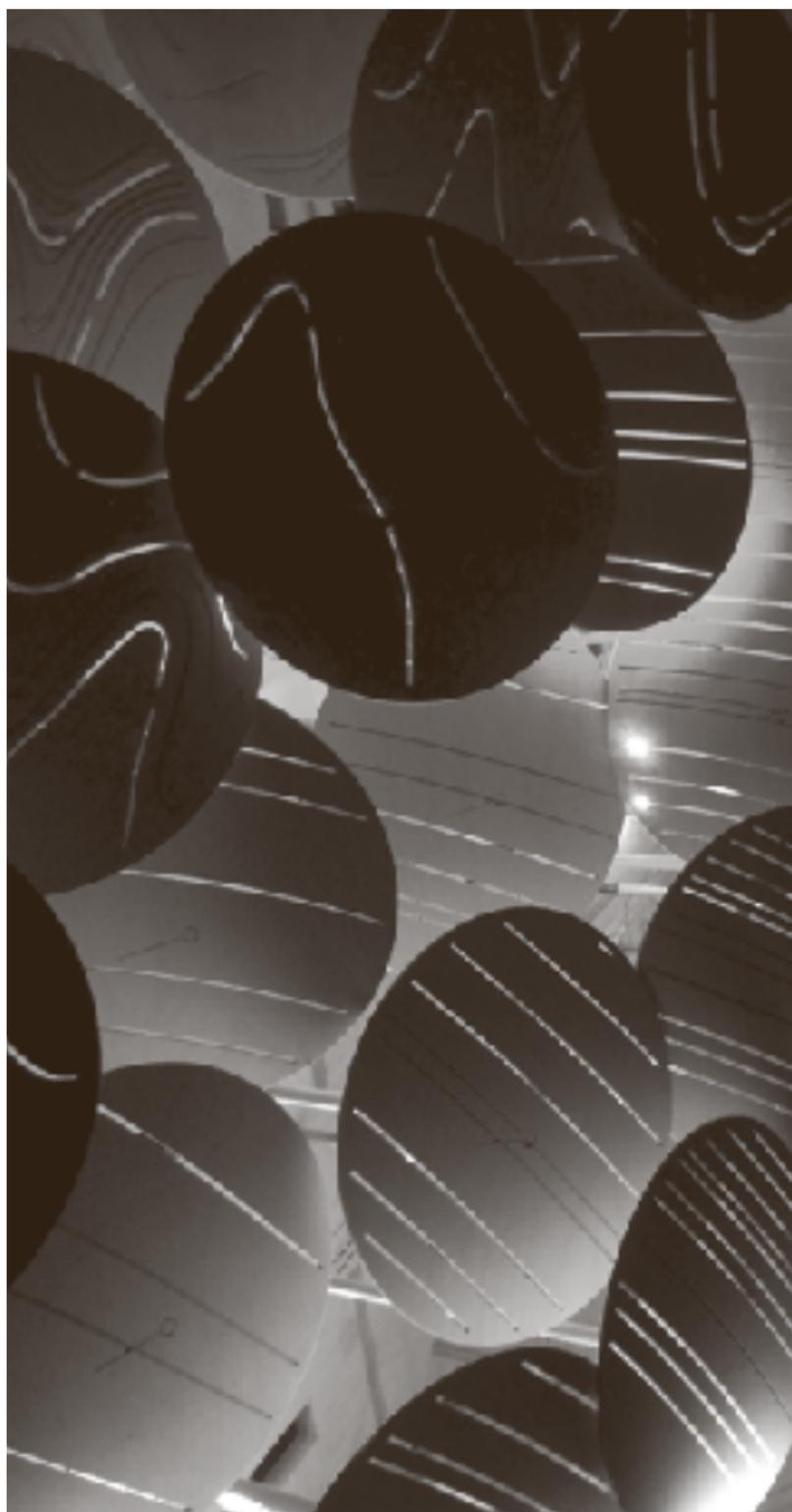
Trevor Flynn
Anderson Inge
Alex Kaiser

Website

visioning.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

GBP



Summer DLab, 2013

Summer DLab

White

AA School
London &
Hooke Park



21 July –
8 August 2014

Summer DLab experiments with the integration of algorithmic and generative design methodologies as well as large-scale digital fabrication tools. Continuing its colour-based agenda, DLab will immerse itself in white for its 2014 cycle, as a way to investigate natural growth processes in relation to innovative architectonic spaces. White will become the inspiration for looking into the extreme natural conditions which it is associated with. Natural structures of differing scales are observed, which are then abstracted and interpreted into elaborated design proposals. These concepts are carefully interwoven with interaction and participatory design in order to create full-scale working prototypes. The programme is formulated as a two-phase process. During the initial phase, participants will benefit from the unique atmosphere and facilities of the AA's London home. The second phase will shift to Hooke Park and revolve around the fabrication and assembly of a full-scale architectural intervention that will unify the design goals of DLab.

Website

dlab.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

GBP



Takuma Okada, print plan of Calthorpe oven structure

t-sa forum

AA School
London



Specific World

August –
September 2014

t-sa forum is an architectural workshop established and run by Takero Shimazaki Architecture. Its vision is to act as a platform (a forum) to bridge the gap between academia and practice by bringing together professionals and students of many disciplines, including end users and client bodies. For 2014 the programme, in collaboration with the AA, will focus on architecture for the post 'Lehman shock' capitalist, global built environment. Students will explore this topic within the possibilities of bespoke material craft in a series of screen-print and casting workshops. These techniques will then be used to develop architectural proposals for a site in Bloomsbury, London. Clients, end users and architectural critics will create an open and dynamic environment in which to challenge the norm set within the bubble of architectural schools across the world. Working processes, writings, films, prints and models produced by the students will be combined in a publication.

The course is open to participants from any stage of their career across disciplines of design and social studies, including product designers, sociologists, urban strategists or filmmakers.

Director

Takero Shimazaki

Website

t-saforum.co.uk

Local currency

GBP



Maeda Workshop, 2013

Maeda

AA School
Hooke Park



Furnishing the
Landscape

Summer 2014

The Maeda Twisting Concrete workshop will take place at Hooke Park in Dorset and is open to AA students and members. Building on a series of workshops experimenting with minimal surface fabric formworks, the Twisting Concrete workshop will make further explorations into design applications of GRC (Glassfibre Reinforced Concrete) at the scale of landscape furniture. This will involve the making of site-specific furniture by taking sectional measurements directly from the landscape of Hooke Park. Session one will focus on the textural reading of the micro-topography and geo-strata within a chosen area of Hooke Park, on which we will test various site-specific formworks. Session two will focus on the construction of finalised component pieces on site. Participants are encouraged to join for both sessions.

Director

Shin Egashira

Website

twistingconcrete.tumblr.com

Local currency

GBP



Paula Madrid, Network Mapping, La Coruna on the Edge

Autumn
Semester
Programme

AA School
London



London.
In between

15 September –
19 December
2014

The Semester Programme is a full-time 15-week studio-based course open to undergraduate and graduate students from around the world. The programme is integrated with the AA's undergraduate History and Theory Studies seminars and Media Studies courses, and is designed to allow transferable study credits. At the end of the course students are awarded a Certificate of Completion.

An emerging urban scale redefines London's city outline while at the same time heritage policies protect listed urban environments. The reading of the character of the place and the definition of a new city image become a challenging design task which will base the unit's agenda. 2D and 3D drawing manipulations using digital tools and model-making processes will allow students to develop their own mapping techniques in order to capture the intangible and tangible contextual qualities. The recorded dialogues between the unseen and the seen elements of the site will generate design strategies that will shape innovative icons for London's cityscape.

Director

Naiara Vegara

Website

semester.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

GBP



Night School Book Club, *Sex and the Psyche*, photo VB

Night School

AA School
London



Ongoing

The AA's Night School is an ongoing speculative project dealing with alternative models of architectural education. It aims to turn an architecture school inside out, offering what are usually internal activities to a wide audience of professionals, clients, other creative practitioners, the general public as well as students. Its format is short evening classes and events that engage issues of design, culture, history, theory and professional practice. Through these it aims to redraw lines between practice and theory and between student and professional.

Night School echoes the AA's own origins as an evening school in the 1870s, and continues its tradition of innovation in architectural education. The Night School events also integrate themselves into the well-established cultural programme of the AA, including exhibitions and symposia. Other activities also take place outside the AA, such as the Run Club, which over the course of a 10km run, explored historic and contemporary development in and around Kings Cross, led by a qualified personal trainer and urbanist.

Director

Sam Jacob

Coordinator

Meneesha Kellay

Website

night.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currencies

GBP

Lugoland Visiting School: Luca Nostri, from the series
Non tutte le strade portano a Roma, Rupe di Terracina, 2007

EUROPE



QUICK GUIDE

CYPRUS

Cyprus: UN Buffer Zone
Nicosia, Summer 2014

FRANCE

Re-inventing Shoes
Paris, 4–15 November 2013

Digital Authenticity
Paris, 17–28 March 2014

Mud, Body and Scripts
Lyon, 25 May – 5 June 2014

GERMANY

Berlin Take Away,
Building Laboratory
Berlin, July 2014

OMU's Idea of the City
Cologne, 13–22 August 2014

GREECE

Cipher City: Revolutions
Athens, 31 March –
8 April 2014

Folded Force: Projections
Patras, 22 September –
1 October 2014

ICELAND

Waterscapes
Reykjavik, 4–13 March 2014

ITALY

Im/Material
Rome, 16–25 January 2014

Italian Photographic
Topographies
Lugo, April 2014

LIECHTENSTEIN

Forms of Weather
3–11 February 2014

PORTUGAL

Muxagata
Building Workshop
Muxagata, Summer 2014

RUSSIA

Re-programming:
Culture Clusters
Moscow, July 2014

SLOVENIA

nanoSLOVENIA.nanotourism
Vitanje, 7–25 July 2014

SPAIN

Computing Topos III
Alhondiga, Bilbao, July 2014

Bodega:
Enological Metabolism
Barcelona, Summer 2014

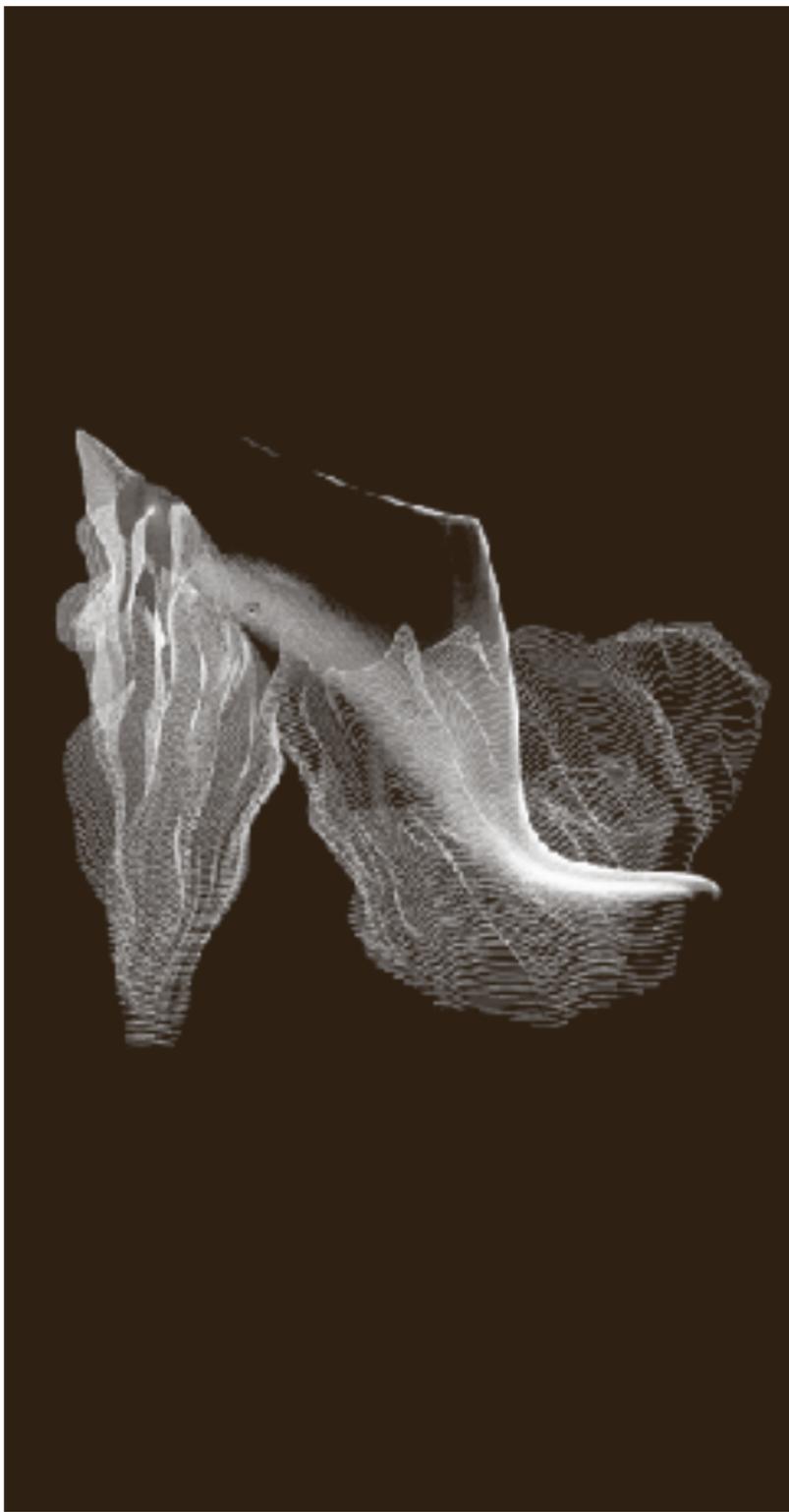
Trans-Computational
Membranes
Madrid, September 2014

TURKEY

Mittelmeerland 6
Port of Izmir, Summer 2014



With 19 different programmes in 13 countries, Europe represents the most involved of the AAVS continents. New for 2013/14 is Jorge Ayala's first collaboration with Rem D Koolhaas in Paris, and Sam Jacoby's and Jasper Cepl's with the O M Ungers archive in Cologne; an extension to Alexandros Kallegias's digitally focused activities in Patras; the long-awaited launch of Mattias Gambardella's, Massimo Santanicchia's and Sigrún Birgisdóttir's geothermal waterscape and landscape-based workshop in and around Reykjavik and Sue Barr's photographic journeys in and around Lugo in Italy; 'experience tourism' in Slovenia with Aljoša Dekleva and Tina Gregori and the final instalment of Medine Altiok's and Stephanie Tunka's six-part research-based workshop, Mittelmeerland, in the Port of Izmir.



Jorge Ayala, shoe design in collaboration with United Nude



4–15 November
2013

Have shoes become the accessory that defines creative freedom, identity, cultural affiliations, social identities and in some cases architectural knowledge? For this programme, AAtelier Paris has set the ambitious goal of encouraging its participants to think about the current and future role of shoes by engaging with new forms of unexpected culture.

AAtelier will seek to investigate processes via form and structural finding on footwear as an emerging practice within the world of design. The workshop will be informed by approaches and processes engaging with parameters such as materiality testing, digital and physical experimentation, imbrications, gesture, manufacturing tactics and prototyping techniques. Analysing the footprint in a high-heeled position, flat position and in motion, exchangeable configurations and relation to the ground will be observed and implemented onto unborn, unknown, unmade, unplugged, unthinkable, unreal upcoming fields within the expertise of shoe design. Re-inventing Shoes workshop will seek to engage with an encyclopedia of construction studies developing physical, aesthetic and structural elements related to the shoe agency; acquiring a higher degree of formal precision and spatial complexity, embracing micro and macro systems embodied within the shoe. AAtelier aims to engage with different levels of intelligence within the foot landscape, from foot anatomy to structural studies, resulting in finished pairs.

Director

Jorge Ayala

Collaborator

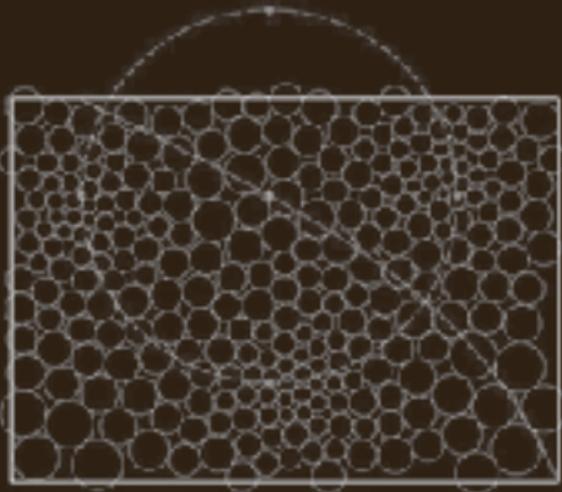
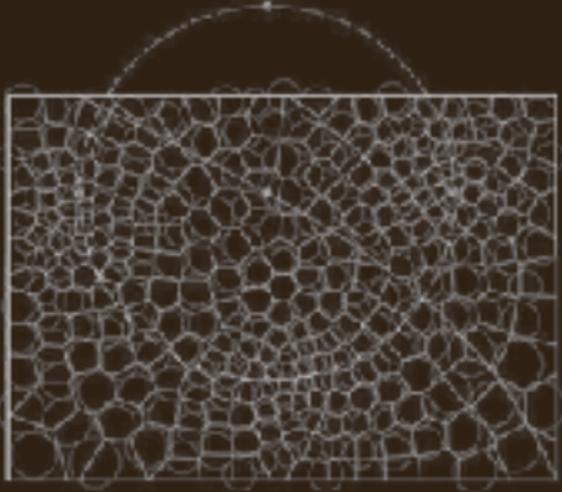
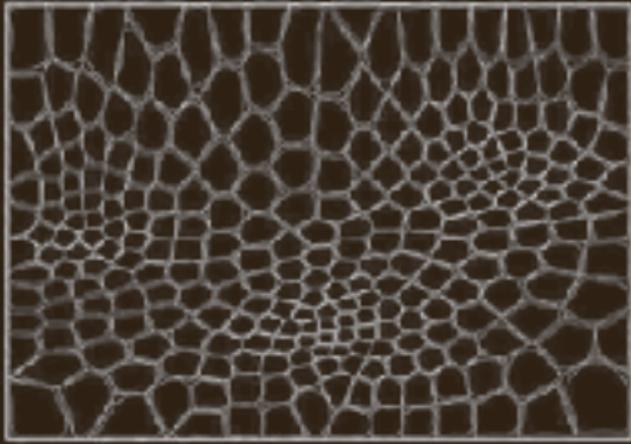
Rem D Koolhaas

Website

aatelier.org

Local currency

EUR





16–25 January
2014

I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free.
Michelangelo Buonarroti

Through his use of material Michelangelo could represent at least three immaterial substances: his subconscious, the negative mass surrounding the sculpture and a parallel world where material is forbidden. Has our current engagement with virtual space meant a vanishing sensitivity towards material and other immaterial realms?

The Rome Visiting School encourages the observation of material elements and their use in the design of architecture featuring subconscious experiences, spatial voids and virtual communities. Students will investigate modern materials and their digital fabrication through direct experience. They will work with algorithms and sensors able to recognise and respond to human feelings and attitudes. Students will feed novel expressions of void spaces into the Roman tradition, featuring examples like the ancient catacombs and the Nolli map. Through augmented reality design the projects will open a window onto a digital virtual world. At the end of the workshop students will unveil their interpretation of the material/ immaterial form hidden in the real matter.

Director

Lorenzo Vianello
Arturo Tedeschi

Website

rome.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

EUR



Peter Staub and Teresa Cheung, *The Weather Series*, 2011



3–11 February 2014

The second Alpine AA continues to investigate the Alps, focusing on a fundamental, yet highly changeable component of life: water. Water, in its various material states within an intricate weather system, has great impact on the Alpine environment. By investigating forms of weather the workshop will look into weather phenomena, both the way in which it is formed at altitude, and how it forms the landscape.

The largest body of freshwater in the world – glaciers – is receding as an effect of global warming, leading to an increase in raging meltwater streams, avalanches and landslides that leave settlements exposed to great dangers. Paradoxically, increasing tourism has resulted in the growth of leisure infrastructures in remote Alpine regions.

The Alpine AA / Winter 2014 offers an immersive experience at high altitude. Learning from traditional ways of living in Alpine conditions, we will investigate spatial, architectural and cultural mechanisms affected by meteorology and weather phenomena. Using the narrative of water, we will follow its transformation at increasing altitudes to explore its qualities both as a human requisite and as a powerful force of nature.

Directors

Teresa Cheung
Peter Staub

Website

alpine.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

CHF



Bathing in Iceland



4–13 March 2014

Iceland: the land of fire and ice, a place of intense volcanic activity; a territory that at the same time hosts the largest deserts in Europe and the largest renewable internal freshwater resources per capita in the world. From steam to liquid, from solid ice to hot springs, fresh water, salty water, and geothermal water all shape Iceland in a myriad of different states and forms.

The workshop will research the potential for geothermal water to contribute to new spatial strategies and territories of habitation while at the same time exploring geothermal waterscapes for adventure and tourism. Remote landscapes and sites of geothermal activity will be visited and the demands of the tourism industry imposed on the vulnerable landscape will be studied. The workshop is designed to examine the relationship between nature and man, between landscape and art, between environment and design, forging new relationships and spatial practices. These relationships will be analysed through an interdisciplinary approach working to reconceptualise territories through design, promoting a different perception of land use in order to develop scenarios for the possible futures of the Icelandic landscape.

Directors

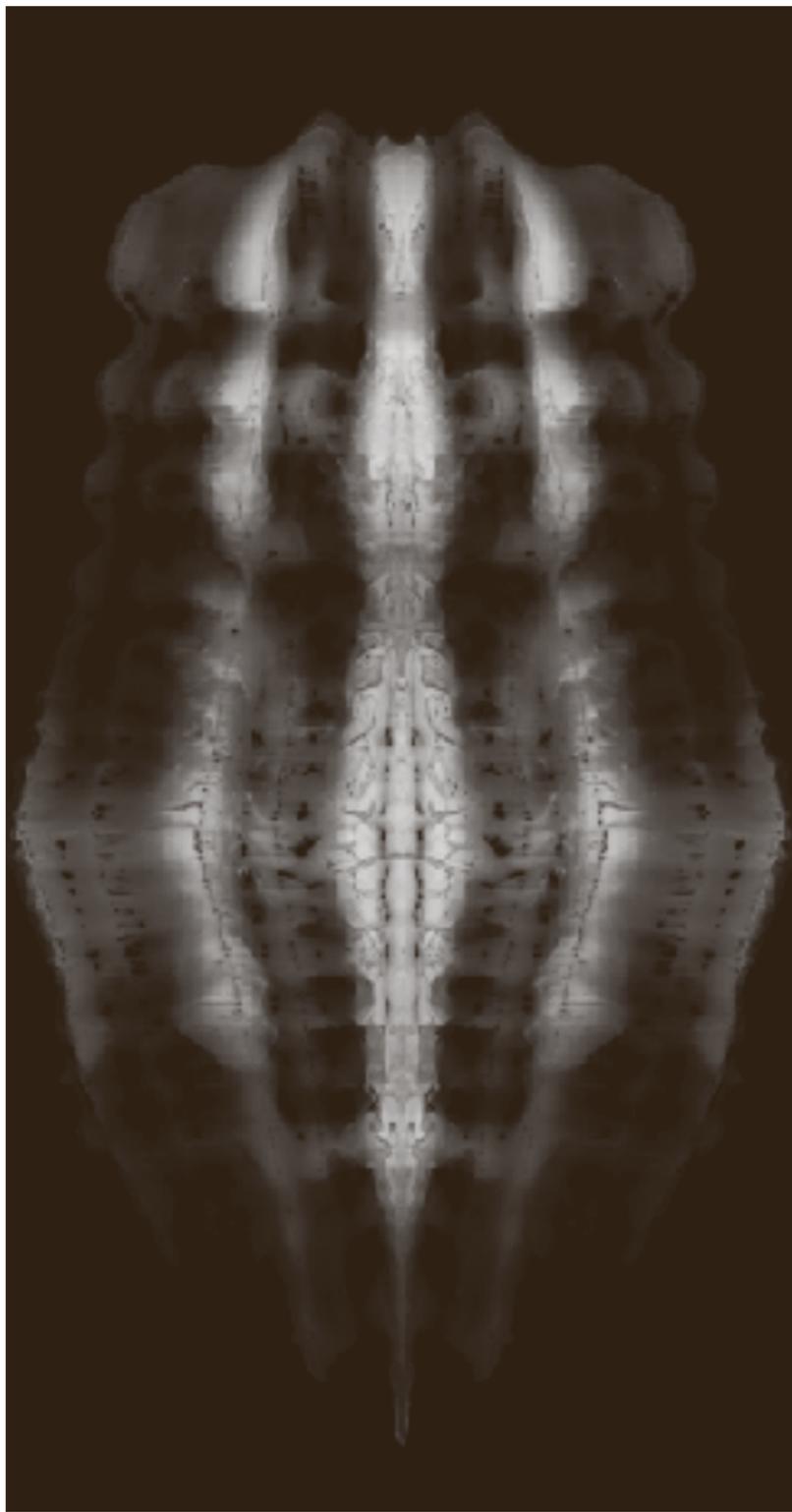
Mattia Gambardella

Massimo Santanicchia

Sigrún Birgisdóttir

Local currency

ISK



Jorge Ayala, Repository of Postdigital Curiosities installation, Orléans, 2013–14



17–28 March 2014

Challenging the work carried out in previous AAtelier workshops, Digital Authenticity will focus on the role of garment design as a novel architectural practice, in developing and processing couture concepts acting subsequently in potential interrelations with the human body. At the beginning of the workshop, Digital Authenticity will put forward the human silhouette, transforming the frontier between garments and architecture into a field of operation, with the urgency to connect both of these scales of design with current technological changes.

Rather than simply defining a precise digital-oriented trend as a design outcome, AAtelier will foster uncommon spatial configurations, instrumentalising the performance of human identities: investigations into material, form, skins and structure. AAtelier design methodology will involve feedback between a set of the main areas of exploration and experimentation, with the use of digital tooling and manufacturing processes.

Outcomes will be regarded as 3D diagrams which through spatial, material and behavioural understanding lead to the finding of novel clothing and architectural futures. Physical processual prototyping will become an important instrument in the understanding of design – its improvement from the outset and during all phases of development.

Director
Jorge Ayala

Website
aatelier.org

Local currency
EUR



Interactive Pavilion, Athens Visiting School, 2013



31 March –
8 April 2014

What would happen if a structure could transform in real-time? The Athens Visiting School embarks on its third cycle to address issues of change, adaptation and interaction in the design of an enclosed volume. In this period of social, economic and environmental uncertainty, we need to regard transformation in the built environment as a way of practice.

Revolutions have occurred throughout architectural history and vary widely in terms of design methods and fabrication techniques. Focusing on inspiring natural form-finding techniques, the programme will work towards producing a large-scale interactive prototype that will alter the real-time perception of interior space. Technology and architecture are coupled with a novel agenda of transforming an enclosed area and creating internal contrasting city-life characteristics that transcend the local conditions.

In collaboration with the National Technical University of Athens, Cipher City: Revolutions explores participatory design and active engagement modelling and continues building novel prototypes upon horizontal planes. As in 2013, the design agendas of AA Athens and AA Istanbul Visiting Schools are connected, allowing for a more extensive learning experience.

Director

Alexandros Kallegias

Website

ai.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

EUR



Francesco Neri, Luca, 2012



This visiting school is the AA's first dedicated workshop exploring the potential of the photograph to create an image of the city.

In the 1970s and 1980s a new vision developed within Italian photography with a generation of photographers who were drawn to explore invisible landscapes – marginal spaces at the edges of the city, the forgotten corners of ordinary towns. Rejecting the iconic, they instead created a new photographic paradigm that privileged the regional and celebrated landscapes of the everyday. Inspired by this rich visual history, we will use photography to explore and document the architectures and landscapes of Lugo.

The eight-day programme will include a seminar with photographer Guido Guidi on his critically acclaimed project on Carlo Scarpa's Brion Vega Tomb, a visit to the tomb itself in San Vito d'Altivole near Treviso and a lecture by photographic historian Antonello Frongia on Italian photography and the New Topographics movement.

Directors

Sue Barr

Francesco Neri

Luca Nostrì

Websitelugoland.aaschool.ac.uk**Local currency**

EUR



Anastasia Sokolnikova, Synchronised Movements, Lyon Visiting School, 2013



25 May – 5 June
2014

How do we revive our childhood experience of mixing cosmetics, yogurt and straw with our hands? How do we revive this intense pleasure of getting dirty without caring?

‘Wang Shu, Renzo Piano, Herzog & De Meuron and other international stars made the choice to build with rammed earth, a lot of French entrepreneurs have also jumped into those techniques.’ (Dominique Gauzin Muller, Festival Grains d’Isère, 2013)

Earth construction is ancient, yet the way contemporary architects use it today is cutting edge, both in usage and ethics. The field of possibilities is endless. During the second phase of our earth and digital workshop we’ll be entering even deeper into the very properties of the material, from the scale of the handful of earth to the rammed earth wall. We will be working closely with engineers, artists, craftsmen, performers and other special architects of earth to build some life-size structures, focusing on the prefabrication of earth modules and using fabric as a (lost) formwork. The scale of the construction will be large, the typologies organic, the results unknown.

Directors

Stephanie Chaltiel
Marie-Perrine Placais

Website

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Local currency

EUR



Net, curated by Z33, Hasselt, Belgium, 2011, photo Kristof Vrancken / Z33



7–25 July 2014

The workshop focuses on the concept of experience tourism, allowing participants to engage in a wide range of projects, from site-specific micro interventions at a 1:1 scale to holistic strategies for existing contexts. Adapting to their specific setting, the proposals can materialise in actions or structures that are temporary or permanent, ultimately seeking to create a comprehensible, tangible and novel experience of tourism.

Within the contemporary economic realities, the workshop aims for small and smart solutions that rely on local resources, and seeks innovative design and financing alternatives that bypass major institutions and established spatial planning bureaucracy.

The workshop will take place at the KSEVT, Cultural Centre of European Space Technologies, a bold landmark in the Slovenian village of Vitanje that has welcomed over 25,000 visitors in its first year of activity.

nanoSLOVENIA.nanotourism will collaborate with Ljubljana's Biennial of Design (BIO.50) and its curator Jan Boelen, director of Z33 – House for Contemporary Art, in a multidisciplinary research that explores possible futures for design. One of the biennial's research topics, Nanotourism, will inform the workshop's theoretical framework, presented and discussed at the opening mini conference of the workshop. Selected results will also become part of the BIO.50 exhibition and catalogue.

Directors

Aljoša Dekleva

Tina Gregorič

Website

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Local currency

EUR



Marianne Mueller and Olaf Kneer, temporary structure, Paris 2013, photo VB



Berlin is a transformed city. For several years the Berlin Laboratory has been documenting the changing landscape of the city and its relation to the experiment, identifying Berlin's special status as a city of extraordinary conditions, a 'heterotopia' or counter-site.

In 2014 the Berlin Laboratory will move on. We will say goodbye to reflection and embrace projection and real-life experimentation. This time we will construct our own temporary utopia: 25 students from 25 different backgrounds, 25 ideas for a temporary space, one physical structure to be built in nine days and nine nights.

In a collaborative, interactive and open-ended building process we will construct a 1:1 prototype in the public spaces of the University of the Arts. A mock-up or physical structure, a type of folly or *Merzbau*, a sketch for a space developed through a speedy competition. The construction process will take time and negotiation as an ongoing building laboratory. The structure will exist in a series of temporary states or house events and will support the public programme. It will subsequently be dismantled and taken away by its participants. Both the construction and dismantling processes form an integral part of the design.

We will collaborate with Norbert Palz, professor in Digital and Experimental Design at the University of the Arts Berlin, one of Germany's leading art schools.

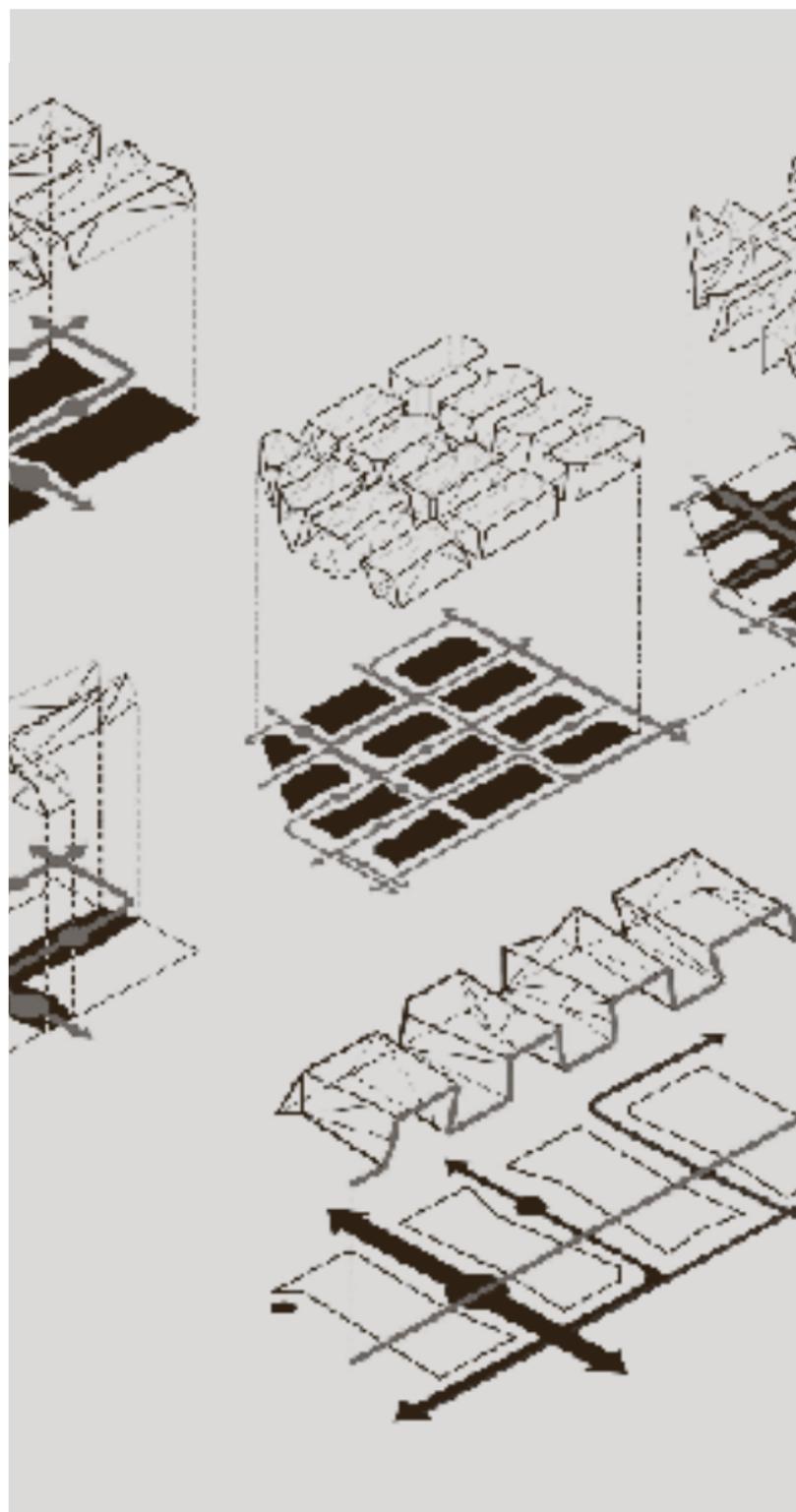
Directors

Olaf Kneer

Marianne Mueller

Websiteberlin.aaschool.ac.uk**Local currency**

EUR



Group 6, Connectivity flows



The workshop will explore the question of 'place' or 'topos' and its radical transformation in recent years due to the proliferation and availability of environmental parameters. The rise of digital methods in architectural design as well as simulation platforms for environmental analysis, have produced a renewed interest in the relationship between architecture and environmental phenomena and in particular in the possibility of the integration of environmental aspects into the design process. Nevertheless, the relationship of environmental phenomena to urban morphology needs to be further explored to mediate between sophisticated simulation platforms and design agendas, beyond reductionist definitions of the environment.

We will be working on metropolitan Bilbao, looking for opportunities in residual areas as well as former industrial sites. These spaces that are neither private nor public but are identified as potentially interesting to engage with the exploration of new types and their capacity to redefine the relationship between architecture and the city. Thus, we will put forward a design strategy based on prototypical notions that will intervene, decode and mediate between local and abstract, and environmental and material conditions.

Directors

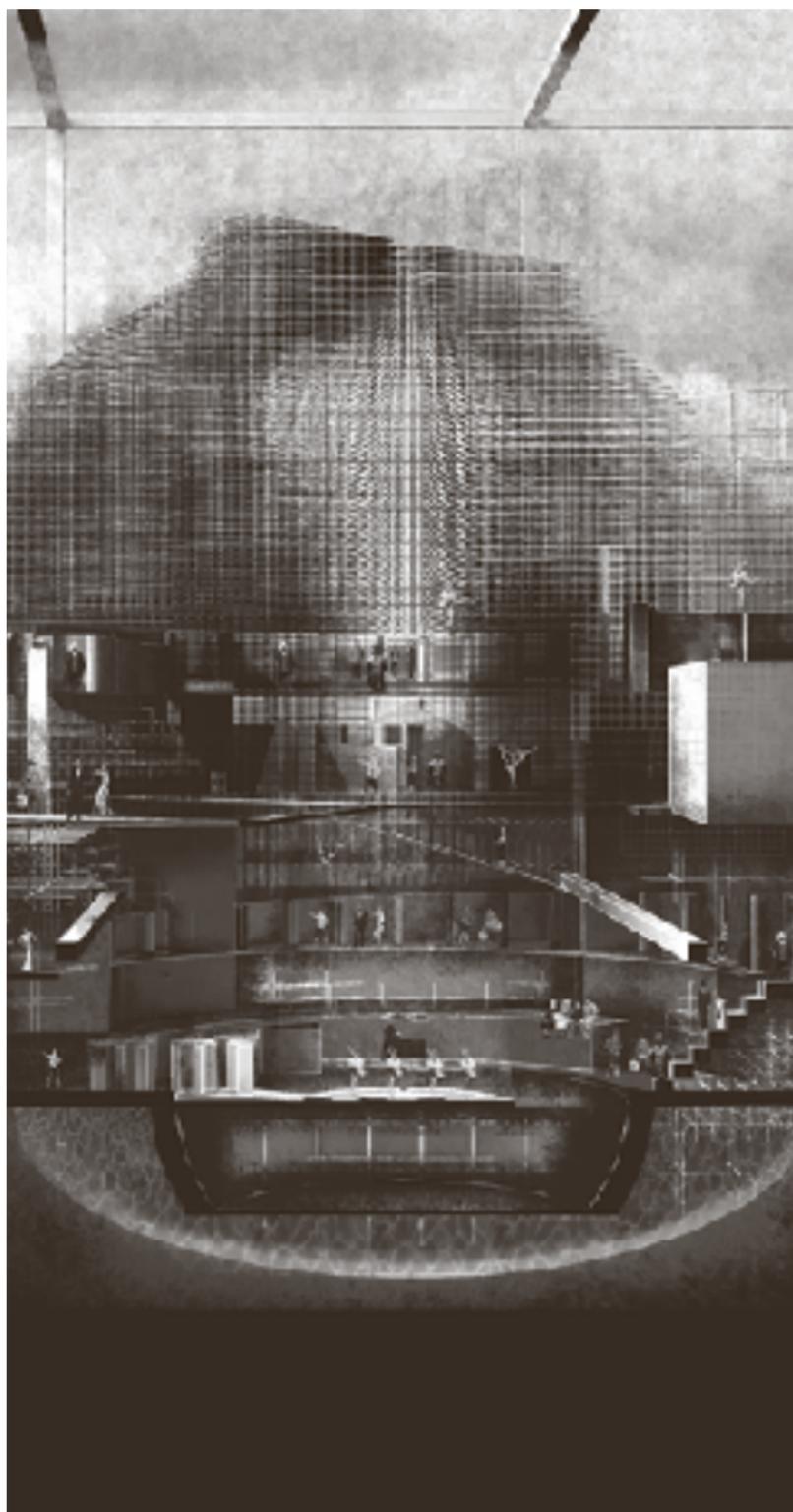
Maidier Llaguno Munitxa
Clara Olóriz Sanjuán

Website

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Local currency

EUR



Vidhya Pushpanathan, The Depository of Forgotten Monuments

Re-programming: Moscow Culture Clusters

July 2014



With its heady cocktail of design centres, art clusters and event platforms (and a dash of shopping and nightlife), Moscow has emerged as a sophisticated and dynamic capital. Its historical monuments and recent transplants challenge the way we conceive, mix and intensify a building's function. Paradoxically, while Moscow's cultural saturation is an experiment in programme, its key landmarks still obsess with composition, decoration and branding. Could we go beyond the deceptive facade to engage with re-programming from within? Inspired by pop-ups and strongholds, ghosts and skeletons, we will rethink how functions live and die and what ties them to form, space and atmosphere. Updated ingredients and processes will help us ensure growth and vitality of new 'culture clusters'. Immersive mappings and sporadic case studies, systematic assemblies and surreal collisions will sample the AA's experimental approaches. Composite scenarios of alternative worlds will spur layered diagrams of activities and flows. Splintering, blending and colliding smart elements – from launch stations to trade-show platforms – participants will engineer new types of generators, incubators and synthesisers. We will set our discoveries within a bigger picture – exchanges of concepts, projects and prototypes between discipline and city.

Director

Maria Fedorchenko

Website

moscow.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

RUB



OM Ungers in front of competition model for 4 Ring (Berlin-Lichterfelde), 1974



13–22 August 2014

Arguably Germany's most influential postwar architect, Oswald Mathias Ungers (1926–2007) is best known for his 'Berlin as a Green Archipelago' project of 1977 with Rem Koolhaas. Although this project has become representative for his original reading of the city, the workshop held at the UAA intends to go beyond the concept of the archipelago and re-discuss Ungers's complex ideas of the city. Premised on a thesis of morphology and types, his urban theory and practice explored different rational and metaphorical relations between architecture, urban design, infrastructure and planning. The synthesis of factual, analogical and conceptual realities formed the basis to his dialectical understanding of the city as a 'coincidence of opposites'.

The archive at Belvederestraße 60 in Cologne not only houses Ungers's library of more than 12,000 books and records of projects since the 1950s, but is also the first example of his central 'house-city' concept, an architectural interpretation of the urban. It offers the unique opportunity to follow Ungers's dogma that 'the designer does not invent, he discovers', by enabling archival research and study of his writings and projects. The workshop will attempt to 'discover' Ungers's ideas of the city twofold: by reading his urban theories and tracing their roots in the archive, as well as by analysing his urban design practice through his, and also our own, drawings.

Directors

Jasper Cepl
Sam Jacoby

Website

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Local currency

EUR



Gulf of Izmir, Earth from space © NASA



Mittelmeerland is investigating the future of the Mediterranean. Over three years we have travelled through five different Mediterranean cities. Izmir is the final destination after Dubrovnik, Tangier, Beirut, Algiers and Alexandria. We will study the dynamic territory of Izmir's coastline, the renewal of the current industrial port, the planning of the new port and the mutual dependencies of land and water along the coast. The Mediterranean Sea is not only situated between continents, but also acts as a historical and contemporary centre and border zone. The social, economic and political dynamics of this zone are complex and diverse. The port of Izmir is the largest container port of Turkey; with its central location between western Europe and north Africa and strong hinterland, it is not only the agricultural and commercial centre of the Aegean region but it also plays a significant role for Turkish exports. The current container port has reached its capacity; the construction of the new port is in a conflict-sensitive area. How will Izmir act in the Mediterranean context? What does changing and shaping mean for the 1:1 everyday spaces and uses? How should we act under the sea?

Director

Medine Altiok
Stephanie Tunka

Website

mittelmeerland.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

TRY



Muxagata workshop, 2013

Muxagata
Building
Workshop

Muxagata,
Vila Nova de Foz
Côa, Portugal



Summer 2014

Muxagata, Vila Nova de Foz Côa, is a small village situated along the Côa river, near the Portuguese/Spanish border, 120km from the city of Porto. Traditionally known for its wine, olives and almonds, the region became famous in the late 1980s for the discovery of a Paleolithic site along the Côa valley, with thousands of animal, human and abstract figures dating from 22,000 to 10,000 BC incised in the rocks. Prompted by this discovery and the necessity for its preservation, in 1995 the Portuguese government cancelled the planned hydroelectric power plant on the river and instead created a park for archaeological study and public visits.

Running since 2008, the Muxagata workshop has been organised in collaboration with the regional government and the town of Muxagata and welcomes individual collaborators from the arts, architecture, archaeology and filmmaking. Its aim is to speculate on ways to rejuvenate the post-agricultural community and seek a new identity for it that does not rely on the tourist industry or traditional farming.

Director

Shin Egashira

Pedro Jervell

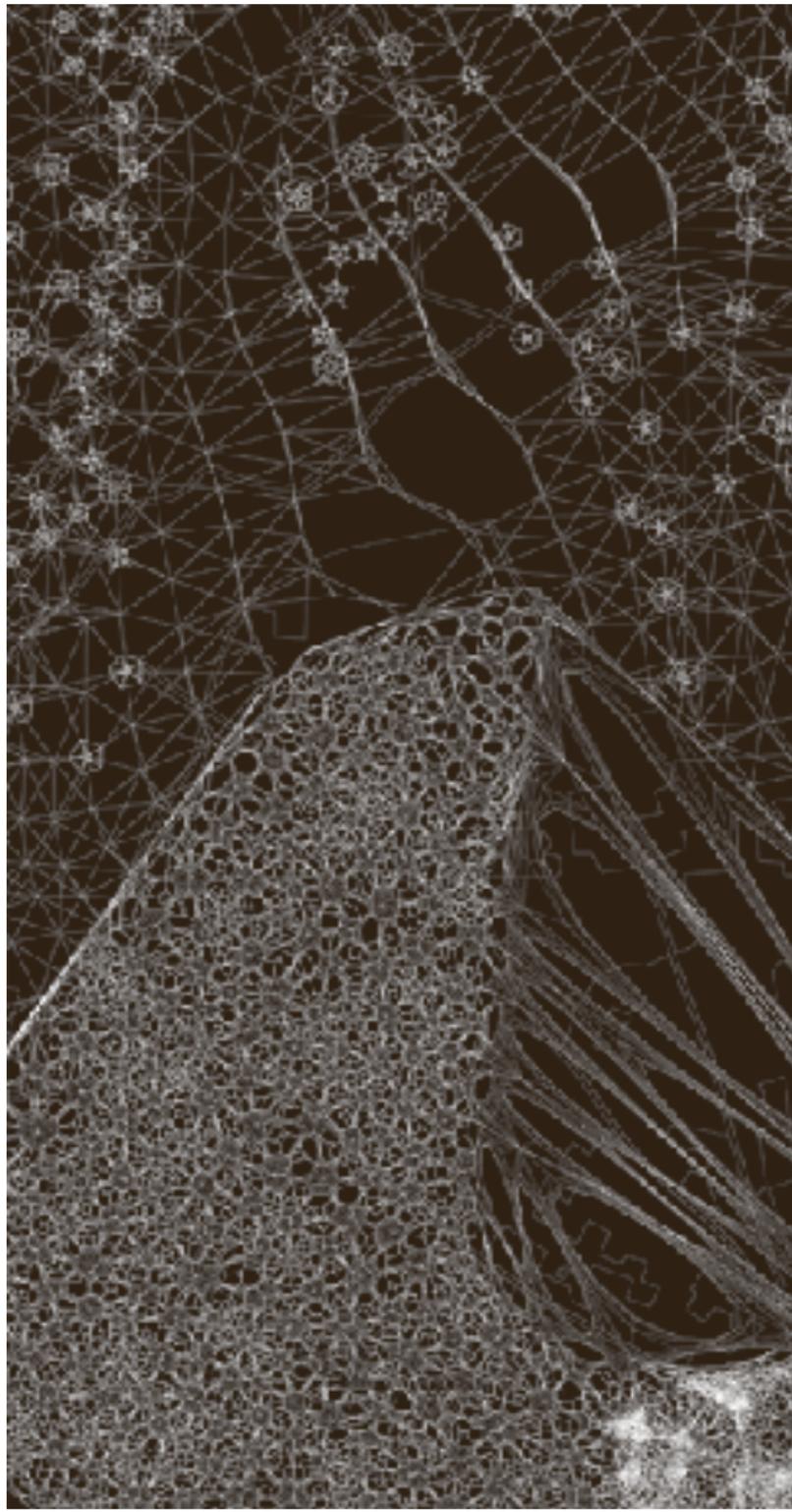
Mafalda Nicolau de Almeida

Website

shinegashira.com

Local currency

EUR



Proposals for the village of Athienou situated within the UN Buffer Zone, Cyprus Visiting School, 2012



Summer 2014

The United Nations Buffer Zone in Cyprus is a demilitarised zone patrolled by the UN Peacekeeping Force that spans the full length of the island from west to east and covers an area of around 350km². Although accounting for only around 3 per cent of the island's total area, the UN Zone has turned into a separate geopolitical entity of its own and will potentially be playing a vital political and economic role in a future reunification of the island's north and south.

Currently in its third cycle, the visiting school will be based on the hypothetical event of the return of the confiscated land and villages inside the Buffer Zone back to their former proprietors, following a 38-year period of abandonment. The main agenda will be to explore how digital tools can address the conflicting nature of the Zone on an urban scale, and explore non-linear scenarios of enabling its targeted rehabilitation. Participants will be creating parametric systems that use efficiently quantified data such as land parcelling, transportation routes or built growth, along with non-quantifiable elements such as collective memory or regional or ethnic tension.

Directors

Kostas Grigoriadis

Pavlos Fereos

Alkis Dikaïos

Michail Georgiou

Website

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Local currency

EUR



Thais Pinson and Aleix Arcarons, Wine Rocks



Summer 2014

In this programme we will unfold the metabolism of wine production and dissect the techniques and technologies involved in the processes. Relying on the use of diagramming and mapping we will underline the characteristics of time information and feedback. Equipped with analogue or digital tools, students will record quantitative information on site to understand the variable factors that can influence the quality of the wine. The object of this preliminary phase will be the creation of a series of drawings using digital means to work on the cartographical representation of the information collected on site. To conclude, we will address the spatial and organisational attributes of the map to envisage, through the production of drawings, digital and physical models, potential architectural solutions for a contemporary bodega. The results will be presented at the ETSAB on the last day of the course to a multidisciplinary panel of experts from the architectural and enological fields.

Directors

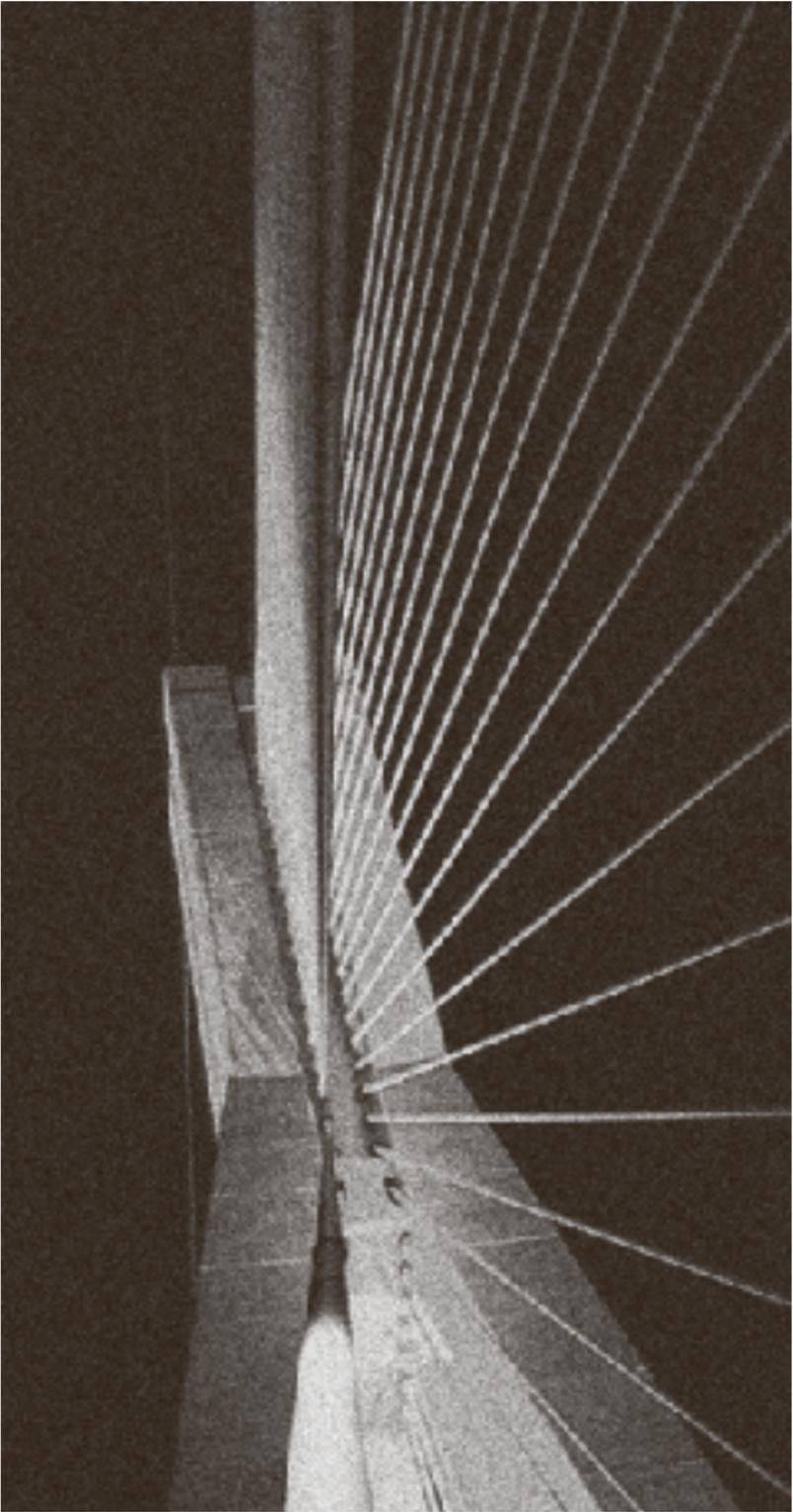
Edouard Cabay
Carles Sala

Website

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Local currency

EUR



Rion Antirion Bridge



22 September –
1 October 2014

In 2014 the Greece Visiting School will initiate its design agenda with an architectural approach that is focused on the aspect of connection. The city of Patras, which is the starting point for the workshop, was European Capital of Culture in 2006. The concept of this event revolved around the theme of Bridges and Dialogues, using the city's rich history and its position as a gateway to the West, to underline the essence of the productive interaction of culture and civilisations in Europe. Folded Force: Projections will investigate how well existing buildings with various sightlines and spatial grammars perform according to human perception and how cultural factors, personal preferences, experiences, and expectations have led to their transformation.

Director

Alexandros Kallegias

Website

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Local currency

EUR



Textile pavilion produced through digital fabrication, Madrid Visiting School, 2013



September 2014

Trans-computational membranes will explore computational design methods through the use of digital–analogue experimentation. This will challenge the way we conceive flexibility within the context of spatial re-adaptation as a driver for social change. Time-based dynamic systems will transform the digital–analogue divide through networks of instantaneous spatial deployment creating a symbiotic spatial context that examines new-era demands.

The workshop will re-think membrane structures from the micro to macro organisation resulting in a habitable prototype. Through the investigation of different scales, tensile structures will primarily be re-adaptive environments, searching for dynamic stability while responding to new spatial necessities. Natural-based models will be challenged through a continuous dialogue between analogue and digital experimentation, where material processes and fabrication techniques are incorporated within a digital working methodology, analysing material behaviour from Nano-scale patterns to the production of physical prototypes at 1:1.

Director

Manuel Jimenez Garcia

Website

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Local currency

EUR

MIDDLE EAST



QUICK GUIDE

IRAN

The Third Place:

Urban Machines

Tehran, 12–26 April 2014

ISRAEL

Drifting Rooms:

WindChamber

Tel-Aviv & Negev Desert,

April 2014

JORDAN

Eroded Morphologies

Petra & Wadi Rum,

14–24 June 2014

UAE

Expocity 2020: In Search

of an Urban Identity

Dubai, 20–30 March 2014



Jordan, Israel, Iran and Dubai are our four sites in the Middle East in 2013/14. Although as the prospectus goes to press we're also, and always, working on a few more. Not only, as I wrote last year, are the workshops in the Middle East, probably more than those in any other region, intrinsically embedded in their context – its history, landscape and current and past socio-cultural dimensions – but via their mind-blowing environments they've led the way in making the 'studio' an entirely outmoded form of architectural education. They are a whole lot more 'wild'. Dubai is a new addition (also in this programme!); and the other three are building on established agendas and collaborations. Riyadh Joucka's already got a team working on Expo 2020 and their first experiments in pavilion building will happen later in March. Omid Kamvari's going to be in Tehran twice in the next 12 months; Shany Barath and Gary Freedman will continue to build at 1:1 in the Negev Desert, and Kais-al-Rawi will launch the second in a series of biannual workshops based in Amman but also venturing into the desert at Wadi Rum and Petra.



Burj Khalifa I, Dubai, UAE © Christian Voigt, 2011

Expocity 2020:
In Search of an
Urban Identity

Dubai, UAE

20–30 March 2014



Dubai: a small fishing town in the Arabian Peninsula, a transient hub that has evolved into one of the world's bustling centres of economic interchange. This ambitious emirate has defied the ordinary to achieve marvelous but sometimes questionable architectural spectacles.

After a severe economic downfall, Dubai is slowly regaining its global status, this time capitalising on art, design and cultural exchange as generators of its own identity. To instigate this revival, the United Arab Emirates is bidding to win the upcoming Expo 2020, which it sees as a congregation of the world's leading countries coming together to exchange ideas under the key drivers of Sustainability, Mobility and Opportunity.

The idea of the World Fair has always been a platform for releasing revolutionary ideas. A prominent part of the global engagement with expos are the temporary structures built by different countries coming to display architectural and artistic expressions of their respective nations. These pavilions have served as prototypes of pioneering ideas in material science and spatial expression.

The workshop intends to examine the cultural and ecological fabric of the United Arab Emirates, as a precedent for generating a series of pavilions each representing the candidate's host country. The process involves breaking away from the cliché of dismissing Dubai as a 'collage city' with no cultural or urban identity, going beyond that to formalise a novel archetype that speaks of what is it that makes Dubai a key global player in today's contemporary world.

Director

Riyad Joucka

Website

aavsdubai.com

Local currency

AED



Against Honkahlism



Tehran, Iran's capital, ranks among the world's fastest-growing cities. In the early 1940s, Tehran's population was about 700,000, today, the metropolitan area has more than 10 million residents. This explosive growth has had environmental and public health consequences, including air and water pollution and the loss of arable land and public realm. The ever increasing land value makes developments and the replacement of urban open space an easy choice. With a young population and cars the main mode of transport, the major highways of Tehran come to a grinding halt during rush hour.

Current solutions put forward to ease congestion have been the construction of more highways, but this will only resolve the issue in the short term. Our challenge will be to examine the possibilities of left over spaces and the potential for augmentation and reuse of such infrastructure in the future. We will be looking at infill sites, leftover spaces which have been generated as a result of inefficient use of public roads, to examine the potential for the generation of usable public space, or in other words the third place (the first being the home, the second the workplace). Our ambition is to produce and implement these proposals on site across the city.

Director

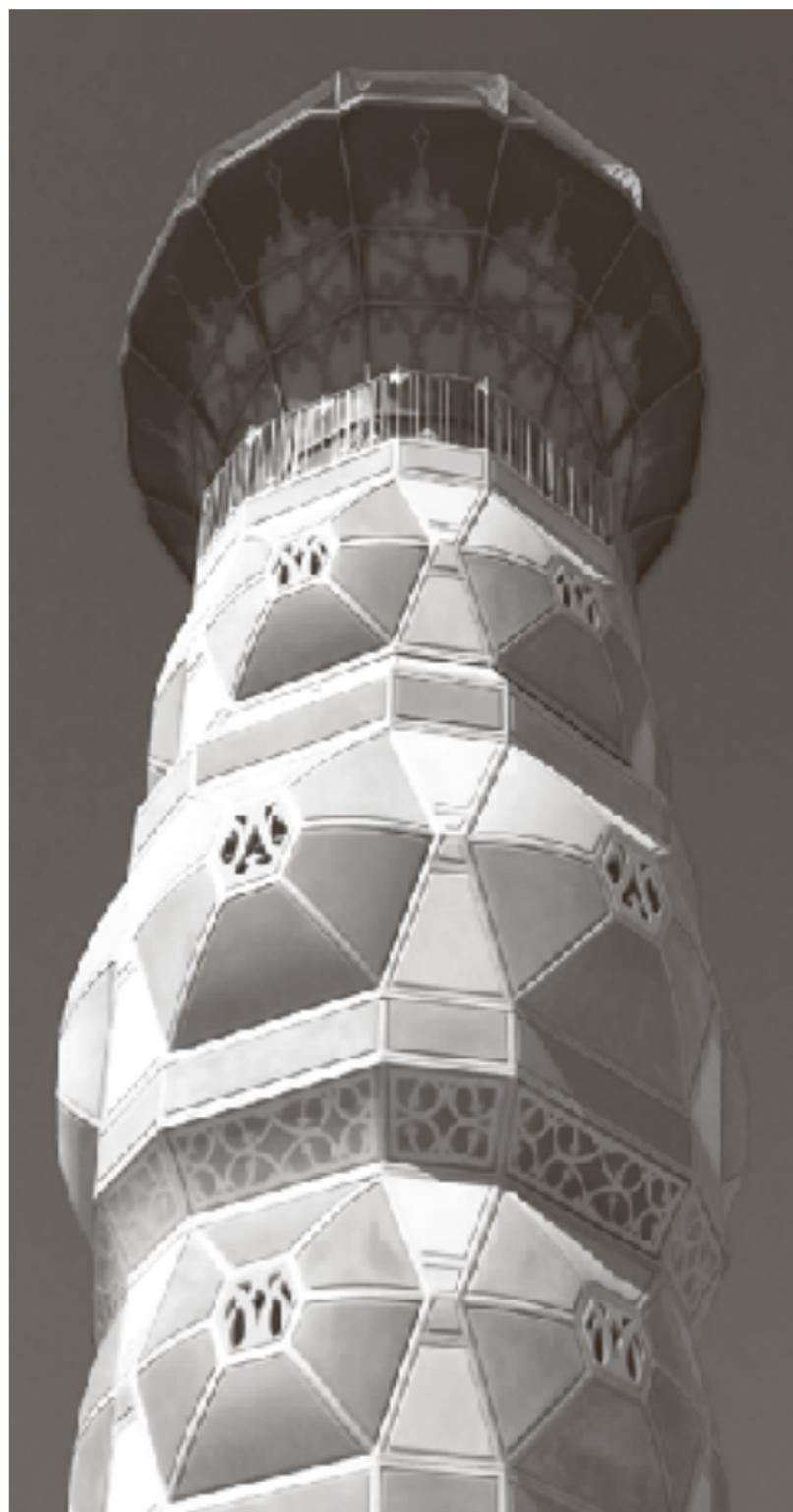
Omid Kamvari

Website

tehran.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

IRR



GRC cladding for a wind-catcher at Neot Semadar, photo SHaGa Studio



April 2014

The Drifting Rooms: WindChamber workshop will explore structural and environmental temporalities within Israel's desert ecology. Wind – that illusive force propelling desert formations across the globe is also one that is responsible for the comfort of its inhabitants.

Bringing together tradition and innovation, the workshop will investigate local materiality, from mud construction to GRC, exploring pigmentation processes as well as moulding techniques and their appropriation within advanced digital design and fabrication processes for a new passive cooling prototype – the WindChamber. Through an on-site intensive 10-day workshop, we will shift our perception from the traditional wind-tower of the past towards a dynamic and responsive construction that brings together both the potential of an iconic architectural artifact (the ancient wind-catchers) and its dynamic environmental performance. Conceived as an in-depth collaboration with experts in construction and manufacturing, desert and environmental engineering, the workshop will run as an interdisciplinary collaborative community – designing, envisioning and exhibiting 1:1 prototypes of the Drifting Room and exploring a novel understanding of dynamic architecture in the desert context.

Director

Shany Barath
Gary Freedman

Website

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Local currency

ILS



Petra



The Jordanian desert ecology is a magnificent biodiverse landscape that has emerged from fluid erosion processes which have occurred over fifty million years. Participants will investigate natural phenomena which include sand dunes, rock strata, rock bridges, canyons, gorges and mountain formations. During the course of the workshop, participants will visit, examine and inhabit two UNESCO world heritage sites: Wadi Rum and Petra; the latter being one of the seven wonders of the world.

The design-research workshop will investigate the morphology of the desert and its underlying principles and processes within a computational context, working towards the development of algorithmically generated topologies. Participants will choose from a number of studios/units, to design interventions at different scales from the material, architectural to the urban. The ambition is to reconsider traditional design methodologies which are often limited to morphological abstraction, overlooking the inherent potentials within natural systems.

Director

Kais-al-Rawi

Website

jordan.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

JOD



QUICK GUIDE

CHINA

SuperReal

Beijing, 18–26 January 2014

Urban Formation

Shanghai, 18–26 July 2014

JAPAN

Koshirakura

Landscape Workshop /

The City After-Image

Koshirakura Village

& Tokyo, Summer 2014

KOREA

Emerging Corporate

Territories: Trade of Shades

Seoul, 11–21 August 2014

MALAYSIA

Streetware Penang

Penang, 5–12 July 2014

NOMADIC STUDIO

Unknown Fields:

A World Adrift

July 2014

TAIWAN

Taiwan Project

Tainan and Taichung,

29 March – 7 April 2014

Generative-Glass:

RoboGlass

Taipei, 28 July – 5 August

2014

THAILAND

Without Briefs

Bangkok, 9–17 December

2013



The nine workshops overleaf are surely not all that will happen in Asia this year, so keep your eye out for new announcements in India, Singapore and China throughout 2013/14. Mark Cousins and Jing Rakpanya are unveiling (if that's the right word) 'Without Briefs' in Bangkok in December, while Shin Egashira's remarkable design and build project in the small and very special Japanese village of Koshirakura continues (as does his companion programme in Tokyo) alongside Tom Verebes's massive digital urban investigations in Shanghai, which is dramatically different again from Kate Davies's and Liam Young's entirely seaborne workshop that will take two dozen students on the journey of a lifetime along some of the world's key supply chains and cargo routes. In a whole different vein Immanuel Koh leads a creative exploration into the role of glass with new computational / interactive / fabrication production processes. That's not to mention the myriad of urban and architectural scale projects being devised in Beijing, Penang, Seoul and Tainan and Taichung.



Photo Jing Rakpanya



9–17 December
2013

Many critics say that the scope of an architect's design work is being continuously eroded. The constraints of the brief, the budget, building and planning regulations, and the rise of the influence of rendering companies are all reducing the architect's creative share. The objective of this workshop is to show that this can be reversed if the architect is allowed to 'design' the institution which is to be built. This requires that the architect understands, and is able to analyse, how institutions work using a new form of notation or drawing. In effect, this abolishes the need for a brief.

Using the site known as Happyland, participants will be invited to design the institutional form as well as the physical form of an organisation that has the following objectives: to allow graduates of different design fields to occupy studio space which will also be used for exhibitions, concerts, meetings and seminars. Participants will be asked to undertake the design of the institution and its architecture in one integrated process. For part of the workshop we will be joined by AA Intermediate Unit 5, led by Ryan Dillon.

Director

Mark Cousins
Jing Rakpanya

Local currency

THB



Su(pe)rReal-Observer

18–26 January
2014

SuperReal is about the manipulation of mass information in the Big Data Era. Due to the development of multi-media technologies, everyone is submerged in the data ocean. Instead of generating forms and effects, the key of SuperReal is how to parameterise the information mapping, whether visible or invisible, with visual communication. Various multi-media tools will be used to collect, process and present data. The workshop will start with exercises of data mapping and visualisation through parametric modelling tools.

The surreal emerges when we represent and reproduce the SuperReal data through a multi-media medium, which promotes an interactive response between clients and users. The representation of SuperReal is the project itself, meaning iterative feedback from the statistical database to inspirational presentations will generate the design concepts. In this workshop, we will borrow techniques and knowledge from the film, animation and gaming industries, to produce the super-real surreal architecture in between the virtual and the real space.

Director

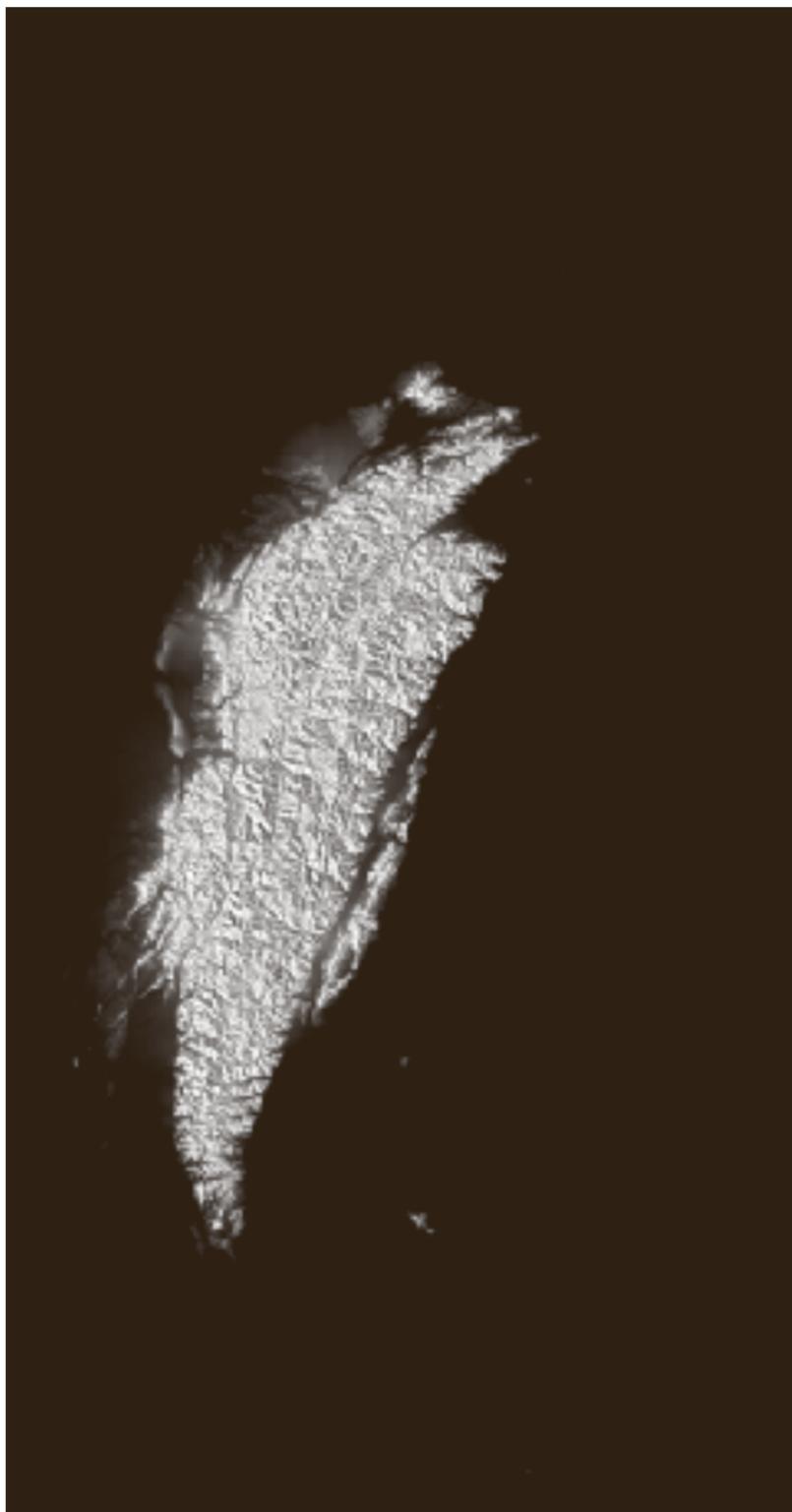
Li Qun Zhao

Website

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Local currency

RMB



Taiwan DEM © NASA

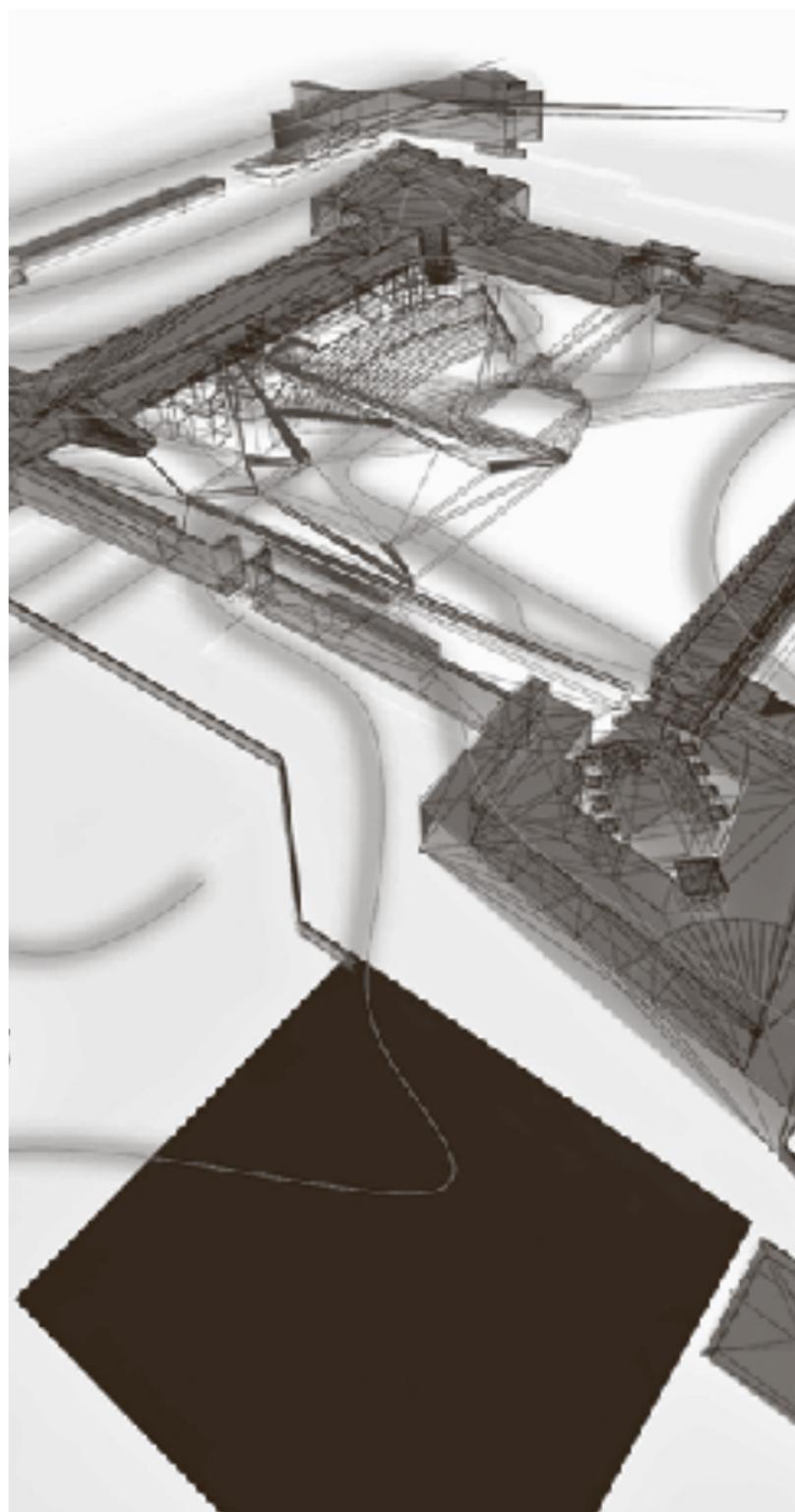
29 March –
7 April 2014

Taiwan Project continues its investigation into the transformation of contemporary Taiwan. Observing its transformation processes, it sets out to understand the complex forms of cohabitation of Taiwan, where material forms and institutional frameworks are rapidly shifting. Set in motion by forces acting both above and beneath the state, the forms of the inhabited territories of Taiwan are undergoing change at different speeds and rhythms. Rapid growth is flanked by slow decay, acceleration mixed with slow processes, large-scale extensions are reorganised by new intensities.

The field of forces that is reshaping Taiwan calls for a new architecture: one that is anchored in a deep understanding of its development and one that looks at the potentials, the resilient factors and the frictions implied in the vast reorganisation of its inhabited territories. Taiwan Project explores how architecture can interact with this process of complex change and lead to new forms of architectural action.

DirectorJohn Palmesino
Ann-Sofi Rönnskog**Local currency**

TWD



Streetware Penang, 2013



George Town – capital of Malaysia’s ‘heaven island’, Penang – will continue to be the focus of our research. This platform activates a design studio that questions the generic term of the street and foresees opportunities within the protected core of Penang, a UNESCO World Heritage site. The scale of study has increased during the last two summers from street-scale projects to exploring ideas to regenerate Fort Cornwallis and Komtar. This summer we will continue with bigger scale challenges and explore new sites that are key architectural projects to reactivate the core of George Town.

In collaboration with the local University, USM, we will explore the fusion of traditional and contemporary architecture to suggest a direction for the twenty-first-century development of George Town. Studio work will combine the use of emerging digital tools and material experimentation, and will be presented to relevant organisations in Penang followed by a publication distributed in Europe and Asia.

Director

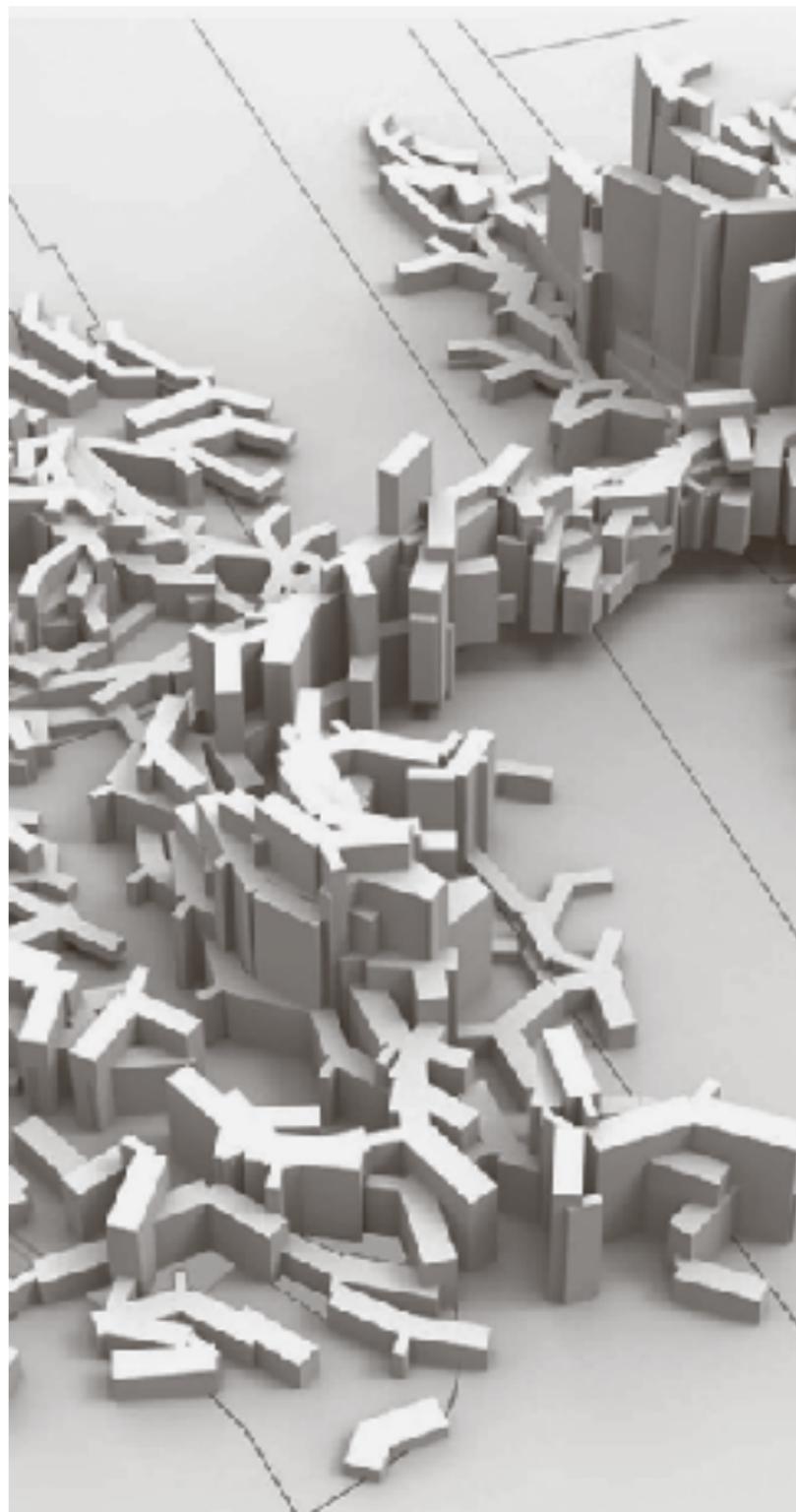
Naiara Vegara

Website

penang.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

MYR



Gilles Retsin (tutor); Sheng Xichen, Ma Sai, Luo Lan, Li Zehui (students), Shanghai Visiting School, 2013



18–26 July 2014

As an intensive nine-day, studio-based course, we will investigate cutting-edge computational design approaches in architecture and urbanism, as applied to issues related to Shanghai, a pre-eminent urban laboratory and one of the world's emblematic twenty-first-century cities. This year's topic concerns the challenges faced within the context of China's rapid urbanisation, targeting both the making of cities with distinct characters, and also an agenda charting the adaptive and resilient capacities of urbanism.

Given an increasingly indeterminable future, contingent on the complex interaction of the diverse forces which shape the city, this workshop will engage the paradox of top-down planning mechanisms and emergent processes of formation. Our aim is to introduce expertise in generative, algorithmic and parametric design approaches to complex urban formation and adaptation. Confronting the phenomenon of the Instant City, and the capability for cities to adapt to the changing forces which inform the city, we will experiment with design technologies associated to formative and evolutionary approaches to urbanism and architecture. Students will apply code-based and time-based modelling, morphogenetic generative techniques, and physics-based simulation, towards multiple, variable and recursive prototypes for a range of urban systems, driven by scenarios of future incremental, adaptive growth and change.

Director

Tom Verebes

Websiteshanghai.aaschool.ac.uk**Local currency**

RMB



Glass prototype made at Generative-Glass 2013, photo Lida Marinkova

Generative-Glass:
RoboGlass

Tittot Glass Art
Museum, Tamkang
University



28 July –
5 August 2014

Generative-Glass is an international experimental research programme designed to investigate the evolving role of glass as a physical material in design, art and architecture, as well as its potential relationship with new computational/interactive/fabrication production processes. Unlike most materials used in contemporary architectural design, glass has remained relatively inaccessible and unmanageable due to various factors associated with its material behaviour and cost. The ambition of this programme is to produce a body of work demonstrating ways in which the implementation of glass could be approached afresh via generative processes. We will incorporate industrial robotics and machinery during the glass-making processes to produce a series of physical glass prototypes. Led by a team of international architects/computational designers/glass artists/robotics specialists, students will experiment with both traditional glass-blowing/casting techniques and new digital fabrication processes to propose and implement alternative modes of glass-making.

Director

Immanuel Koh

Website

taipei.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

TWD



The world's most dangerous ocean



The Unknown Fields Division is a nomadic design studio that ventures out on expeditions to the ends of the earth to explore peripheral landscapes, industrial ecologies and precarious wilderness. These distant landscapes – the iconic and the ignored, the excavated, irradiated and the pristine – are embedded in global systems that connect them in surprising and complicated ways to our everyday lives. Each year we navigate a different global supply chain and seek to map the complex and contradictory realities of the present as a site of strange and extraordinary futures.

This year we travel east to ride the waves of massive container ships and trace the path of the world's material desires along supply chains and cargo routes, to explore the dispersed choreographies and atomised geographies that global sea trade creates. These are the contours of our distributed city, stretched around the earth from the hole in the ground to the high street shelf. Consignments of the precious and industrial, raw and refined, mechanical and alive, drift across infrastructural seas from factory floors via huge ports like Shanghai, Singapore and Busan and through the bottleneck excavations of Panama and Suez.

Directors

Kate Davies

Liam Young

Website

unknownfieldsdivision.com

Local currency

N/A



A building under construction in Manhattan's meatpacking district, photo Gregory Aiello

Emerging
Corporate

Territories:

Trade of Shades

Seoul

11–21 August

2014



Emerging Corporate Territories returns to Songdo, the newly finished corporate hub of South Korea, the wannabe Singapore-Hong-Kong international node of the booming economic future of North East Asia. Smart, LEED-certified and directly plugged into an airport, equipped with one Central Park and one Venice Canal, Songdo is the latest venture in the corporate real-estate bonanza.

So new and so fast with so much glass, and so few people walking down its streets, this sleek ghost town is not only waiting for its people but also itching to have its first architectural reading. So join us as we depart from the scale of the masterplan and delve into these shimmering buildings, to understand each node of this wired operational network through its own face and skin. Using the dominant form of the typical plan, the *deus ex machina* of architectural solutions, we will challenge this indiscriminating sprawl of towers strictly vertically. Each student will propose a full-bleed curtain-wall facade system, which will speak of feeders such as economic and technologic drivers as well as corporate aesthetics and architectural fetishes. What story will your facade want to project?

PS Invisible towers are forbidden.

Directors

Costantino di Sambuy

Jin Kim

Beom Kwan Kim

Website

korea.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

KRW



The City After-Image, Tokyo Workshop, 2013

Koshirakura
Landscape
Workshop /
The City
After-Image

Koshirakura
Village & Tokyo

Summer 2014



Two consecutive workshops offer contrasting visions of Japan from two extreme sites 200km apart, one rural and one urban. Participants are encouraged to apply for both workshops in order to document both landscapes.

Landscape Workshop, Koshirakura Village, Niigata

Launched in 1996, this workshop has evolved into an annual local event. Its agenda is to explore a form of social and cultural sustainability within the post-agricultural community of Koshirakura. A new phase of the programme will set out a long-term strategy via a series of experiments with locally available materials – such as timber, earth, stone and bamboo – filmmaking and informal events all running in tandem with Koshirakura's local festivals.

The City After-Image (AA Maeda Workshop) F-2 Site, Tokyo

The F-2 project – an ongoing redevelopment scheme in the Fujimi 2-Chome 10 Ban Area of central Tokyo – is probably the last example of urban transformation on this kind of scale in Japan. This workshop is planned as a series to coincide with key stages of demolition and construction and will take place over the next five years. Utilising spaces within the project site, it will explore alternative strategies for the creative use of urban spaces caught somewhere between scrap and buildings, while capturing moments through which hidden layers, interiority and sections reveal their narratives, documenting the surrounding city as a catalogue of beautifully incomplete objects.

Director

Shin Egashira

Website

koshirakura.org

Local currency

JPY

Pacific Highway 1 Visiting School: 1970 Chevrolet El Camino
350 V8, photo Goswin Schwendinger/MOV

AMERICAS



QUICK GUIDE

BRAZIL

Infrastructure Padrão FIFA
Rio de Janeiro, 15–24 April
2014

Liquid Urban Architecture
São Paulo, 22–31 July 2014

Jungle Watts
Lake Mamori, 4 August –
13 August 2014

CHILE

Wandering Above a Sea
of Fog / Workshop Deserta
Alto Patache and Santiago,
2–10 January 2014

COLOMBIA

Up the River,
Up the Mountain
Bogotá, Summer 2014

Nanotypologies
Medellín, Summer 2014

HAITI

Experimental Bamboo
2–12 January 2014

MEXICO

Productive Dystopias
Aditnáhta, 29 February 2014

PUERTO RICO

Play With Your Food
San Juan, 30 June –
11 July 2014

USA

Machining Adaptive Living
Los Angeles, 16–27 June
2014

Embedded Intelligence
New York, 21 July –
1 August 2014

Post-Industrial Landscapes
San Francisco, July 2014

Love and Crime – Basta!
presents: Windscreens
Pacific Highway One,
California, 13–24 August
2014

Marking the Forest III
Eugene, 14–24 August 2014

Interscaless Border City
Galveston Island, Texas,
August 2014



On this enormous continent there will be at least 15 different workshops in seven different countries – the northernmost one is in San Francisco and the southernmost one in Santiago. In between, there are new programmes in LA and NYC and one that will attempt to start even above SF, in Washington state. That's provided Goswin and his team can maintain the charge on their fleet of entirely electric cars aiming to travel down the entire Pacific Highway One. There will be a little bit of island hopping for the first time, with cuisine and bamboo providing the creative impetus for Drew Merkle's, Jorge Mendez's and Miguel Miranda's programme in Puerto Rico and John Osmond Naylor's in Haiti. And an island of a different sort, Lake Mamori, will provide the site for the first AAVS in the Amazon directed by Nacho Marti, while Anne Save de Beaurecueil and Franklin Lee continue their experimental workshops in Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo on the eve of the World Cup. Keep a look out for Buenos Aires and Mexico City later in the year and, as has become a typical expression in Bedford Square in the last six months: 'We'll see you in Aditnáta'.



Atacama Desert Centre

Wandering
Above a Sea of
Fog / Workshop
Deserta

Alto Patache
and Santiago

2–10 January
2014



The 2014 AA/MARQ Visiting School will return to the extreme conditions of the Atacama Desert in northern Chile, this time looking at Alto Patache, an outpost of the Atacama Desert Centre (CDA) located in the Tarapacá Region, just south of the city of Iquique. This extraordinary site includes coastal plains, cliffs and a mountain range, the geological synthesis of which combines to form a large cloud of mist, transforming the desert edge into a perpetual fog oasis. Drawn to this unique area, the CDA has been researching ways to mine this climatic oddity to alleviate some of the water-shortage problems endemic to the Atacama, including mist catchers – large sheets of fabric stretched over the mountain sides – which allow water to be harvested from an area recognised as the driest on earth.

The workshop will explore design proposals for architectural, infrastructural and landscape interventions that could further develop a research station in this unique place, extending the harvesting of water to the integration of other possible passive and low-tech techniques. After first travelling to Iquique, we will continue on to Alto Patache, where we will spend two nights in tents, exploring the site and its surroundings. Wandering Above a Sea of Fog is thus a peripatetic design studio and a working platform to explore geographical and climatic conditions, as well as cultures and people. The work will combine design and theoretical enquiry while investigating other architectural, art historical, philosophical, literary and cinematic references, all helping us to imagine scenarios for the possible futures of the Atacama Desert.

Director

Pedro Ignacio Alonso

Website

wanderingaboveaseaoffog.org

Local currency

CLP



John Naylor, Bamboo Forest, Marmelade, L'Artibonite



The past century has seen the eradication of all but 2 per cent of Haiti's trees, and bamboo is being increasingly grown as a solution not just for binding the exposed hillsides, but as a lightweight material for construction. The Haiti Visiting School asks students to develop a vision for bamboo architecture in Haiti: working in small groups each team will design a bamboo campus for a hillside site in Kenscoff, 12km south of Port au Prince. Over the course of the ten-day workshop students will be exposed to 3D modelling software and parametric programs which can test both the material characteristics and their response to the extreme seismic and climatic context of the site. Students will also be taught programs such as Creative Suite to present their final proposals in a competition format to a panel made up of local designers, international architects and the local community.

Director

John Osmond Naylor

Website

haiti.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

HTG



Behind the scenes of Aditnálta

Productive Dystopias

Aditnáлта



51°31'05.64" N
0°07'50.92" W

29 February
2014

*There is no utopia or dystopia; it is only a matter
of perspective.*

Submit a short 150-word statement on your interests
and medium of choice to visitingsschool@aschool.ac.uk

Are you game?

Director
Mond Qu

Website
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/aditnáлта

Local currency
MXN



William Yam, stadium infrastructure system



The nationwide protests in Brazil in June 2013 started in São Paulo, prompted by a 7 pence (20 centavos) increase in bus and metro fares. They grew into a series of protests about the overall dysfunction of many aspects of the Brazilian government. A main cause of complaint was the astronomical amount of money the government was spending on building and renovating stadiums for the 2014 World Cup in order to meet the required FIFA standards ('Padrão FIFA), while not investing in essential infrastructure. Protestors demanded that transport systems, hospitals and schools be built with the same standards being used for the football stadiums. The Visiting School will tap into the momentum of this movement and promote a series of interventions within the World Cup structures, proposing new public programmes and standards for their legacy. One strategy might include the privatisation of these spaces so that funds can be transferred to build high quality, much needed public buildings like hospital clinics and classrooms. The ten-day workshop will employ computational design and digital fabrication to introduce a design methodology that creatively automates and promotes transformation, mutation and complexity for these infrastructure interventions.

Directors

Franklin Lee

Anne Save de Beurecueil

Website

rio.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

BRL



Los Angeles basin



16–27 June 2014

Los Angeles is known for its sub-urbanity and long history of innovative housing, driven by the latest technological developments and social movements. In stark contrast to old world urban development formed over centuries, Los Angeles and its American sister cities, Atlanta and Houston, present a vastly different argument for how people live within a distributed network of streets and highways defined by the automobile.

We seek, in the spirit of the case study project and its antecedents, to go beyond re-mastering current attitudes driven by contemporary issues of parametric design, sustainability, new materialisation and digital fabrication and hypothesise future modes of living, informed by the present. How will they relate to the recently institutionalised redefinitions of what constitutes a 'family'? What are the new demographics and lifestyles to consider? Where will our society lead us and how can architecture forestall negative trends in a redemptive drive to once again adopt its leading role in a projective practice.

Directors

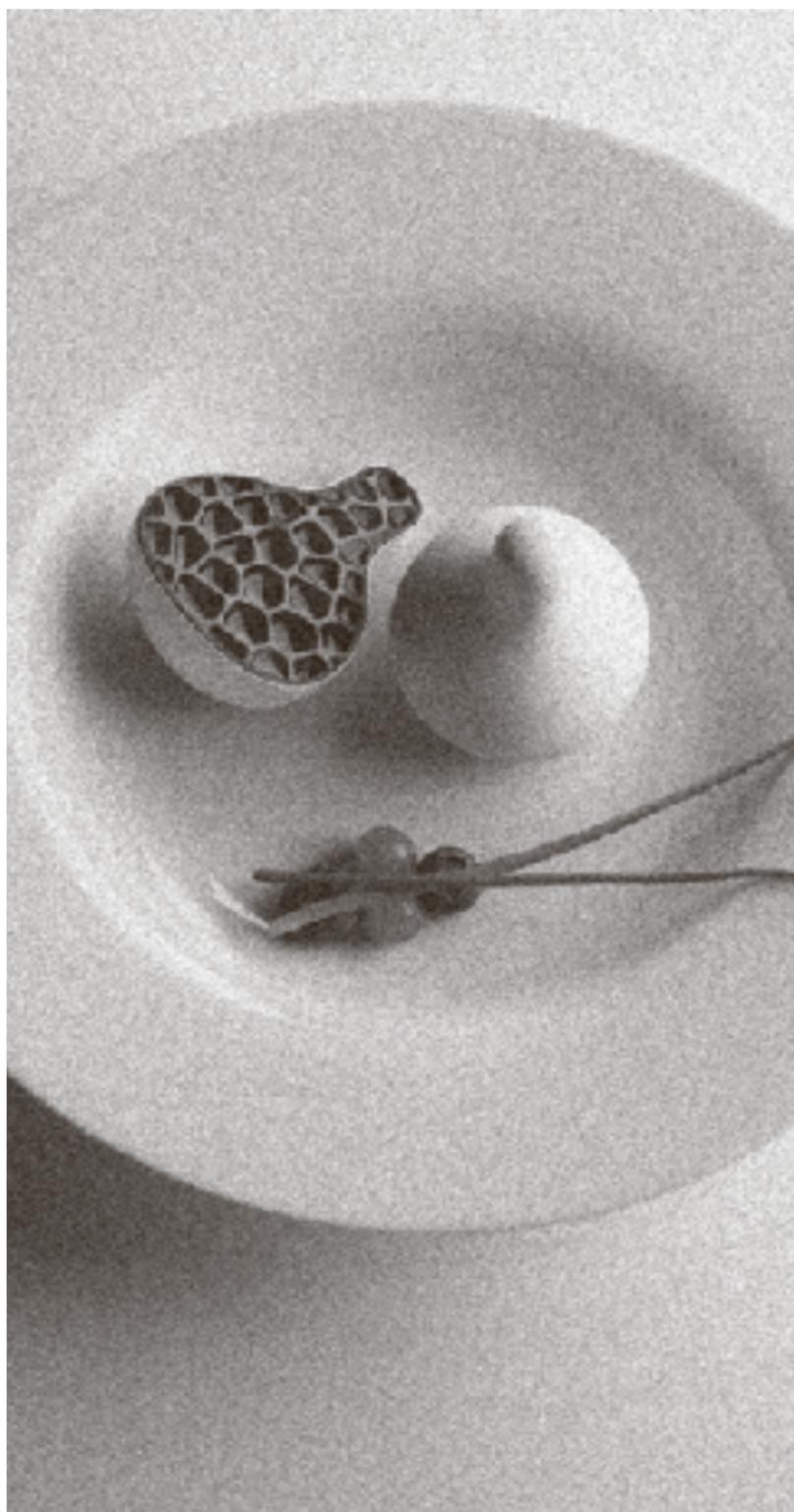
Alvin Huang
Kevin Patrick McClellan

Website

losangeles.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

USD



3D printed yogurt plum, from Philips Design Probes © Philips



30 June –
11 July 2014

The AA San Juan Visiting School, Play With Your Food, in collaboration with Universidad de Puerto Rico, will aim to bridge the gap between the fields of architecture and gastronomy in a highly specific and uniquely localised manner. The school will strive to associate their similarities and differences, in order to discover intrinsic characteristics and establish relationships between the two, whilst also attempting to feed and grow the knowledge base, design approach and thought processes of both fields in a very experimental yet practical manner.

The future of food relies on scientists working on new technologies that allow us to alter the chemical components and properties of the foods and beverages we consume. It is now possible to print in edible materials, using the same technology that an architect or product designer would use to print a 3D model. From these inventions and advances has emerged a new breed of designer in the kitchen who can use these experiments to create a new dimension in texture and structure while allowing the exploration of endless possibilities on aesthetics.

Directors

Drew Merkle
Jorge Mendez
Miguel Miranda

Website

sanjuan.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

USD



Gantry Plaza State Park, photo Kai Brinker



21 July –
1 August 2014

In nature, systems perform optimally through the effective differentiation of matter and hierarchy, from the material organisations of shells to the social behaviour found in bee colonies. In material systems, such as tortoise and lobster shells, variable stiffness achieves structural rigidity while maintaining flexibility within a single surface. In social collective systems, ants and bees employ finely choreographed rule sets to establish robustness within a single colony or nest. Across the many scales of natural phenomena, intelligence in variation and distribution leads to highly effective and differentiated performance.

This ten-day intensive workshop will investigate the concepts, logic, and organisation of hierarchical distribution in biological systems for the design and construction of a full-scale continuous surface structure. We will combine material research and computational design methods as a means of developing optimal digital fabrication strategies. We will explore the possibility for biological models to influence and enhance architectural systems, wherein intelligence is embedded through differentiated yet continuous performative surfaces. Finally, we will design and construct a composite structure on the East River, responsive to the river's flows and fluctuations and serving as a prototype for future research and development.

Directors

Gil Akos

Evan Greenberg

Ronnie Parsons

Website

newyork.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

USD



Liquid Urbanism, Campo de Marte Index Mesh

Liquid Urban
Architecture

International
Festival of
Electronic
Language,
São Paulo



22–31 July 2014

The new São Paulo city government has launched a major design feasibility-study competition inviting architects, urban designers and other experts to focus on the redevelopment of the bordering territories along the Tiete River. The site includes a larger system of connected rivers and water bodies that together comprise a peripheral ring of under-utilised and largely polluted water bodies and their post-industrial riverbanks. In the 1960s, much of the system was disastrously canalised which removed some 27km of river course, causing flooding and other environmental problems. Liquid Urban Architecture will work on developing both a new type of urban fabric and new architectural typologies along the river. The focus will be on developing ecological buildings that emerge from and within newly formed urban artificial wetland systems that restore the floodplains and natural sedimentation of the river bodies. During the workshop, advanced computational design and digital fabrication will be used to simulate and generate environmentally-sensitive urban and architectural models that are responsive to a number of natural forces including sun, wind, vegetation and water. The workshop will create a type of environmentally-sensitive architecture that is formed by a new 'liquid urbanism'.

Directors

Franklin Lee

Anne Save de Beurecueil

Website

saopaulo.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

BRL



3D scan of the projection installation in the lecture theatre, Ottawa Visiting School, 2013



July 2014

The AA Visiting School San Francisco follows in the footsteps of the first settlers in search of a new arcadia. Our ground though has shifted from the purely physical land to the ephemeral world of a billion active Facebook users and up to a million tweets an hour – we are but points in an expanding cloud. We set out to define architecture as spatial interface – negotiating the ephemeral brave new digital world and our physical urban environment, defining inhabitation of a new augmented horizon. We will study and apply the phenomena of augmented spaces, ranging from the baroque (constructed singular central viewing position, early panoramas, etc); modern cinematic constructs to today's sublime participatory game environments. We will use a wide range of immersive and 3D projection softwares such as VVVV and Unity and an array of digital fabrication techniques to build architectural prototypes, exploring the thin line between digital and physical, between the sky and the Pacific. We will design and build the physical substrate and its digital intelligence in the form of flyable units, architectural kites on which to project a new horizon. These prototypical follies will become a fragment of an assembled whole, testament to the new territories in between – the pearly gates of cyberspace as once defined by Margaret Wertheim.

Director

Tobias Klein

Website

postindustriallandscapes.org

Local currency

USD



Jerson's house at night



4 August –
13 August 2014

Mamori is a lake 65km south of Manaus, in the heart of the Brazilian state of Amazonas. The inhabitants of the region are ‘caboclos’, descendants of the first Portuguese colonisers who settled in the area two centuries ago and mixed with the local indigenous population. While the lake is relatively close to the city of Manaus, electricity only reached Mamori five years ago. Its arrival is offering new possibilities of growth and development but is also changing the way villagers live and interact with the environment. Appliances and other forms of technology are arriving to the area changing the behavioural patterns of the locals. The introduction of these appliances is accompanied by new materials, products and substances that are not well managed when they become waste.

Within this scenario of ‘modernisation in the making’, floods, extreme sun exposure, heavy rainfall, hot temperatures and imported products, the participants of the workshop will speculate about systems of different scales that can offer new insights into the development of the Amazon rainforest. Through the use of quantifiable data collection, parametric modelling, computational analysis and simulation, students will propose systemic architectural strategies that can shed some light on this critical conjuncture.

Director

Nacho Marti

Website

amazon.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

BRL



1970 Chevrolet El Camino 350 V8 on Pacific Highway 1, photo Goswin Schwendinger / MOV

Love and Crime
Basta! presents:
Windscreens

Pacific Highway
One, California



13–24 August 2014

The Research Team of Cinematic Operations (RTCO) continues this year with photographic observations of the moving landscape documented through car windscreens. The Pacific Coast Highway will be our dedicated line of travel. Through the use of still cameras we seek to understand the impact of speed on the interrelation of individual understanding and general perception of the notion of space. The supposed control of passing time lends us the opportunity for a greater visual and contextual analysis. The constant disappearance of memory will allow us to reflect on our lived reality through still images in relation to time, place and community. We will see the collection of images as an open-ended model of articulation and an attempt to reflect on the ever-changing conditions of existence. A fleet of American cars will take us from motel to motel on our journey from Olympia to Capistrano Beach. On the way we will have the opportunity to talk to urbanists, photographers, artists and architects. Our aim is to project our on-going work at a drive-in cinema.

Director

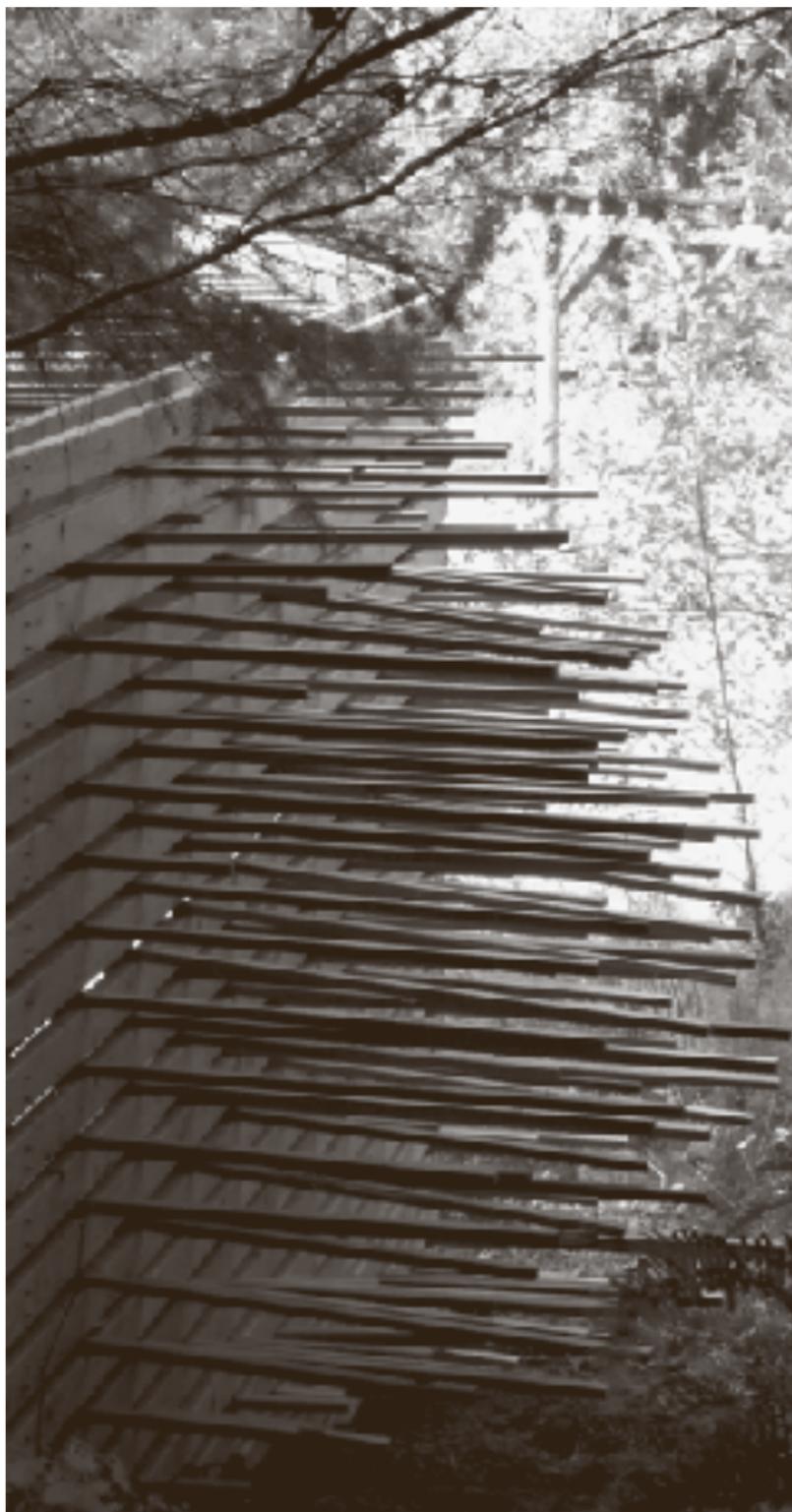
Goswin Schwendinger

Website

rtco.org

Local currency

USD



Amplifier, Marking the Forest, Eugene Visiting School, 2013

Marking the Forest III

Eugene



14–24 August
2014

Marking the Forest returns to the Oregon wilderness for a third year to invent, imagine, design and build an insertion into the forest. Exploring the old and new growth woodlands and the commercialisation and commodification of the tree, we will investigate the natural life-cycle of the forest and propose solutions for thoughtfully marking and occupying its terrain. In the first year of the workshop we created an occupiable camera obscura and an oculus sited within the woodland to articulate the contrast of the immediate forest and the distant view across the ridge; in year two we invented and created the Amplifier which enhances the transition from the meadow to the dense forest. This year we will be investigating an architecture that marks territories in the woodland through routes of inhabitation, forest talks from naturalists, environmentalists and loggers. We will visit mills and walk the ridge, all of which will inform our design sessions. Our final evening will see us toasting our successes with a 'feast in the forest'.

Directors

Kristin Cross
Stewart Dodd

Website

eugene.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

USD



Galveston Island, photo Victoria Goldstein



August 2014

Interscaless studies the intersection of computational tools and material systems across scales to explore innovative relations between the city, architecture and public space. This year we will go to the beaches of Galveston and work on a leisure-scape tied to coastal infrastructural bridges and piers. We will address scale as a specific architectural device to bring together innovative ideas across the design spectrum and apply them to generative methodologies. From urban design strategies to discrete interventions, the group will explore the immensity of the Gulf of Mexico that feeds into the Houston ship channel. Wild hurricanes and turbulent history have shaken Galveston in the past couple of centuries. Climate controlled interior environments and endless miles of beaches will serve as a platform to develop an intersection between infrastructure, city, nature and public space.

Director

Victoria Goldstein

Website

houston.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

USD



Prototype in plywood, Bogotá Visiting School, 2013



Summer 2014

After departing from the Caribbean coast and exploring unknown territory for a year, Spanish conquerors founded Bogotá on the site of a native settlement. They went up rivers and mountains, eventually arriving at the place where a city of 8 million people now thrives. The foundation and subsequent development of Bogotá cannot be addressed without considering the local geography.

Bogotá's macro condition will be collapsed into the scale of a space for two people. Parametric design techniques will allow us to simultaneously understand some of the city's regional features and explore novel ways to design and construct at small scales. We will go beyond formalism and mimicry of phenomena. Using Bogotá's geographical data, processed with a set of generative algorithms and grounded by digital fabrication constraints, we will design and build an 8m³ space. Exploring by making, understanding by speculating, our ideas on architecture and the city will be challenged.

Director

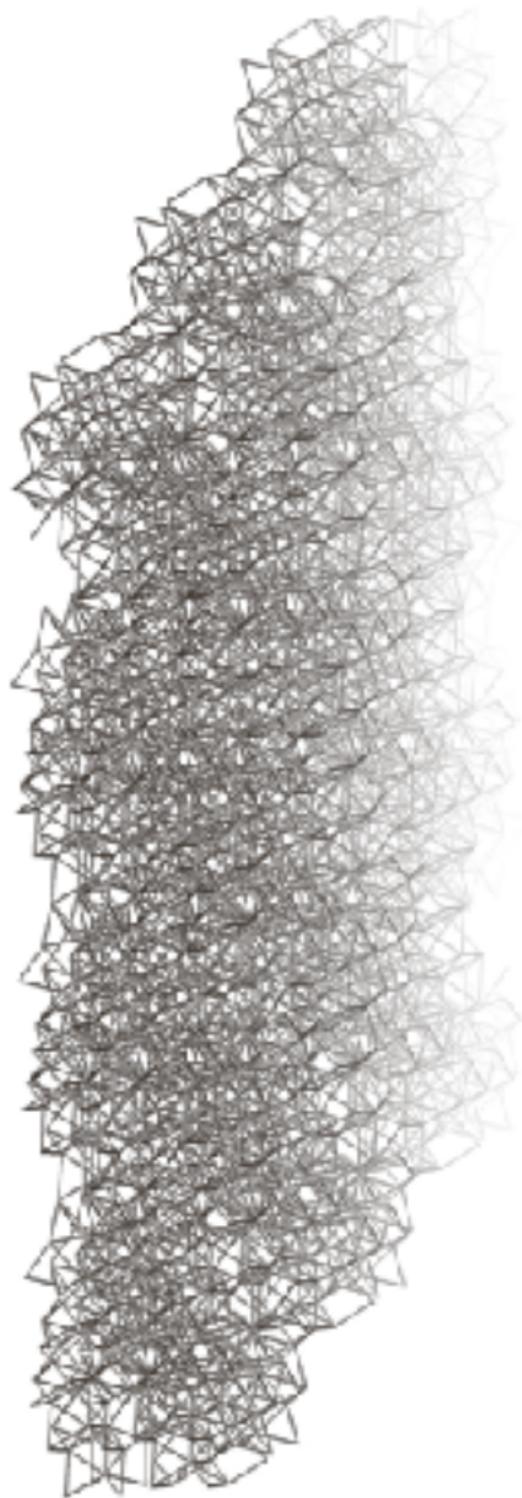
Diego Perez-Espitia

Website

bogota.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

COP



Sergio Pineda, Chemical Formula: Br₃ La₉ Sb₁₆



Furthering our investigation into the unique environmental conditions of Medellín, this second workshop will be situated at the intersection of the science of nanoparticles and the design of thresholds in space. Our conviction is that designers and architects can learn from matter at molecular level, and that formal strategies found at nanoscales can be used as diagrams with multi-scalar potential. The last few decades have seen in molecular chemistry a momentous effort to catalogue more than one million different crystalline structures in a number of datasets. Through crystallographic symmetry it is possible to aggregate base components found in the datasets to create geometries with characteristics such as mono-directional porosity, multi-directional permeability and varied combinations of flexibility and strength. Bespoke programming and digitised manufacturing will allow us to explore how these formations can assume a transformative role in the design of optical thresholds, environmental lattices and structural conjectures. These investigations will be implemented in scenarios across Medellín, in pursuit of a dialogue with the unique atmospheric conditions of the city.

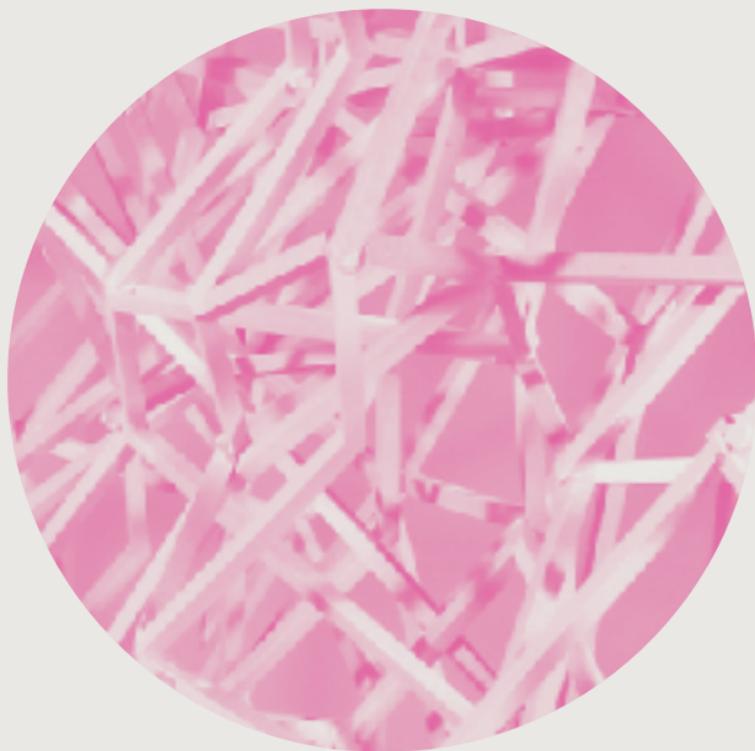
Director

Sergio Pineda

Websitemedellin.aaschool.ac.uk**Local currency**

COP

AUSTRALIA



QUICK GUIDE

BROKEN HILL

Arid Garden

July 2014

MELBOURNE

Independents' Group

November 2013 – June 2014

SYDNEY

ma·trix

28 January –

7 February 2014



Another part of our Independents' Group team hail from RMIT, where you'll find two research projects already underway and that you can follow on the AA website. Jeffrey P Turko is back, with his buddy Iain Maxwell (aka Maxi), re-launching our collaboration with UTS for a new stint about 'space', and following the spirit to develop programmes in far flung places as well as the world's megalopolises, Fionnuala Heidenrich will lead a group to Broken Hill in New South Wales to speculate on the landscape as a site of dynamic economic and psychological production. It's the most that the AAVS has ever had going on down under!



Fibre Cement Factory

Independents'
Group

RMIT Melbourne
& AA School
London



Technological
Abundance

November 2013
– June 2014

The Independents' Group (IG) is an international research platform for interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration that brings together leading academic and industry partners to develop prototypes for the future of the built environment. It aims to enable new models of collaborative practice and to address divisions between academia and practice; between design culture and industry; between different sectors of the building industry.

For 2013, four fellowships are being offered by the AA London and RMIT University, Melbourne under the shared research agenda of Technological Abundance. In London, two fellows will work within the local agenda Re(form) to develop novel architectural and technical systems for the adaptation of existing buildings. In Melbourne, two fellows will work within the local agenda Rapid(Form) to investigate novel lightweight architectural systems that are easily transportable and quickly erected in the remote Australian interior.

The fellowships will provide academic research guidance, connection to a network of industry expertise, and financial support for project-related costs over a six-month period. A school workshop and conference will engage interested members of the school community and communicate outcomes to a wider public audience.

Director

Alan Dempsey

RMIT

Mark Burry
Jane Burry
Nicholas Williams

Website

independentsgroup.net

Local currencies

AUD
GBP



Matrix Model, photo Tom Lea



28 January –
7 February 2014

ma-trix /'mātriiks/ – a situation or surrounding substance within which something else originates, develops, or is contained.

Architectural space is traditionally composed through a small number of spatial elements: walls, ceilings, beams, columns and the like. The number of these elements typically varies from 6–20, while the much celebrated free-plan of modernity sought a further reduction towards the rendering of 'universal' space. The AA Visiting School Sydney will speculate upon spatial constructs. Through the deployment of ultra-high populations of spatial and tectonic assemblies we will explore the organisational potentials of fields, gradients, porosities, flows and granularities to augment new architectural experiences and spatial relationships. The aim of this two-week workshop is to arrive at discrete spatial outcomes through the development of non-discrete architectural constructs.

Director

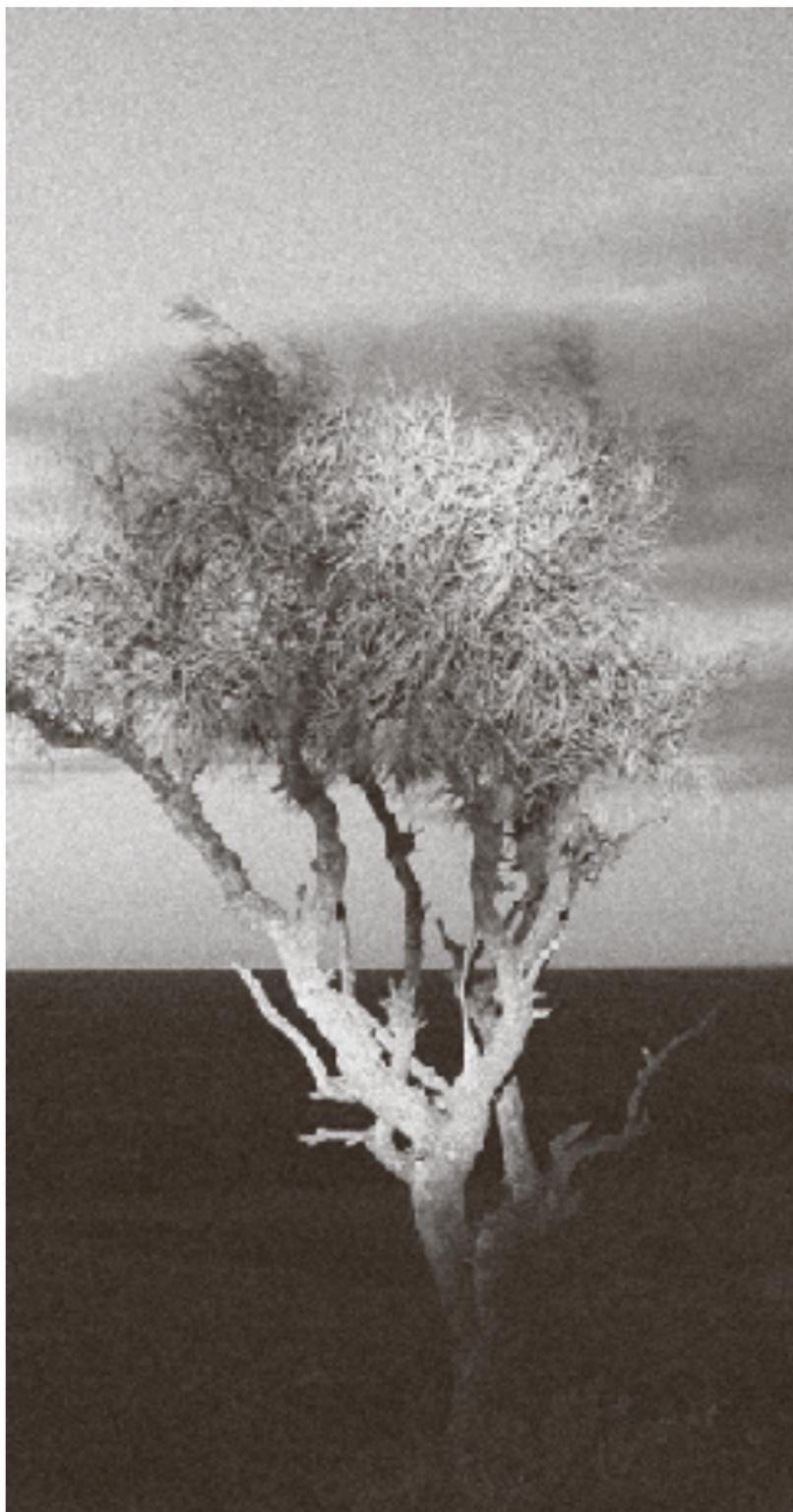
Jeffrey P Turko

Website

sydney.aaschool.ac.uk

Local currency

AUD



Louise Fowler Smith, Remains of the Day



July 2014

In 1883 a boundary rider named Charles Rasp stumbled upon the world's largest ore body of lead, silver and zinc when patrolling fences in the arid western regions of NSW, Australia. Within 20 years the town named Broken Hill had accumulated a population of 20,000 and had established the Broken Hill Proprietary Company (BHP), the nation's richest mining company which for the next 50 years would supply Australia's major source of export income and until more recently, would also provide the town with its main source of employment. The figure of the isolated and psychologically tested miner, dwelling in remote towns like Broken Hill, would subsequently appear in cinematic depictions of the unyielding landscape during Australia's golden age for film production in the 1970s. In films such as *Wake in Fright*, directed by Ted Kotcheff, the vastness of the landscape appears either as an uncharted terrain or as an oppressive anxiety laden constraint. In the territories of Broken Hill, the landscape exists not only as a space of valuable economic production but also as a dynamic entity that demands to be engaged with and registered on a psychological level. Taking a lead from Lefebvre's notion of the production of space, students will seek out and address the possible survival methods of a town in industrial decline. Moving between the contexts of the urban and the individual, from the realms of scientific observation to the sensorial, students will be asked to comprehend the space as lived in, as conceived and as perceived. A series of site specific themes will be addressed, such as the relationship between scarcity and value. We will then use methods of sampling and assemblage to respond to these issues which will subsequently provide supporting evidence for a series of propositions.

APPLICATIONS & FURTHER INFORMATION

Please visit the AA Visiting School website where you will find further information for each programme, including details of how to apply, fees, entrance and visa requirements:

www.aaschool.ac.uk/visiting

Alternatively, to obtain further information or to register for any of the programmes listed in this Prospectus please contact:

Director

Christopher Pierce

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visiting-school@aa-school.ac.uk

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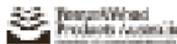
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UN UNITED NATIONS



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VISITING.AASCHOOL.AC.UK

The AA Visiting School (AAVS) is a world-wide network of short courses, design workshops, research programmes and public forums, held across five continents in fifty or more locations each year.

The AAVS is a vital and living extension of the Architectural Association School of Architecture, which also embodies the cultural and learning ethos of our many partners who share with us a belief that architecture, like other human, cultural and educational endeavours, benefits indelibly by bridging the chasms opened by the accelerating realities of global knowledge economies and professional practices in our time. Inside this prospectus you will discover a unique educational and cultural programme and we hope that you will find an opportunity to bring your own experience, agendas and aims to join in and add to conversations, discussions and debates made possible by all these very different programmes.



ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION
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