Visiting School
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From Buenos Aires to Berlin and Los Angeles to Seoul, Sydney, Makkah and onto the Amazon jungle, each year the AA Visiting School (AAVS) takes more than 1,000 participants on unimaginable journeys encompassing five continents and countless cultures in order to experiment with and discover architecture.

Each one of the more than four dozen programmes featured in this booklet opens the door to all kinds of unseen places where making things you’ve never before imagined and learning things you didn’t know were possible become part of your everyday. It’s a truly out-of-this-world experience, filled with projects, symposia, exhibitions and screenings, that makes anyone involved part of a unique global network of architectural innovation and cultural exchange.

AAVS concerns itself with architectural education in its widest possible conception. In the next 12 months these studios, laboratories and mobile offices, will generate dozens of events, exhibitions and opportunities that demonstrate just how much can be done in a short-course format and the impact it can have not only on participants but also on local communities around the world. Two of these events are based at the AA. On Friday 24 October 2014 the AAVS will hold its annual Global Summit, where in an evening of pecha kucha-style presentations programme directors will relive the adventures of their workshops; from 17 January to 27 March 2015 a portion of the unbelievable array of output from these programmes will be exhibited in the Graduate Gallery. And whether you’re in Shanghai, Dubai or just down the street from the AA, don’t forget to follow AAVS online for information about new programmes and initiatives that crop up across the globe.

Christopher Pierce
Director AA Visiting School
Introduction to AA Visiting School 2014–15
Brett Steele, Director AA School

The AA Visiting School (AAVS) launched in Dubai in early 2008, and has since grown into a worldwide programme of more than 50 annual courses, held on five continents in dozens of cities, territories and remote regions. These courses provide teaching and learning opportunities for students and other international participants to engage with – up close, and led by AA tutors and other experts – many of the world’s most pressing architectural, technological, cultural, urban and social issues.

The short-course offerings in the Visiting School are open to visiting students enrolled at schools throughout the world, currently-enrolled AA students, recent graduates, architects and other creative individuals who wish to further their knowledge, practice and skills in architecture. Over the past six years thousands of participants have travelled to the main AA School here in Bedford Square; to Hooke Park, the AA’s rural campus in Dorset in the West Country of England; or to one of the dozens of unique, one-off destinations that have served as the setting for AA Visiting School courses.

Visiting School Course Offerings

The Visiting School offers three distinct kinds of courses: a semester programme for visiting students to study alongside AA students in the full-time AA Undergraduate School; the AA Summer School and other short courses organised at the main AA School in Bedford Square or out at its rural campus in Hooke Park; and short, intensive Global Schools led by AA tutors overseas – in 2014–15 in more than 50 cities and regions. This year’s Visiting School also launches Little Architect, which seeks to bring an awareness of architecture and cities to schoolchildren across London’s schools.

Visiting School Teaching and Learning

All courses within the Visiting School are modelled on the AA’s famed unit system of teaching and learning architecture – through the pursuit of agenda-driven project briefs shaped by students working intensively in small groups in studio tutorials with AA tutors. In the Visiting School, the agendas of each course offering relate closely to the geographic and cultural conditions of each course setting. This provides a rare opportunity for participants from near and far to engage with local forms of expertise, providing the kind of unique, globalised learning experience only possible when an international group is brought together. Visiting students from the local regions and much further afield make up the student body of each course.
Creative Learning Partnerships

Visiting School courses are led by AA tutors who serve as course directors setting agendas and organising local (and more distant) teachers and contributors. With the exception of Visiting School courses in Bedford Square and at Hooke Park, all Global Schools are organised to allow AA tutors to teach jointly alongside teachers from the partner schools and organisations that serve as host venues for each course.

In the past six years, AA Global Schools have been held in more than 100 of the world’s leading schools, cultural centres and other settings. Each year the work from these Global Schools is brought back to London and presented at the AA. New 2014–15 Global Schools – including Aarhus, Thessaloniki, Rotterdam, Jeddah, Mamori Lake, Brazil and many others – join the 45 which already exist to upon recent years’ successes.

Agenda-Driven, Project-Based Learning

A central feature of each AA Visiting School programme is that experimental, new and provocative forms of architecture are best learned by doing – by embedding a group of creative students and tutors in settings so that intensive exploration, discovery and work can be brought to bear on one highly refined, closely defined project, problem or possibility. In this way the Visiting School provides students and other creative individuals with an opportunity to sample and gain knowledge, and experience the AA School’s core beliefs, including its unique and influential ways of teaching and working. In doing so the Visiting School promotes, tests and challenges global and international interests in architectural learning and exchange.

For More Information

The following 2014–15 Visiting School Prospectus lists each of this year’s course offerings by continent. From the UK and Europe, to the Middle East, Asia, Latin and North America, the coming year offers a range of new and unexpected learning opportunities. Please visit the AA Visiting School website for information on 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 the Visiting School team:

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Berlin 2013, Island State (above); Beijing 2014, SuperReal (left); London 2013, Campaigning Architecture (opposite above); Mamen Domingo, Pati Nuñez, Yael Reisner, Peter Cook, Jane Burry, Ferran Sagarra and Karin Hofert at the Barcelona 2014 final jury (opposite below)
(opposite) Liechtenstein 2014, Alpine AA; Summer Dlab 2013, Hooke Park (above); Taiwan 2014 (below)
AA School, London

Autumn Semester Programme
8 September – 19 December 2014

Spring Semester Programme
12 January – 24 April 2015

Visiting Teachers’ Programme
May 2015

Summer School
Eccentricity
6–24 July 2015

t-sa forum x AA
London Re-Novation Research: Dialogue with the Past
31 August – 25 September 2015

Night School
Ongoing

Hooke Park, Dorset

MakeLab
7-11 April 2015

Maeda Workshop
Spring–Summer 2015

SummerMAKE 2015:
Live Cabaña
19 July – 1 August 2015

AA Summer DLAB 2015: RED
27 July – 14 August 2015

LociMAKE: Mad Hatter’s Tea Party 2015
6–12 September 2015

Elsewhere

Aditnálta
Aditnálta! A crusade on the world wide web
July 2015

London Primary Schools
Little Architect
Ongoing
UNITED KINGDOM
AA School, London
Autumn Semester Programme
London. In Between
8 September – 19 December 2014
London. In Between studies the physical and digital realms of the city and aspires to reshape the sites of the future in the context of new functionalities.

An emerging urban scale redefines London’s city outline while at the same time heritage policies protect listed urban environments. Our reading of urban context and character of place will be central to the unit agenda in defining the new city image. The unit will focus on a selection of inner city sites, focusing on design within transitional spaces and the image of the city at the intersection between past and future, old and new. Contextual mapping studies will challenge different urban typologies and will link new uses to existing character. Students will employ a range of 2D and 3D drawing techniques, from digital tools to modelmaking processes in developing their own mapping techniques.

The programme aims to capture the intangible and tangible qualities of the site and dialogues between the unseen and seen elements that shape the rooted icons of London’s cityscape.

Programme Director
Naiara Vegara

London Primary Schools
Little Architect
Ongoing
Architecture surrounds us from the moment we are born and it will accompany and house us throughout our entire lives. Little Architect is an education and learning platform for teaching architecture in London’s primary schools.

The programme aims to teach children how to observe, understand and enjoy architecture and the built world and to become part of a more sustainable future. Our in-school projects and workshops are organised around interesting, creative and fun, cross-curricular activities for five- to nine-year-olds. They promote observing and drawing our city, encouraging creative and positive thinking and are organised around projects on transportation, urban flora and fauna, buildings, heritage, energy, regeneration and community.

Programme Director
Dolores Victoria Ruiz Garrido
AA School, London
Spring Semester Programme
Cartagena. Naval District
12 January – 24 April 2015

The city of Cartagena is a major naval base on the northern coast of Colombia. Reinventing and relocating this historic naval centre will be at the core of this unit’s agenda. The site is situated in a key location in the bay of Cartagena between the historical centre and the new tourist district of Bocagrande. Students will consider functional, visual, pedestrian and landscape connectivity and the potential of opening up the inward-looking site to accommodate a more flexible programme. Design proposals will deal with the current waterfront line that acts as the threshold between the water and the city. The programme will explore the context through 3D abstract data readings to the more sophisticated strategies for programmatic use and aesthetic presence. The reinvention of the naval district will be part of an urban transition, defining the character of the bay and setting a new urban precedent for the future of Cartagena.

Programme Director
Naiara Vegara

Hooke Park, Dorset
MakeLab
7–11 April 2015

MakeLab is a five-day programme engaging in innovative architectural design and fabrication experiments. Using custom-designed workflows incorporating on-site sensing and digital construction techniques, the programme explores new modes of design conception based on site-specific performance data. Making use of Hooke Park’s forestry and workshop resources, it offers the unique opportunity to explore experimental structures and methodologies at 1:1 scale.

This year the programme will focus on ‘performative envelopes’, designing and testing the potential environmental, social and ergonomic performance characteristics of lightweight and site-specific inhabitable structures. Using straightforward rule-based design processes, the projects will explore synergies between digital fabrication and the principles of generative design.

Projects will be developed by teams assisted by a multitude of specialist tutors from within and around the AA. 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.

Programme Director
Jeroen van Ameijde
**AA School, London**

**Visiting Teachers’ Programme**

**May 2015**

The AA’s innovative model as a place of education and debate attracts the interest of academic visitors from all over the world. As a response to this interest 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.

*Programme Director*

Hugo Hinsley

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**Hooke Park, Dorset**

**Maeda Workshop: Furnishing the Landscape**

**Spring – Summer 2015**

The Maeda workshop takes place at Hooke Park in Dorset and is open to AA students and members. Building on a series of workshops studying the context and landscape of the forest, the Maeda workshop will make further explorations into designing and building the main gates that will replace the existing one, which is reaching the end of its life. We will recontextualise the gate by setting out potential footpaths and collaborate with local artists, makers, historians and other interested parties on speculating and planning future events in the woods.

This will involve making site-specific furniture by taking sectional measurements directly from the landscape of Hooke Park. Participants are encouraged to join for both sessions.

*Programme Director*

Shin Egashira

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Maeda Workshop 2014, surveying the Goldsworthy gates
Aditnálta
Virtually: 66.33.220.113 [aditnalta.net]
Physically: TBC

Aditnálta! A crusade on the world wide web
July 2015

The internet is a place with unique vernaculars, cultures and locations; it is a place for one to explore, discover and design domains. Aditnálta is an island manifested on the internet; a cloud of immaterial dreams that continues to weave and stitch its way on the world wide web. This year we will travel to whimsical addresses with mystifying geographies to brave the dark side of the deep web. We will visit the nicestplaceontheinter.net, propagate wiki-leaks, explore the pixelated establishment of minecraft and teleport to the bits and bytes of second life. From this journey we will tell tales of the environments, draft new experiences, design new interventions and virtually spatialise the complex and contradictory world we live in. Come and join this adventure into the virtual, to navigate this dérive on Aditnálta.

AA School, London
Summer School
Eccentricity
6–24 July 2015

Like many global cities London is defined by its unchanging institutions and familiar, iconic imagery. The 2015 AA Summer School will challenge the ordinary and ask participants to design and re-describe London as a city of eccentricities made up of off-centre, unusual, even irreverent originals. This three-week studio will catapult London into a future released from the tyranny of urban predictability.

The course is aimed at people who want to change their architectural lives and experience first-hand the AA School’s famed unit system of teaching and learning architecture, driven by intensive agenda interests. Current students, recent graduates, architects, designers and other creative minds are all welcome.

This three-week, full-time course presents a challenging programme of design studios, field study, seminars and lectures. It offers participants diverse design approaches, agendas and techniques, and represents a uniquely intensive and intimate environment that aims to expand formal and intellectual resources.

Programme Director
Natasha Sandmeier
Hooke Park, Dorset
SummerMAKE 2015: Live Cabaña
19 July – 1 August 2015
AA SummerMAKE 2015 is a unique opportunity to engage in a two-week live architecture project at Hooke Park. This hands-on programme provides workshop-driven classes in design and making techniques and culminates in fabricating a 1:1 architectural intervention.

Participants are asked to design, make and live in their own living cabaña that grows with trees. Skills and techniques are taught, mentored and refined with 1:1 tuition by expert architects, timber specialists and fabricators. Processes include round-wood joinery, steam-bending, grafting, hybridisation, pleaching and live tree modification.

Programme Director
Luke Olsen

AA School, London & Hooke Park, Dorset
AA Summer DLAB 2015: RED
27 July – 14 August 2015
Summer DLAB experiments with the integration of algorithmic and generative design methodologies and large-scale digital fabrication tools. Continuing its colour-based agenda, Summer DLAB immerses in ‘red’ for its 2015 cycle as a starting point to investigate principles of natural formation processes and interpret them as innovative architectonic spaces. These concepts are carefully interwoven with spatial, performance-based and structural criteria in order to create full-scale working prototypes.

The three-week programme is formulated as a two-phase process. During the two-week initial phase, participants benefit from the unique atmosphere and facilities of AA’s London home. The second phase, lasting for a week, shifts to AA Hooke Park and revolves around the fabrication and assembly of a full-scale architectural intervention which unifies the design goals of Summer DLAB.
**AA School, London**  
*t-sa forum x AA*  
**London Re-Novation Research: Dialogue with the Past**  
31 August – 25 September 2015

t-sa forum led by Takero Shimazaki Architecture will continue to research the attitudes of British practices towards the renovation and rejuvenation of London’s historical and contemporary architecture. The summer workshop at the AA will explore these renovations, including projects by John Soane, Edwin Lutyens, Alison and Peter Smithson and Tony Fretton. Architects and artists working in the field are invited to help collate the types and methods by which history and memory are kept, erased or altered.

International students at any stage of their career are also invited to research, record, draw, make models and suggest visions for the future of towns and cities based on the exploration of the mature, dynamic and chaotic city that is London’s past and present. At a time when commercial overdrive and complete erasure of the past seem the only way for the new economic powerhouse nations, it is a great opportunity to visit London and to become immersed in the discoveries made in the city.

Programme Director  
Takero Shimazaki

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**Hooke Park, Dorset**  
**LociMAKE: Mad Hatter’s Tea Party**  
6–12 September 2015

The title LociMAKE originates from the expression genius loci, meaning 'spirit of the place' and for one week only Jim Tory of Jim Tory Furniture, and Peter Southall, of Sladersyard & Itre Workshop, will combine their insights, knowledge and master-craft skills towards an architecture built from pioneering woodworking techniques. The course teaches advanced skills in steam wood bending, joinery, cleaving, carving, timber framing and innovative woodworking techniques as the design develops. Participants will design and make a place to dine with the Mad Hatter. The workshop culminates in a Tea Party with leading practitioners and teachers of architecture and timber fabrication from the AA, Dorset and beyond.

Programme Director  
Luke Olsen
AA School, London
Night School
Ongoing
Night School is an ongoing series of events and activities that sit alongside the public programme, exhibitions and publications as another strand in the AA’s educational offering. Open to all – the AA community, students from other schools, architects and the general public, the programme explores architectural ideas, knowledge and culture through participative activities that have included bike and running tours of London (as well as pub crawls), book clubs at the AA bookshop and workshops.

Programme Director
Sam Jacob

Programme Coordinator
Danielle Hewitt

Night School 2014, route of the bike tour of the history of London’s social housing
Rotterdam, Netherlands
Spring 2015

Lyon, France
Chocolate and other Powders
23–30 June 2015

Barcelona, Spain
Bodega – Enological Metabolism
July 2015

Bilbao, Spain
Computing Topos IV
July 2015

Cyprus
AA Cyprus UN Buffer Zone
July 2015

Paris, France
AAtelier Paris: World Class v01, AAanatomies
July 2015

Vitanje, Slovenia
nanotourism
July 2015

Aarhus, Denmark
Rethinking Patterns: Exploring Heterogenic Structures
21–30 August 2015

Berlin, Germany
Building Laboratory
August 2015

Cologne, Germany
O M Unger’s Idea of the City
August 2015

Lugo, Italy
Lugo Land: Italian Photographic Topographies
August 2015

Muxagata, Portugal
Summer 2015

Madrid, Spain
Trans-Computational Membranes
2–12 September 2015

Thessaloniki, Greece
Thessaloniki: Revelations
October 2015
Rotterdam, Netherlands
Spring 2015
With a cocktail of famous architecture offices, benevolent institutions, think tanks, and abundant municipal resources, Rotterdam is subjected to a deluge of good intentions and creative interventions, all contributing to the apparently never-ending project of establishing urban vibrancy. The city seems to have everything but substance. It is a disequilibrium of infrastructure and use. What exactly is Rotterdam’s problem?

AAVS Rotterdam workshop consider this from multiple angles through analyses and creative interpretations of the city’s ‘core’ (or even its invisible cores) to locate where wished-for density and activity should be. In a city saturated by design, the workshop – the first in a cumulative multi-year programme – will focus first on learning how to look, and maybe on what to subtract, rather than what to add.

Programme Directors
Jan Nauta
James Wescott
Juliana Muniz Westcott

Lyon, France
Chocolate and other Powders
23–30 June 2015
The third edition of the Mud & Digital AAVS continues to cut its way through the pathless woods, working as an experimental lab to define new and innovative structures. We will embark on a two-part expedition, letting free our inner child to experiment with materials and building. We will use Elvis, the small robot to pour and spray mixes of earth, fibres, sand, olive oil, washing liquid. We will define new ingredients to improve the taste of our recipe together. Our energy will be deployed to reinvent new social realities, and to explore new alternatives in emergen(t)cy sustainable housing.

Programme Directors
Stéphanie Chaltiel
Marie-Perrine Plaçais

Lyon 2013, Synchronised Movements
Barcelona, Spain  
**Bodega – Enological Metabolism**  
**July 2015**

Bodega – Enological Metabolism centres its research on the associations that exist between wine and architecture in order to identify the influences they have on one another.

The workshop will run as two simultaneous experiments: an exploration of the senses, using wine as a raw material, which occurs as 1:1 installations to empirically test and provoke unusual sensorial effects on the body; the other, initiated from a methodological understanding of the winery as a machine, will dissect techniques and technologies involved in enological processes, leading to the speculative design of alternative winery models. Using digitally advanced techniques, the latter explorations will take the form of large-scale maps, models and prototypes.

**Programme Directors**  
Edouard Cabay  
Carles Sala

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Computing Topos IV  
**Bilbao, Spain**  
**July 2015**

AAVS Bilbao explores the question of ‘place’, or **topos**, and its recent radical transformation due to the proliferation and availability of environmental parameters. Departing from the notion of computing, understood as information processing, strategies of data mining and indexing are proposed as sensible readings of the site and the territory.

The workshop looks at datascapes that feed both macro and micro scales. The first half of the programme challenges participants to work at the macro scale to develop cartographical readings of Bilbao with the use of GIS software. In the second part, through the deployment of sensing devices and microclimate simulations, participants look at the variability of specific environmental parameters, such as CO₂ concentration or temperature gradients at the neighbourhood scale. The cartographies and microclimate surveys are re-articulated and informed through feedback mechanisms between scales.

**Programme Directors**  
Clara Olóriz Sanjuán  
Maider Llaguno Munitxa

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*Barcelona 2014, final presentations at Roca Barcelona Gallery*
Cyprus
AA Cyprus UN Buffer Zone
July 2015
This programme speculates on parametric urban scenarios for the UN Buffer Zone in Cyprus, a 180km-long demilitarised zone spanning the full length of the island. By moving location every year, the workshop maps the whole buffer zone (three per cent of the island), documenting local conditions and problems, exploring non-linear scenarios of targeted rehabilitation either via urban proposals or fabrication constructs. The programme now focuses on the island’s coastline and northern sea, promoting computational design and fabrication for providing solutions in relation to the UN refugee relief programme. The relation of a humanitarian crisis and the sea (as the only escape route) will be researched in an effort to fabricate floating components and constructions to assist the UN relief role.

Programme Directors
Pavlos Fereos
Michael Georgiou

Paris, France
AA Atelier Paris: World Class v01, AAnatomies
July 2015
A cultural appropriation and re-appropriation now pervades social media and the internet as a natural consequence of globalisation. From high street giants to make up artists, from critics to collaborations with architects, the fashion industry channels this phenomenon by summoning a single click on an image that takes consumer-viewers away to entirely non-existent worlds.

AAnatomies, the first summer agenda of AA Atelier, will exacerbate the current plethora of images that permeate eastern and western societies to challenge established conventions of newness, aesthetics and perception. The programme further seeks to generate a massive self-awareness through social media channels – via Facebook, Instagram and Tumblr (#aatelier #aavs). Spreading a new cultural vibe and hype breed to the propaganda of fast-fashion, AA Atelier 2015 will address, reassess and produce within five different units, finding common ground in digital authenticity, makeup, skins and textile transgressions, bespoke 3D garment production, zero-weight clothing and more.

Programme Director
Jorge Ayala
Vitanje, Slovenia
nanotourism
July 2015
Following last year’s examples of nanotourism between the institution of KSEVT and the community of Vitanje, AAVS Slovenia will extend the research field to local versus planetary.

The constructed term ‘nanotourism’ is a creative critique to the current environmentally and economically unsuitable effects of mainstream tourism. Our challenge is how to respond and create site-specific, bottom-up alternatives. Nanotourism aims for small and smart solutions and innovative design strategies that rely on local material and social resources. The course will research, design and make 1:1 prototypes of nanotourism based on three interrelated topics: place, user and material. All will aim for interventions that provide both spatial and social triggers to initiate temporary or long-term change. We will continually focus on further defining the term from our location at KSEVT building – a bold landmark in the small town of Vitanje – through collaborations with experts in the fields of art, science and architecture.

Programme Director
Aljoša Dekleva

Aarhus, Denmark
Rethinking Patterns: Exploring Heterogenic Structures
21–30 August 2015
The recent use of computation and parametric tools in architecture has brought about the potential of rapid variability. These variations often result as patterns that bear very little significance to the overall scheme of design. The AAVS Aarhus will recognise, through the use of algorithms, how variation can be used to generate geometries that take into account internal and external stimuli such as climatic or structural forces, formulating facade patterns relevant to the overall design scheme. The intention of these investigations is to reinvent pattern/ornament in a move towards heterogeneity, specific to the local ecology. We will teach participants how to utilise digital fabricating tools such as laser-cutters and CNC milling machines, as well as modelling techniques that generate these forms for digital fabrication. Students will fabricate their final design based on their desired scale.

Programme Directors
Ali Farzaneh
Jens Pedersen
Berlin, Germany
Building Laboratory
August 2015
AA Berlin is an applied research and building laboratory of the AA located at the University of the Arts in Berlin. For several consecutive years, the programme has documented the changing landscape of Berlin and its relation to the experiment of identifying Berlin’s special status as a ‘heterotopia’ or counter-site. Building on the city’s tradition of experimental construction, we set up the ‘Building Laboratory’.

In 2014, we constructed a large-scale 1:1 prototype from ordinary cardboard in the gallery of the University of the Arts through a collaborative and open-ended building process. In 2015 we will continue to look at aggregated, rule-based structures, with the aim of constructing a large-scale physical intervention on the school campus.

Programme Directors
Olaf Kneer
Marianne Mueller

Cologne, Germany
O M Ungers’ Idea of the City
August 2015
Oswald Mathias Ungers (1926–2007) was a visionary postwar architect and educator best known for introducing the idea of an urban archipelago in The City in the City. His architectural and urban design studies are characterised by a fascination with dialectical contradictions, whether in the exploration of typology as morphology, the concept of the doll in the doll or the text, ‘Janus Face of Architecture’. The workshop is an opportunity to discuss Ungers’ writings in seminars and to analyse his urban design projects. Taking place at the Ungers Archive for Architectural Research (UAA), participants will gain unique access to Ungers’ project archive and one of the most extensive private collections of architectural books, spanning 500 years of architectural history. The workshop targets students and those who are interested in urban design, offering the opportunity to undertake and hone fundamental research practices: archival studies and the analysis of primary written sources and design projects.

Programme Directors
Sam Jacoby
Jasper Cepl
Lugo, Italy
Lugo Land: Italian Photographic Topographies
August 2015
Lugo Land: Italian Photographic Topographies is a photographic visiting school that explores the potential of the photograph to create an image of the contemporary city.

In the 1970s and 80s a new vision developed in Italian photography which saw the emergence of 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 created a new photographic paradigm that privileged the regional and celebrated the landscapes of the everyday.

Inspired by this rich history, we will use digital photography to explore and document the architecture and landscapes of Lugo. The programme includes seminars with internationally renowned photographer Guido Guidi and the eminent photographic historian Antonello Frongia.

Programme Directors
Sue Barr
Francesco Neri
Luca Nostri

Muxagata, Vila Nova de Foz Côa, Portugal
Muxagata Building Workshop
Summer 2015
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.

The Muxagata workshop is 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.

Programme Director
Shin Egashira
**Madrid, Spain**
**Trans-Computational Membranes**
**2–12 September 2015**
Trans-Computational Membranes challenges the conception of flexibility within the context of spatial re-adaptation. Throughout the workshop new computational methods will rethink membrane structures from the micro to macro, resulting in a plethora of habitable prototypes. Students will engage in a continuous dialogue between analogue and digital experimentation in which material processes and fabrication techniques are incorporated within a digital working methodology. Generative design workshops will take place throughout the programme, aiming at digital fabrication of textile structures though the use of physical simulations. Parallel to their research development, students will collaborate in the fabrication of a full-scale membrane-based pavilion that investigates reconfiguration as a response to rapid fluctuations to today’s specific needs.

*Programme Director*
Manuel Jimenez Garcia

**Thessaloniki, Greece**
**Thessaloniki: Revelations**
**October 2015**
Thessaloniki: Revelations will investigate the urban transformation of one of the most historic places in the Balkans, through a series of multi-parameter morphological operations. The architecture of Thessaloniki, the second largest city in Greece, is the direct result of the city’s position at the centre of all historical developments in the Balkans. Aside from its commercial significance, Thessaloniki has also been for many centuries the military and administrative hub of the region, and beyond this the transportation link between Europe and the Levant. A series of proposal studies will be put forward to create an image of the shift in the building design. Innovative urban interventions informed by bottom-up rules extracted from existing city conditions will formulate the major focus of design proposals. These proposals will be applied through the use of various software including Autodesk Maya, Rhino Grasshopper and Arduino.

*Programme Director*
Alexandros Kallegias
Tehran, Iran
Tradition and Identity
23 August –
5 September 2014

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Makkah vs Makkah
2–12 February 2015

Tel Aviv, Israel
The Wind Chamber
March 2015

Dubai, UAE
AAVSDXB 2.0 –
Expo-city 2020
Accelerating Processes
Spring 2015

Jordan
Crystalline Formations
July/August 2015
MIDDLE EAST
Tehran, Iran
Tradition and Identity
23 August – 5 September 2014
There is no doubt that local materials and craft contribute a great deal to a region’s vernacular, but with advancements in computing and manufacturing we are presented with an opportunity to work towards a new identity.

Looking at new technologies and materials in relation to traditional forms, such as the dome and Mogharnas, we will use scientific methodologies to augment and challenge traditional means of designing and making. Extensive material testing combined with advanced digital tools will allow us to create a new identity and vernacular for Iran. The aim is to update traditional material and craft to be able to respond to current demands on architecture and twenty-first-century living.

Programme Director
Omid Kamvari

Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
Makkah vs Makkah
2–12 February 2015
Amidst the Arabian Desert c2130 BC, the Ka’aba was constructed – an architecture reduced to an ideal form, which ordered the holy city of Makkah. Once a transient place, the city has grown into a socio-urban being permanently under construction. Makkah undergoes the strain of a constant identity crisis, with towers overlooking and shadowing the fine print of the realities that exist.

We can fully express a city’s living character through imagination. To imagine a place is to create a place within a place. To dissect the place to its very essence, which is rooted in the everyday genetics that shape its formation. The result of that drives the discussion about the identity and peculiarities of that place. We seek to discover the reality, dig deep, collect and unravel what lies beneath the surface, speculating and imagining the future of the city.

Programme Directors
Hessa AlBader
Hussam Dakkak
Basmah Kaki
Tel Aviv, Israel
The Wind Chamber
March 2015
The Wind Chamber workshop in the Neot Semadar Kibbutz will explore the potential of dynamic environmental conditions as generators for unique social spaces in desert communities. We will design and build a new intervention on the Neot Semadar wind-tower site. Bringing together the social and environmental elements of the Kibbutz, we will create an open-ended infrastructural project that lends itself to emerging events and temporal community rituals, propagating a new understanding of how society conceives and draws from nature. Conceived as an on-site collaboration with experts in both GRC manufacturing and lightweight inflatables, the workshop will rethink desert temporalities and reimagine desert engineering as both playful and participatory.

Programme Directors
Shany Barath
Gary Freedman

Dubai, UAE
AAVSDXB 2.0 – Expo-city 2020 – Accelerating Processes
Spring 2015
The second edition of the Dubai Visiting School will advance the research of the previous workshop by exploring avant-garde methods of materialising architecture. The outcomes will consist of a speculative body of work, representing a UAE pavilion for the upcoming Expo 2020, which will take place in Dubai.

This year, we will focus on challenging the prevailing modus operandi of the construction site, where labourers take on complex and sometimes dangerous tasks in the process of constructing iconic architecture for emerging cities. Subsequently, we will look at materialising spatial elements that would be digitally simulated to quantify processes for simplifying the construction of complex architecture. This edition of AAVS DXB will build on a body of work that continues to allow for the emergence of an experimental design laboratory, which pushes for embedding generative design logic, fabrication methods and open source operations into the architectural discourse in Dubai.

Programme Director
Riyad Joucka
Jordan
Crystalline Formations
July/August 2015

The Dead Sea is a hyper-saline lake that exists at 427m below sea level and features a unique and extreme ecological condition. It is the lowest point on earth and exhibits a diverse platform for research into the ecomorphology of crystalline formations.

In 2015 AAVS in Jordan continues its research into naturally occurring phenomena in the region, and how these phenomena can inform design methodologies that re-think existing practices. The programme will focus on crystalline formations and their potential development at a variety of architectural and urban scales through the use of cutting-edge computational design technology.

The programme will bring together a network of distinguished faculty and guests to offer design-research units, specialist tooling seminars and a guest-lecture series; these are based in Amman with exclusive visits to the Jordan Valley and Dead Sea.

Programme Director
Kais Al-Rawi
Chennai, India
Hyper-threads
1–10 December 2014

Bangkok, Thailand
Custom and Customisation
December 2014

Seoul, South Korea
Social Algorithms
10–18 January 2015

Tainan-Taichung-Taoyuan, Taiwan
Taiwan Project
Spring 2015

Kuala Lumpur
Streetware South Asia
1–11 July 2015

Shanghai, China
Customised Cities
10–18 July 2015

Hong Kong, China
Post-Industrial Landscapes
3.0_Hong Kong
July 2015

Mumbai, India
Biological Morphologies
July 2015

Location Unknown
Unknown Fields
July 2015

Seoul, South Korea
Emerging Corporate Territories
10–21 August 2015

Beijing, China
Su(pe)rReal 2.0
October 2015
Chennai, India
Hyper-threads
1–10 December 2014
AAVS Chennai explores computer-aided design (CAD) as a means for enabling architectural creativity whilst responding to complex spatial and material performance constraints. In keeping with this spirit, the AA and Zaha Hadid Architects Computation and Design group (ZHA | CODE) will renew their collaboration to bring the sixth iteration of the workshop to Chennai. Here we will focus on the relations between contemporary design techniques, creative expression, software technology and its manifestation within India’s emerging economy and ancient traditions of building. This year, we continue our collaboration with BSB architects and extend the association with MIDAS, India. Drawing on a wealth of knowledge and research, participants will design and build a sizeable prototype as part of our primary objective: learning-by-doing. The workshop will culminate in a one-day symposium and exhibition of student work with invited local and international architects and academics.

Programme Director
Shajay Bhooshan

Bangkok, Thailand
Custom and Customisation
December 2014
The Bangkok Visiting School develops a project initiated last year, working on, and sometimes at, the site of the markets around the disused ‘Happyland’ them park with the aim of planning an organisation and a space that harnesses the energy of street markets, their workers and those who design their customised goods.

Bangkok, and Thailand in general, has a long tradition of customisation, which will initially be addressed through a two-day conference on the theme. Ample time will then be given for students to experience and study the markets, what is produced and how the idea of customisation affects the way people work, not only in street markets but also in more luxury crafts and art forms.

The programme offers students the opportunity to study design at a small scale, indeed often as part of a street culture. A contrast will be drawn with how ideas of design work in Europe and the US. Students will also be given the chance to design a structure that will be both a showcase for customised objects as well as a meeting place for local people and visitors.

Programme Director
Mark Cousins
Seoul, South Korea
Social Algorithms
10–18 January 2015
As one Asia’s largest mega-cities Seoul is both modern and historical. Although technologically developed and highly urbanised, its urban fabric and lifestyle rely heavily on human scale – on the software of the urban – as its main shaping force. This interesting mixture and contrast is what gives Seoul its unique character. How then, does the software – the human, community and social aspects of everyday life – rather than the hardware of the city [the built environment] drive Seoul’s evolution to such high degree?

This year we will be investigating the software of the city to look at the low-level elements in urban fabrication: the human. Exploring the formation of urbanism and architecture at the level of local communities and mapping social data, we approach the idea of everyday life from multiple levels and perspectives.

Tainan-Taichung-Taoyuan, Taiwan
Taiwan Project
Spring 2015
Taiwan is a complex experiment in modernity, with multiple forces shaping its contemporary territories. Taiwan Project explores the transformation processes that are reshaping its inhabited spaces, and investigates how architecture can interact with the complex material structures and the economic and geopolitical processes that make up its specific forms.

The workshop is an experimental research initiative that combines contemporary architecture and territorial analysis to re-imagine the future of Taiwan, its spaces and international position. Cities and territories are dynamic systems in evolution, where individual projects and initiatives interact with large-scale form-generating processes, shaping a complex set of relations between material structures and human organisations. Taiwan today is undergoing a turnover in its complex history, where spatial transformations are promoted both from beneath and from above the state: individuals, corporations, associations, NGOs, international organisations and geopolitical actors are forming a new field of forces that is redirecting its evolution.

Programme Directors
Soomeen Hahm
JooEun Sung

Programme Directors
John Palmesino
Ann-Sofi Rönnskog
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Streetware South Asia
1–11 July 2015
Streetware South Asia will start a city-by-city journey whereby the itinerant research workshop will focus on specific urban regeneration challenges. Local students and professionals will team up with a group of international professionals from the AA to explore new ways of thinking by using innovative design methodologies combined with on-site recording and a lecture series from local and international experts. Computer and physical model explorations will be an active team-working ground that aims to formulate contemporary architectural responses that would transform or adapt; merge or separate the proposals from the existing city fabric.

For a period of ten days Streetware South Asia opens up contemporary design explorations by stimulating the dialogue between design processes and cultural interpretations to challenge the activation of existing cityscapes that can potentially generate real impact for Kuala Lumpur.

Programme Director
Naiara Vegara

Shanghai, China
Customised Cities
10–18 July 2015
The AA Shanghai Summer School 2015 will focus on issues related to the unprecedented rate of urbanisation in China, and more specifically on the laboratory of Shanghai as one of the twenty-first-century cities. The legacy of modern models of assembly-based production has given cities today a universally monotonous, generic similitude. Balancing an agenda that pursues both spatial coherence and heterogeneity, and hence the distinctiveness of cities, the programme investigates tools for confronting the prevalence of default spatial and material modes of production. In an intensive nine-day studio-based course, clusters of tutors and students will engage with advanced computational design and the materialisation of differentiated serial prototypes. Students will apply code-based and time-based modelling, morphogenetic generative techniques and physics-based simulation towards multiple, variable and recursive urban and architectural systems.

Programme Director
Tom Verebes
Hong Kong, China
Post-Industrial Landscapes 3.0_Hong Kong
July 2015
Post-Industrial Landscapes 3.0_Hong Kong continues our investigation of the
digital realm that surrounds us as well as the potential for new architectural
grounds. After our exploration of the wilderness of Canada and the shoreline
of San Francisco, we will target the most artificial and dense urban area on
the planet: Hong Kong. In 2015, working in collaboration with the school of
Creative Media of the City University of Hong Kong, we will design a space
as an interface laboratory connecting the urban fabric of multiple agents
to become a place between the network and the city – in essence, a shared
room. We will use software including Processing, Unity, VVVV, as well as 3D
projection mapping and 3D printing technologies to create an architectural
interface which, despite being situated in the centre of the urban density,
remains elusive, hidden but still geo-locatable – here yet not there, there but
not here.

Programme Director
Tobias Klein

Mumbai, India
Biological Morphologies
July 2015
The Biological Morphologies workshop focuses on two themes: biomimetic
methods, and fabrication within the context of the developing world.

Biomimetics examines how the systems, processes and elements of
nature can be abstracted to provide innovative design solutions. Advances in
technologies has facilitated responsive experimental building techniques that
can be positioned in specific local contexts. Dynamic spatial structures can
be researched using sophisticated computational tools and delivered with low-
techn assembly methods.

The programme will explore how a bio-inspired logic can be translated into
design. A digital craft workshop will consider the forming and assembly of
materials with a consistent feedback to computational platforms. The tectonics
and fabrication will result in a site-specific architectural intervention installed
in Mumbai.

Programme Directors
Nicolas Cabargas Mori
Marco Corazza
Tejas Sidnal
Location Unknown
Unknown Fields
July 2015
The Unknown Fields Division is a nomadic design studio that ventures out on expeditions to the ends of the earth to bear witness to alternative worlds, alien 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. In such a landscape of interwoven narratives, the studio deploys time-based media to animate this network of hidden stories and re-imagine the complex and contradictory realities of the present as a site of strange and extraordinary futures.

Join us alongside international collaborators from the worlds of film, science, technology and fiction to witness some extraordinary landscapes set in motion by the everyday. Details on the 2015 summer programme will be posted on the Unknown Fields website as they are confirmed.

Koshirakura Village & Tokyo, Japan
Koshirakura Landscape Workshop / The City After-Image
Summer 2015
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 local materials – such as timber, earth, stone and bamboo. Film-making and informal events all run in tandem with Koshirakura’s local festivals.

The City After-Image (AA Maeda Workshop), Tokyo
This workshop will learn from Tokyo and about the representation of the city through its architecture and infrastructure, while capturing moments through which hidden layers, interiority and sections reveal their narratives, documenting the surrounding city as a catalogue of beautifully incomplete objects.

Programme Directors
Kate Davies
Liam Young
Beijing, China
Su(pe)rReal 2.0
October 2015
The AAVS Beijing will experiment with applications of big data in design practice, including the collection, manipulation and representation of mass information in the context of real practice. Various multimedia tools will be used in data collection, processing and presentation. The workshop will start with exercises of data mapping and visualisation through parametric instruments. The testing project will be based on the data milling and communicating of a predefined mixed-use community with approximately 10,000m² floor area in Beijing. The essential purpose of the Su(pe)rReal in such a populated hybrid-space is to initiate design concepts alongside the process of data milling without any design hypothesis, empirical bias or data discrimination.

Programme Directors
Zhao Liqun
Gao Yan

Seoul, South Korea
Emerging Corporate Territories
2015
As Song-do – literally the new-city – grows into its infancy we continue our investigation into the realm of corporate architecture. After dedicating one year to its masterplan and another to studying the facade as an intrinsic medium of communication of corporate identity, this year we finally step behind the sliding doors to bear witness to the world inside. From the grand halls of the lobbies to the prairies of the office space, we will construct our proposals looking out to the edge from the deep space of the corporate consciousness.

Once a desk-machine, today the white-collar worker is regarded as a social one, and much more of his life is to be found behind the hermetic expanses of glass. Stepping into his dark polished shoes, we will seek to frame the thin edge that encloses corporate space, capturing on our way out the nuances of the life within.

Programme Directors
Hussam Dakkak
Jin Kim
Beom Kwan Kim
Costantino Sambuy
Haiti
UrbanBou
3–13 January 2015

Colchane and Santiago, Chile
Volcano
7–16 January 2015

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Marathon Runway Sambadromo
10–18 January 2015

Los Angeles, USA
Machining Adaptive Living
16–27 June 2015

San Juan, Puerto Rico
Play with Your Food
13–24 July 2015

São Paulo, Brazil
Skyscraper São Paulo
18–26 July 2015

Buenos Aires, Argentina
Weird New Species
20 July – 1 August 2015

New York and London
NYLON Visiting School
July 2015

Mamori Lake, Brazil
Jungle Watts
3–12 August 2015

Eugene, USA
Marking the Forest
13–23 August 2015

Las Pozas, Mexico
Concrete Abstractions
August 2015

New York, USA
Embedded Intelligence
Summer 2015
Haiti

UrbanBou

3–13 January 2015

The AAVS Haiti pushes participants to experiment, design and speculate on the future of bamboo in the Caribbean. This time we will embed ourselves and our projects, deep in the indefatigable heart of Haiti’s capital.

The past century has seen the eradication of all but two per cent of Haiti’s trees. This has resulted in ecological disaster as well as the removal of lightweight materials from the Haitian construction sector. The consequences of which were seen in the disproportionate devastation of the 2010 earthquake. Bamboo is being grown as a solution not just in binding the exposed hillsides, but also as a source of low cost, lightweight material for construction.

This annual workshop develops projects which are contextualised for the climate, culture and materiality of Haiti. From the campus of Quisqueya University, students are exposed to the material of bamboo and tutored in a range of new modelling and climatic software. The programme aims to propose a vision for a lightweight contemporary Haitian built environment, demonstrate the role and importance of the architect as designer and provide a portfolio of work and a collaborative forum to embolden those in Haiti already building with bamboo.

Colchane and Santiago, Chile

Volcano

7–16 January 2015

The 2015 AA Santiago/PUC Visiting School will return to the extreme climatic and geographical conditions of the Atacama Desert in northern Chile to concentrate on volcanos. These natural formations belong to the local geological conditions that define the landscape and to a more universal imagery in the tradition of artists, from Turner to Warhol, who once travelled or imagined the category of the sublime through territories formed at unbearable temperatures. In Atacama, the subjects of study are the Licancabur, Sairecabur, Lascar and Putana volcanos. Here we will conceive projects as systems of mediations and combine direct perception with the physiognomic representation of the landscape. The projects will transform into a series of images that consider the local conditions of the sites alongside the universal ideals of volcanos in art.

In travelling to Colchane we will investigate a panoply of architectural, art historical, literary and cinematic images and references in order to re-imagine the Atacama Desert. Organised in collaboration with the Atacama Desert Centre (CDA), the course will be taught by tutors from the AA and the Catholic University.
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
**Marathon Runway Sambadromo**  
10–18 January 2015  
The Sambadromo is a 700m-long, 13m-wide purpose-built linear stadium designed by Oscar Niemeyer and constructed specifically to host the annual parade of Samba Schools during the Carnival festival. For the remaining 361 days of the year it stands empty and desolate as a massive dividing wall within its degraded urban context. Renovated in 2012 and now the future site for the 2016 Olympic marathon finish line and archery events, as well as the impromptu campground for Argentinian football fans at the World Cup final, the Sambadromo is receiving renewed international attention, but it drastically needs to accommodate new types of programme and improve its connection with its surrounding context. AAVS Rio de Janeiro will explore ways to intervene within and transform the Sambadromo. The workshop will be led by tutors Marc Fornes of theverymany and Benjamin Ball of Ball/Nogues, to teach and use advanced digital design and fabrication to generate iterative transformations in the creation of new micro-infrastructures.

Programme Directors  
Anne Save de Beaurecueil  
Franklin Lee

Los Angeles, USA  
**Machining Adaptive Living**  
16–27 June 2015  
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 millennia, Los Angeles and its American sister cities, like Atlanta and Houston, present a vastly different argument for how people live within a distributed network of streets and highways defined by the automobile.  
In the spirit of the Case Study project and its antecedents, we seek to go beyond re-mastering current attitudes driven by contemporary issues of parametric design, new materialisation, digital fabrication and sustainability 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 instill its role in a projective practice?

Programme Directors  
Alvin Huang  
Kevin McClellan

Los Angeles 2014, Samuel Bernier-Lavigne, the Goldstein Phenotype
San Juan, Puerto Rico
Play With Your Food
13–24 July 2015

Play With Your Food will continue to bridge the gap between the fields of architecture, contemporary gastronomy and mixology to discover intrinsic characteristics and establish relationships between each whilst also attempting to experimentally and pragmatically foster the knowledge base, design approach and thought processes of the two fields. Each discipline is constantly in flux and open to progression through many available means.

The architectural field as well as the profession of molecular gastronomy are undergoing revolutionary changes in practice and research, and are constantly reinventing themselves through the works of some of the most exciting practitioners and researchers in the most exciting international offices, research institutes, schools and the most exciting international kitchens, bars, and culinary institutes, making them a palatable duo.

Play With Your Food is in collaboration with Universidad de Puerto Rico, Escuela de Arquitectura and the School of Hotel and Restaurant Management, set in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Programme Directors
Drew Merkle
Jorge Mendez
Miguel Miranda

São Paulo, Brazil
Skyline São Paulo
18–26 July 2015

The city of São Paulo is characterised by an endless horizon of monolithic and nondescript towers. A newly initiated masterplan promotes further vertical development by allowing a higher skyline and construction areas along public transportation corridors. Neighbourhoods once characterised by two-storey houses, gardens and open ground-floor shopfronts have been completely transformed by the introduction of fortified monolithic residential and office towers, which lack any sort of urban street life. The new masterplan, however, requires buildings to have an open street facade to accommodate multiple programmes. The AA Visiting School São Paulo will address the changes being prescribed by the new masterplan through the redefinition of the tower typology in the extending of the ground of street culture, green landscapes and ecological mediation along the vertical axis of these buildings. In order to do so, the workshop will teach advanced digital design and fabrication techniques to explore a series of novel differentiating structural and environmental organisations in the redefinition of the São Paulo skyscraper.

Programme Directors
Anne Save de Beaurecueil
Franklin Lee
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Weird New Species
20 July – 1 August 2015

Weird New Species Visiting School is a three-year programme shared between the AA and Universidad Torcuato Di Tella. It will take place in Buenos Aires during three 15-day workshops that will focus on the possibility of developing new material environments from their conception to their material production. Understood as an extended version of the creative, development and realisation processes of its British partner, The Consortium of Fantastic Ideas at the AA, each workshop will feed with its conclusions the following year, ending with the construction of one of the environments developed by the collaborative effort of the students and faculty from both schools. The workshops are based on the conviction that a radical and critical architecture is still possible without falling into fictional or parallel worlds, in which every decision – conceptual, creative, technical and spatial – is based on the links with a world that apparently is increasingly homogeneous and graspable, but still full of exceptional singularities and extraordinary specific conditions. Firmly anchored in these conditions, the aim will be to produce speculative answers transgressing established cultural and national identities to define unexpected forms of beauty.

Programme Directors
Cristina Díaz Moreno
Efrén Gº Grinda

New York and London

NYLON Visiting School
July 2015

New York and London are two western heavy-weights: over-developed and architecturally conservative, with construction industries encumbered by red tape and archaic practices. Are we living through the swansong of these great cities or does the strength of their global alliance render them unassailable? Historically entangled by invisible threads of culture, commerce and diplomacy, we argue that the continuing success of these ‘world cities’ is less a product of ubiquitous connectivity in all directions than a special corridor between them.

NYLON is a series of discussions, visiting schools and exchange laboratories between the Architectural Association and Columbia GSAPP that interrogate the continued relevance of this trans-Atlantic axis and its impact at the architectural scale of each city. The NYLON Visiting School will be structured into two intensive sessions: one week in New York at Columbia University and one week in London at the AA.

Programme Directors
Tatiana von Preussen
Benedict Clouette
**Mamori Lake, Brazil**  
**Jungle Watts**  
**3–12 August 2015**

AAVS Amazon is organising a ten-day workshop in the Brazilian Amazon rainforest that will analyse the impact of the recent arrival of electricity to the Mamori Lake community, 65km south of the city of Manaus. Participants will speculate future scenarios for the development of the area and propose architectural interventions that creatively explore the opportunities and risks of having electricity in the middle of the jungle.

The initial days of analysis and data collection will offer participants the possibility to discover the Amazon ecosystem and interact with the local communities. Different layers of Mamori Lake will be analysed and measured. The social, mythological, economic, natural and climatic will be overlaid with the electricity network to discover emerging patterns that could inform the design process.

**Programme Director**  
Nacho Marti

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**Eugene, USA**  
**Marking the Forest**  
**13 – 23 August 2015**

Marking the Forest offers the opportunity to invent, design and build a living structure within an old growth forest in Oregon. The group will investigate the natural lifecycle of the forest and propose solutions for thoughtfully marking and occupying its terrain. Having created an occupiable ‘camera obscura’, an ‘oculus’ and ‘amplifier’ in previous years, this year we will push the boundaries of a forest intervention to an even higher level. Creating a dynamic structure that reinvents the way in which the forest and its terrain, life cycle and temporality are viewed, will allow the group to imagine a structure beyond the realms of reality.

The final evening will be marked by a ‘feast in the forest’, attended by architects, professors and artists who will debate, support, challenge and speculate on whether our intervention is a success.

The visiting school is a collaboration between the AA, the University of Oregon School of Architecture and Allied Arts, and the Bauman Family Tree Farm – a 700-acre forest near Veneta, Oregon.

**Programme Directors**  
Kristin Cross  
Stewart Dodd
Las Pozas, Mexico
Concrete Abstractions
August 2015
AAVS Las Pozas will be revisiting modern precedents of abstract architecture to produce a series of 1:1 concrete interventions in the Mexican jungle. The workshop will be based in Edward James’ surrealist garden in Las Pozas and will explore the formwork techniques he developed on-site. The programme will look at the vast legacy of Mexican modernism as well as relevant examples of experimental architecture and sculpture, with a particular focus on concrete experimentation. Departing from a study of the intricate wooden formworks, we will develop casting methods by rescaling as well as defragmenting and collaging the formworks and casts while experimenting with local aggregates and incorporating new techniques.

On the grounds of minimalist sculpture, pre-Hispanic monumentalism and geometric abstractionism, we will conclude with precise incisions on a new site within the Las Pozas Gardens, the La Era site, which we started developing last year and helped reinstate as a workshop, public space and a future site for artist residencies.

Programme Directors
Umberto Bellardi Ricci
Carlos H Matos

New York, USA
Embedded Intelligence
Summer 2015
This programme will develop research in the investigation for novel design strategies that utilise the embedded intelligence found in both material systems and the fabrication techniques that shape them. We will explore the possibility for biological models to influence and enhance architectural systems, wherein intelligence is embedded through differentiated yet continuous high-performance surfaces. Curriculum instruction will be led by a team of industry leaders and expert consultants. The workshop will be supported by a series of lectures from leading academics and practitioners in the fields of architecture, engineering, fabrication and computation.

Programme Directors
Gil Akos
Evan Greenberg
Ronnie Parsons

Construction of the Cinematografo structure during the 1970s in Las Pozas
AUSTRALIA
Sydney, Australia
DOM-INO
OOH-NO
2-13 February 2015
Since its inception in 1914, Le Corbusier’s Maison Dom-ino has become the single most significant organisational influence on the city. Championed for its clear structural framework and affordance of universal space, the diagram has inadvertently underpinned the development of an urban fabric devoid of character and difference. Conversely, the rise of digital design methods and fabrication technologies affords a massive expansion of our discipline’s ability to generate complex forms. Despite promise such technologies have resulted in little more than the superficial re-skinning of the Dom-ino.

In 2015 the Sydney Visiting School returns to the studio, only this time with a foothold in the fabrication workshop. The studio’s primary agenda is to amplify the performance of the architectural envelope and challenge the norms of domesticity. Research will commence with a re-examination of the Maison Dom-ino to elicit critical design strategies (spatial and material) and to project new housing models.

Founding Director
Jeffrey P Turko

Programme Director
Iain Maxwell

Broken Hill, Australia
Broken Hill: Staging Heritage
9-20 April 2015
During Australia’s golden age for film production in the 1970s, Broken Hill in New South Wales served as a film set and production house, offering the backdrop to films such as Mad Max. Broken Hill has recently acted to re-establish its role within the Australian film industry with the refurbishment of its main powerhouse into film studios.

Conceiving the town as a film set, Broken Hill: Staging Heritage will propose an alternative map of the town by comprehending spaces as lived in, as conceived and as perceived. Participants will create a series of artefacts to be deployed as event spaces within selected points of the town and will not only design the layout of these artefacts on a plan, but also determine the logistics of delivering infrastructure to any location in Broken Hill. Juxtaposed against the town’s vision to reinvigorate its position in Australia’s cinema heritage, short movies accompanied by a set of drawings will be presented to a forum of local community and council members.

Jointly organised by the AA School of Architecture and RMIT University

Programme Directors
Fionnuala Heidenreich
Lukas Pauer
www.aaschool.ac.uk/visiting