Europe
ROBOTIC MEDIATIONS

ISTANBUL
17 – 28 JUNE 2019

‘Robotic Mediations’, AA Istanbul Visiting School, will investigate the inherent associations between form, material, and structure through the rigorous implementation of innovative design and fabrication techniques. Computational methods for design, analysis, and fabrication will be coupled with physical experimentation, fostering learning-by-experimentation in an active collaborative studio environment. Throughout the design and fabrication processes, the associations between various computational platforms will establish correlations between form-finding, material computation, and structural performance. These discoveries will formulate new means of interpreting conventional fabrication processes towards their advancement within the domain of advanced computational and robotic methods. The key objective of AA Istanbul Visiting School will comprise the design and fabrication of a one-to-one scale prototype realised by the use of robotic fabrication techniques.

Programme Heads: Elif Erdine, Milad Showkatbakhsh

MOULDING MATTERS (PHASE 2)

NAPLES
27 JUNE – 7 JULY 2019

The city of Naples and Pompei provide a fertile ground for investigating the matter of mouldings. With ornaments and motifs both unique and bizarre, Baroque Naples offers endless opportunities for new ideas. From the magnificent hawk-wing stairs of the building of Ferdinando San Felice to the esoteric facades along the Spaccanapoli – Naples’ original Roman east-west axis – we survey the city looking for inspiration to develop our own vocabulary of details and geometries. The students will have selected pieces from a collection of more than 500 original plaster moulds dating from 1950’s to today from which to start their projects. We will learn directly from a master craftsman’s expertise, reworking traditional forms that will then be reinterpreted and ornamentally questioned. Each student will develop and construct a series of their own moulds from which to cast their formal experiments.

Programme Head: Jessica Pappalardo
‘Architecture & Ecriture’ celebrates writing as a critical and creative practice. We welcome architects as well as writers, curators or artists interested in spatial theory and literature to join us in Paris for the production of exciting new written and performative pieces. The aim of AAVS Paris is to engage with literature and philosophy and to explore how various forms of writing, and in particular the mobile form of the Essai, can contribute to the development of architectural and spatial thinking. Modelled on the Parisian Literary Salon, ‘Architecture & Ecriture’ draws largely from French cultural studies. Yet, given the international nature of the AA Visiting School programme and our global situation, most texts are read in their English translation(s) and we therefore pay particular attention to current developments in Translation Studies — we understand the gains as well as losses of working in a multilingual world. ‘Architecture & Ecriture’ explores space through translation, a mobile space.

Programme Head: Caroline Rabourdin

The ‘Moscow’s River’ Visiting School will investigate opportunities for developing the Moskva River and its bankside, to help improve the areas of Moscow it passes through. Supported by governmental institutions and local developers, we will design responses to specific challenges and present these to industry professionals and decision-makers. The Moskva River is a profound resource, which has the potential to become a thriving artery. However, its embankments are somewhat desolate and offer continuous opportunities for development without an obvious focal point. To help address this challenge, students will investigate the relationship between the spatial layout of the river and a range of social and cultural phenomena. They will also use innovative techniques of urban analysis to study the river as a city-scale piece of infrastructure in order to create local interventions that could become drivers for change. The AA Moscow Visiting School will be followed up with printed publications and exhibitions in local galleries and architectural festivals, which will help enhance the ongoing discussion between citizens, local businesses and the architectural community.

Programme Head: Alexandra Chechetkina
LUGO LAND
ANALOG PHOTOGRAPHY

LUGO
3 – 10 JULY 2019

This course will introduce students to the technical aspects of analog cameras, film and exposure – through a series of onsite practical workshops, along with seminars discussing historical and contemporary photography and aesthetic and conceptual issues. Throughout the week we will make a series of road trips into the Italian countryside, to a number of differing locations where students will have to think precisely about where to position their camera; to see through the visual noise, disorder or chaotic forms, to discover the inherent potential of their photographic composition, whilst embracing the inherent slowness of analog photography. The workshop will culminate in the creation of a personal portfolio of photographs, which will be exhibited at the end of the workshop in one of Lugo’s cultural centres.

Programme Heads: Sue Barr, Francesco Neri, Luca Nostri

BODEGA

BARCELONA
18 – 26 JULY 2019

The ‘Bodega’ Visiting School will explore how architecture can be used to improve the process of wine production and consumption, through the design and construction of a vertical winery. We will build on the findings from our past work, which dissects all aspects of viticulture, including its many geological characteristics, biological processes, environmental data, production requirements and tasting procedures. This research will inform our five-year vertical winery project, which will encompass all stages of the winemaking and tasting process – from the planting of the grapevines to the drinking of the wine itself. We will be based at the Estate of Mas Rodó, in the Penedes on the outskirts of Barcelona, where we will investigate the hydroponic growth of the grapes and construct a vertical wooden structure that will guide the vines towards the sun. This will expose them to the kinds of airflow and minerals that are necessary to create a grape that is rich in sugar – essential for the fermentation process and producing a great wine for everyone to enjoy!

Programme Heads: Edouard Cabay, Carles Sala, Relja Ferusic
‘Exhibiting Architecture’ AA Visiting School will bring together multidisciplinary practitioners, theorists and students to re-imagine the medium of exhibiting architecture, its process’ and practice. Moving beyond the predictable modes of display such as models, drawings and photography, this Visiting School unfolds architecture’s potential in exhibiting as a critical tool instead. Theories of the twentieth-century are explored – in particular postmodernism’s vision of exhibitions where key sites for experimentation, discussion, and critique of architecture were developed. Structured around a series of lectures, conversations and workshops, with a critical analysis of exhibition-making in public institutions, commercial galleries, and public space, ‘Exhibiting Architecture’ sees the method of exhibiting not only as a means to formulate an understanding of architecture to fellow practitioners, but to challenge how something that is often too vast and complex to be contained in a space could move beyond the conventional – to engage a wider audience.

Programme Head: Lennart Wolff

THE ISLAND READER
LYNGØR
26 JULY – 12 AUGUST 2019

To Read: An act of gathering knowledge through surveying, recording and interpreting. A Reader: An individual take, an outsider’s gaze. The Reader: An alternative archive of recordings and translations made over time.

In collaboration with Oslo School of Architecture and Design, this AA Visiting School is an intensive workshop which focuses on the preservation and future potential of Lyngør island, building a critical discourse around the heritage of coastal communities in Norway. Working between construction and context, ‘The Island Reader’ will challenge the idea of preservation as a conservative practice: by questioning how it is possible to maintain local heritage while allowing for change. Lyngør has remained, on the surface, an untouched nineteenth-century village but like many other villages along the Norwegian coast, a decline in permanent residency has seen tourism replace industry – largely underplaying the operative infrastructural nature of the local built environment. Employing the survey as an instrumental tool of the architect, students will use their outsider’s gaze to interrogate what is deemed authentic in Lyngør. Working closely with the local community, they will also record existing forms of construction on the island while at the same time, engaging with the cultural, political and social history of the site.

Programme Heads: Amandine Kastler, Erlend Skjeseth
CASTING CASTAWAYS
ASINARA
26 AUGUST – 8 SEPTEMBER 2019

Every human intervention on an island – even those that interpret it as an ideal space for confinement – starts as an act of colonisation aimed at reducing the unescapable condition of insularity. Enacting the power of nomads as decolonising agents, ‘Casting Castaways’ Visiting School will migrate every two years from island to island, across a former carceral archipelago in the Mediterranean Sea. We will seek for a pedagogy that, while suggesting future scenarios in regard to current trends in tourism, environmental preservation and heritage, interrogates those territories to understand how and whether architecture can challenge and escape from the very ideas of incarceration and colonisation. We will set camp in the island of Asinara (Italy), a penal colony from 1885 to 1997 and now a national park. Arguing that a new project for the island can only stem from direct engagement with its bare life and by de-structuring the conundrum of stratified formal structures and perceptions of the penal colony, we will engage with its territory through conceptually and physically digging into its substance. On the traces of Sardinian sculptor Costantino Nivola, we will experiment with sandcasting to read, measure, represent and intervene across scales from the vast territory to fragments and objects dispersed in the landscape.

Programme Heads: Paolo Emilio Pisano, Sabrina Puddu

THE UNCOMMON WALK
BUDAPEST
2 – 11 AUGUST 2019

The ‘Uncommon Walk’ Visiting School will investigate walking as an act of architecture – one that informs new ways of recording, representing and responding to the city. It will take place in Budapest, where students will have the opportunity to become uncommon walkers, by simultaneously taking on the roles of pedestrians and architectural researchers. Uncommon walkers (unconventional individuals, exploring lesser-trodden routes) have for centuries offered a surprising and subversive analysis of urban lives. Following in their footsteps, we will both chart and help create the urban environment that we temporarily occupy, as we play our part alongside the city’s other moving fragments, including traffic, people and the ever-changing buildings. Over the course of ten days, we will investigate the flow of moving bodies, as well as the navigational technology, psychogeography and nomadic identity. The tools we use will range from journals and handheld cameras to purpose-built equipment for measuring the city. They will enable us to delve into the heart of Budapest through the medium of moving feet.

Programme Heads: Doreen Bernath, Pei Yee Yong
The ‘Animalesque’ Visiting School will research and create new forms of architecture that enable animals, insects and humans to co-inhabit cities in a way that benefits all forms of life. Our innovative, multidisciplinary approach will bring together traditional building and making techniques with philosophy, art, music, body movement, biology, politics, nutrition, activism, science fiction, photography, filming and sensorial technology. In particular, we will focus on developing architectural solutions to support birds and the important role that they play in nature’s ecosystem. We will also build on our work from 2018, which looked into insects’ behaviour and habitats, and speculate on the wider relevance of food chains, pollination, soil composition and pollution. This will help us to deepen our exploration into the meaning and expression of nature in urban spaces. We will be based in Berlin’s fascinating ‘Floating University’, at the centre of a former airport that is now a public park and used by both humans and wildlife as a rural retreat.

Programme Heads: Jorge Godoy Roman, Ana Zatezalo Schenk

‘The Laboratory’ Visiting School will bring together architects, artists, designers and researchers to imagine what life in the future will be like, through an exploration of our social, cultural and technological present. It will be based at the Stuttgart State Academy of Art and Design, one of the oldest and biggest art schools in Germany, adjacent to the renowned Weissenhof Estate, an ambitious prototype for future ways of living and an experimental showcase. We use collective forms of teaching and learning and will work with fine art photographers and screenwriters to capture emerging glimpses of life in the near future. We will carry out observational research, digital photography, image production and image manipulation, as well as creative and structured writing. Our work will be documented in a publication and shown in an exhibition. A series of field trips will give participants the opportunity to explore centres of innovation in and around Stuttgart, a region with an unusual concentration of research facilities and a leader in artificial intelligence.

Programme Heads: Marianne Mueller, Fahim Mohammadi
Even before humankind first saw a photograph of the whole Earth and the Club of Rome met to write about its limits, we have long known that infinite growth is impossible. Yet the critique of growth has fuelled powerful reactions that have taken place both in and to our built environments, from deregulation and degradation to speculation, derivation, and exclusion. Architects and urban practitioners are complicit in the perpetuation of growth, but they are also in a unique position to contribute towards a move away from it.

Oslo Architecture Triennale 2019 will challenge the supremacy of economic growth as the basis of contemporary societies by investigating the architecture of alternatives. With this year’s theme of ‘Degrowth’, and as part of the Triennale, the Oslo School of Architecture and Design will host an Academic Forum to give a platform for voice and expression on architectural agency and change in the twenty-first century. Run as a full programme of events, workshops, roundtables, and lectures during the opening week of the festival, the AA VS Oslo will engage with the city and collaborate with multiple universities from around the world to actively create a knowledge-sharing experiment.

Programme Heads: TBC

The ‘Resilient SKIN-code’ Visiting School will explore the relationship between architecture and fashion design, by inviting students to create a wearable structure that is also a form of shelter. During the past two decades, both fashion and architecture have drawn influence from one another in a way that has led to a creative new area of cross-disciplinary research and development. As a response, we will collaboratively create a piece of fashion-architecture that is site-specific to the city of Milan – a location famed around the world for its creativity, style and influence. Ergonomic scale will also be a focus, and we will look at incorporating a small-scale structure, such as a pavilion, into the final project. Sustainability and environmental issues will also be key concerns in the design process. Students will use advanced computational skills, fabrication tools and the latest theoretical thinking, guided by academics and professionals from the architectural and fashion worlds. This will enable us to meaningfully contribute to the ongoing discussion about the place where architecture and fashion meet.

Programme Heads: Anat Stern, Ilaria Di Carlo
We resume our voyage deep into the cultural, geographical and biological roots of the Archipelago, continuing to be Darwinian fieldworkers as we relish the opportunity to investigate this vast, outdoor laboratory. Little will have changed on our return to Chiloé, but plenty left to collect: recordings of the mammoth tides, surveys of the Andean volcanoes, taxonomies of unearthly flora and fauna, analysis of the world heritage-listed wooden churches, chronicles of salmon farming crisis, measurements of the palafitos, found objects, conducted interviews, myths and mysteries and the otherworldly feast of a curanto meal. Our explorations will guide us to construct the ways we will tell these stories to others. Just like Captain FitzRoy’s men for Darwin’s Voyage of the Beagle, we will operate as a crew rather than a set of individuals as we journey for our ‘Collection of Explored Endemics’.

Programme Heads: Selim Halulu, Juan E Subercaseaux

The ‘Concrete Panels: A Digital History’ Visiting School will resurrect the influential concrete panel systems of the twentieth century, and use digital technology to explore their potential in the future architectural world. Although these panel systems and their construction methods have been largely forgotten over the years, at one point they were central to the debate surrounding modernism, industrialisation and the provision of housing. Through creating a digital history of this work, the ‘Concrete Panels: A Digital History’ Visiting School will explore strategies for applying its techniques to a variety of twenty-first century contexts – social, technological, geographical and cultural – using 3D printing technology and other tools. During the twentieth-century concrete panel making process, construction was transferred from the building site to the factory floor, and manual labour was succeeded by mass production. This led to new ways of working that reached across national borders – ones that we will learn from and reimagine for today’s world, travelling to both Santiago and Stockholm, where we will take advantage of over 50 digital models already developed by the course team.

Programme Head: Pedro Ignacio Alonso
NANOTOURIST STRATEGIES FOR HONOLULU

HONOLULU
28 JUNE – 13 JULY 2019

Following last year’s programme, the 2019 edition will further research and develop strategies of nanotourism in Hawaii, a context defined by a mix of indigenous and contemporary cultures, operating in an environment globally famous for its industry of mass tourism. On an average day, Hawaii’s 1.4 million residents host 220,000 visitors and up to 35,000 people fly in and out of its airports. In 2017 more than 9.1 million tourists were projected to visit Hawaii, with an expected rise to just over 9.5 million by 2020. The continuous growth of tourism on the Hawaiian archipelago since the early 20th century has had a detrimental impact on its pre-existing natural as well as cultural specificities and has cemented its role as a ‘resort’ destination in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. What role can nanotourism play in Hawaii’s rapid transformation?

Programme Head: Aljoša Dekleva

HIGH-LINE SÃO PAULO

SÃO PAULO
4 – 13 JULY 2019

The ‘High-Line São Paulo’ Visiting School will investigate ways that a misconceived elevated highway, in São Paulo, can be rejuvenated to benefit the local environment, its culture and people. Known as the ‘minhocão’ (large worm in Portuguese), the highway cut through the landscape in the 1960s and left derelict buildings and precarious ground that has never really recovered. However, when the highway is closed to traffic, in the evenings and at the weekends, it becomes a venue for an eclectic variety of local activities, from jogging and biking to surreal theatre pieces performed from the windows of neighbouring buildings. ‘The High-Line São Paulo’ Visiting School will speculate on new and imaginative ways that this unique and multi-faceted area could develop. We will work with a team of environmental design experts from London and São Paulo, at the local university, The Architecture and Urbanism College, University of São Paulo (FAU USP) and learn about environmental and structural design, as well as digital fabrication. The future of the area is a highly debated issue among politicians and urbanists. Through the ‘High-Line São Paulo’ Visiting School, we will contribute to its fascinating, ongoing narrative.

Programme Heads: Anne Save de Beaurecueil, Franklin Lee
NANOTOURIST STRATEGIES FOR CUSCO

CUSCO
19 JULY – 3 AUGUST 2019

Historically known as the Inca laboratory of agriculture and architecture, the ruins of Moray are the new location for restaurant Mil, led by head chef Virgilio Martinez and renovated by the architect Rafael Freyre. The space also houses Mater Iniciativa, the research arm of the restaurant. Conceived as a multi-disciplinary research and interpretation centre, it re-discovers the natural and cultural diversity of Peru, through hands-on engagement with the surrounding ecosystems and neighbouring communities. Operating at the confluence between gastronomy and architecture as a new form of articulating and understanding a specific territory, this programme will be located in the heart of the Peruvian Andes at 4000 meters above sea level and will speculate on the role of tourism within the historic site of Moray and the newly established research centre. It will give an insight into local architectural and agricultural techniques, an understanding of nature and specific local materials, climates and ecosystems, as well as the broader Andean cosmology, where all natural elements and its cycles are intricately interwoven in a vertical way.

Programme Head: Aljoša Dekleva

URBAN FUTURES

NEW YORK
10 – 19 JULY 2019

Our cities have undergone shifts that even a decade ago were unthinkable. One of the biggest challenges architects face, is to plan for a dynamic and rapidly changing society. In response to this, the ‘Urban Futures’, AAVS New York, is developing a multi-year research agenda focused on the future planning of cities by exploring emerging typologies and dynamic urban morphologies using advanced computational techniques. This program will expose students to new design methodologies and theories focused on the evolving city. With its ever-increasing densification and re-development, as well as the growing diversity of its cultures, New York is one of the best locations for students to witness an evolving city. The AAVS New York will act as a laboratory to explore the dynamic shifts taking place in our cities today. Students will have an opportunity to visit and explore New York’s most ground-breaking and contemporary buildings and to understand the impact they have on the evolution of the city. The Visiting School challenges students to destabilise dominant thinking and offer future urban system solutions that approach the changing landscapes of our metropolises around the world.

Programme Heads: Ali Farzaneh, Andrew Haas
IZABAL LAKE AND AMATIQUE BAY
GUATEMALA
22 JULY – 1 AUGUST 2019

The ‘Izabal Lake and Amatique Bay’ Visiting School will explore the development potential of two extraordinarily rich ecosystems on the eastern coast of Guatemala: Lake Izabal and Amatique Bay. We will analyse their environmental, social and economic possibilities, identify their main challenges, and visit a variety of villages where we will interview local people. We will also learn about and use aerial mapping techniques and drone technology to produce new cartographies of the most underexplored areas. Finally, we will produce detailed architectural projects in response to the problems we have previously identified. The meeting point for all participants will be Guatemala City. From here, the group will travel to Misión El Faro (The Lighthouse), near Livingston. This is where we will establish a seven-day base camp and conduct field trips, which will include the Guatemalan Caribbean coast. This will be followed by a four-day stay in Guatemala City, at the Universidad Francisco Marroquín (UFM) campus, where we will develop proposals based on the analysis and insights we have gained from the variety of places we have visited.

Programme Head: Gustavo Romanillos

PORTABLE CHOLETS
EL ALTO
22 JULY – 4 AUGUST 2019

The ‘Portable Cholets’ Visiting School will use Freddy Mamani’s spectacularly vivid cholets (brightly coloured mansions), along with the vibrant culture of the surrounding El Alto area, as inspiration for a piece of wearable performance architecture that will question notions of identity, folklore and contemporary rituals. In the streets of La Paz, the most ordinary routines are naturally transformed into unique spiritual happenings. Architecture offers a unique way of creatively tapping into and exploring this process. Through using architectural tools, we will analyse El Alto’s diverse range of visual languages, as well as religious and cultural references, to extract design principles and spatial hierarchies. In particular, we will look at scale in relation to the human body, and investigate the costumes and choreography of a traditional Bolivian dance: the Diablada. We will then craft our own characters to construct a multi-layered performance piece that deals with popular myths. This will build on our work last year, developing masks. Ultimately, the stunning buildings of Mamani and El Alto will be reimagined as costumes – wearable and portable cholets.

Programme Heads: Sabrina Morreale, Lorenzo Perri
THE TROPICAL DIGITAL
LAGO MAMORI, AMAZON
5 – 14 AUGUST 2019

The ‘Tropical Digital’ Visiting School will create architectural design solutions to respond to the effects of climate change in Brazil, through using digital technology. It will be based in the middle of the Amazon rainforest, in Lago Mamori – a location that will provide both our inspiration and a testing ground for our projects. Our goal is to create work that fits local needs of the population and raises awareness of the pressing environmental issues the area faces, such as rising sea levels, extreme heat waves and violent strong storms. Specifically, we will focus on creating affordable, resilient and comfortable buildings that can cope with a volatile natural environment. We will build a knowledge database of design strategies and explore low-tech construction techniques that can be implemented with local expertise, materials and technologies. And we will learn about digital modelling and environmental simulation techniques, using biomimetics as a project methodology. Through investigating the synergy between advanced digital design, traditional crafts and simple fabrication processes, we will create innovative new designs for and with the local community in a way that has the potential to improve lives.

Programme Heads: Marko Brajovic, Nacho Marti

ADAPTIVE_TRANSPORT_MACHINE V.02
LIMA
7 – 16 AUGUST 2019

Lima, Peru’s capital, is in constant growth as an urban fabric extending 800 km², and 10 million habitants. The traffic and unlimited variations of mobility makes Lima a city in urgent need to improve. One of the biggest problems is the lack of a decent public transport system, all arrangements work independently.

This Visiting School will investigate this contemporary emerging metropolis in South America, blurring the boundaries between infrastructure, architecture and mechanic domains. We will approach architectural solutions as to embrace new technology into means of transport of different scales, public and private spheres. ‘Adaptive_Transport_Machine V.02’ Visiting School will investigate through visionary exercises, by means of research, mapping, design technology and fabrication processes including parametric tools and KUKA robotics, to develop an infrastructure body that will populate across the Lima terrain, obtaining a faster moving network of differentiated routes on extensive simulation.

Programme Heads: Federico Dunkelberg, Sophie Le Bienvenu
The ‘Montem – Towers of an Era’ Visiting School will explore the vast legacy of Mexican modernism in order to produce a series of innovative concrete columns and artefacts, inspired by the work of surrealist architect Edward James. This Visiting School will be based in James’ sculpture garden in Las Polzas, in the heart of the Mexican jungle. Here, we will explore the pioneering formwork techniques that James and his team developed, as well as our own approaches. We will also draw on other references from locations around the world, including Japan and Europe, in order to study the wider abstract architecture movement, as well as primitive monumentalism. Experimenting with concrete will be a particular focus and we will develop different casting methods and techniques to do this, looking at rescaling, defragmenting and collaging. Alongside our investigation into columns, we will also develop proposals for land art for potential sites around Mexico and other countries. We will end the Visiting School with an exhibition in Mexico to showcase our work. We also hope to enlist the support of an experimental filmmaker, who will document our progress and bring it to an international audience.

Programme Heads: Umberto Bellardi Ricci, Carlos Matos

‘MARS 3.0’ will be a special edition Visiting School in Los Angeles that builds up on five years of the Visiting School in Jordan investigating the Mars-like Wadi Rum desert. Los Angeles will serve as a platform to advance the design-research in dialogue with world-leading design, engineering, space and aeronautics experts. Students will research the natural ecology of the Red Planet and speculate on the design of future interventions that couple cutting-edge technology with research into natural morphologies and phenomena on Mars. Algorithmic and computational design methods will unveil material, spatial to urban potentials in design. The ten-day programme will offer design-research units, specialist seminars in computational design and analysis platforms, and a series of masterclass lectures.

Programme Head: Kais Al-Rawi
Asia / Oceania
SKILLED AND ADVANCED WOODEN ARCHITECTURE

OSAKA
13 – 24 MARCH 2019

Wood crafting techniques and tools have been handed down for generations in Japan, where wooden buildings and parts hold deep meaning. It is often thought that technology will soon supersede human labour. However, there are many metaphysical concepts that machines can’t learn. Carpenters have advanced techniques and knowledge about traditional buildings, wooden design and construction, while the younger generation has experience and knowledge concerning robots, advanced fabrication technology and the virtual world. Takenaka Corporation, as Japan’s leading design and construction company, seeks to create a dawn of new building techniques by joining these two generations. In this workshop, we will study the domains of both the traditional and cutting edge (through lectures and model creation, as well as practical wood manufacturing workshops), with the cooperation of the Takenaka Carpentry Tools Museum, and visit real-life examples of traditional architecture (the Tōdai-ji Temple, the Hōryū-ji temple, and others). After gaining a good understanding of historical values, we will design and construct small wooden pavilions, while considering how new technologies can support and make use of traditional architectural culture.

Programme Head: Lorenzo Franceschini

NEW PAPER II

MELBOURNE
1 – 12 JULY 2019

Today our experience of the world is being filtered through digital means and Architecture is no different. We decided where to visit on TripAdvisor, where to go on Google Earth and have designed museum’s specifically for Instagram. We absorb copious amounts of space through the lenses of our iris’, which as a result, has fast forwarded our dreams into an electric new world. From the filters on social media, spatial computing, decisions made on speculation, we live in a time where we are no longer able to tell the difference between physically built objects to virtually rendered landscapes, and because of this, our understanding of environments need to fundamentally change. New Paper sets out to explore and question the realms where Architecture is not only physically constructed anymore. We will move into the blurring of the virtual world within our day-to-day lives; Architectural drawings will move beyond mere representations but will become stories and experiences through amplification, gamification or provocation. We intend to re-think Architecture through the focus on today’s culture and share our bold visions of what is to come next. There will be a new breed of Architects. Are you with us?

Programme Head: Mond Qu
The intention of the course is to develop design skills from a conceptual starting point all the way through to the creation of a full-scale architectural intervention in the city of Chengdu. Chinese metropolitan cities change rapidly every day – an enormous exodus from countryside as well as from secondary cities in search for jobs or better quality of life. For many it is the first time living in a city, meaning there is a huge contrast and need for adaptation to a new way of living. For instance growing vegetables in public urban landscape as a result of a pre-existence of farm land which was transformed into an urban area, or migrants which start living in certain areas and trying to adapt but keeping some rural habits; these behaviours can be seen as an adaptive solution to implement architecture and urban planning, in other cases and widely built are extensions of architecture by DIY structures on rooftops, between buildings, etc. The understanding of these structures from its use, location and character could become a typology to develop a prototype during the AA Visiting School in Chengdu 2019, how they could inspire the next structures and how this workshop would start to impact the city and MARK IT.

Programme Head: Stewart Dodd

The ‘But Does it Float? In Search of Praxis 2.0’ Visiting School will explore how architecture can be used to address the challenges that water creates in the monsoon-drenched Cambodian province of Takeo. Central to the culture of the Khmer people, who live there, is their ability to evade, absorb and rise above the ever-present murky waters. We will explore the innovative ways they do this, as well as the work of Khmer modernist architects and local Angkorian craftspeople. Gliding in palm tree canoes, we will trace the Mekong River and document the nearby vernacular stilt houses. In particular, we will continue our search for ‘praxis’ – the way which architects engage with the world – in order to apply this to our own projects. A key question will be: how can architecture confront gravity with buoyancy? Working at three scales (human body, house and city), we will repurpose local materials and challenge local construction methods. Finally, we will build a floating structure that will sail through Takeo, and play a vital role in hosting the local area’s summer festivities.

Programme Heads: James Mak, Alison Cheng
RING OF FIRE
TOKYO
29 JULY – 7 AUGUST 2019

The ‘Ring of Fire’ Visiting School will explore innovative new ways of designing shelters to respond to natural disasters in a 40,000 km area of the Pacific Ocean, known as the Ring of Fire. Stretching across multiple countries, from Bolivia, to Mexico, to Japan, to Antarctica, the Ring of Fire is responsible for 90 per cent of the world’s earthquakes and the majority of the world’s largest volcano eruptions. To help tackle the huge effects this has on local people and their homes, we will use architectural methods to create new, adaptable and replicable forms of shelters that are able to be adapted for use in multiple locations. These will use simple fabrication methods to address the challenges of scarce technology, materials, tools and resources in many of the areas where they are needed most. Our aim is to offer a smarter and faster form of reconstruction, with a particular focus on resilient systems, material research and experimental design. Our work will conclude with the construction of a 1:1 scale multi-use prototype that will have the potential to be easily scaled and replicated in multiple locations in the ‘Ring of Fire’.

Programme Heads: Bárbara Barreda, Felipe Sepulveda

DIGITAL CRAFT WORKSHOP
MUMBAI
1 – 10 AUGUST 2019

The ‘Digital-Craft Workshop’ is focused on the learning of new and old construction methodologies and how these can offer solutions to addressing social problems facing developing countries such as India. This Visiting School questions current building techniques and how the production of architectural building systems can be optimised through new digital manufacturing processes. This forms the groundwork to facilitate the building of modular prefabricated building systems, combined with local crafting knowledges that can be used to be deployed to areas of crisis in India.

Programme Heads: Nicolas Cabargas Mori, Marco Corazza, Tejas Sidnal
LANDSCAPE WORKSHOP
KOSHIRAKURA
17 AUGUST – 3 SEPTEMBER 2019
Launched in 1996, ‘Koshirakura Landscape Workshop’ has evolved into an annual local event. Its agenda has always been to integrate the contrasting cultural mix and to celebrate their differences – between the aging local population and the young international students. Students become summer residents of the Koshirakura community, living and working in a former primary school building, encouraged to step out of their comfort zones and engage with the local people and environment. As Koshirakura is one of the many post-agricultural communities slowly diminishing in its presence from the scenery of rural Japan, whose landscape can be seen as the shadow of urban growth over the last century, this Visiting School engages with local people and locally available materials to explore tactile architectural forms that may register the climate of the place – both natural and political. Previous projects have consisted of a communal kitchen and the rebuild of a local bus shelter, but this year, a new observatory will be built from reused material with the help of local skills, songs, food, and sake – running in tandem with the local events such as Momijihiki, Koshirakura’s unique harvesting festival.

Programme Head: Shin Egashira

URBAN TOYS, TWISTING CONCRETE (PHASE 2)
TOKYO
5 – 10 SEPTEMBER 2019
With the theme of concrete toys in mind, ‘Urban Toys, Twisting Concrete’ Visiting School in Tokyo will test a series of experiments, working exclusively with the Fiber-Reinforced Concrete (FRC) technique. Applying the unique tests and experiments learnt in phase 1 of the workshop, our exploration of ‘accidental architecture’ and hidden spaces in Tokyo will form the context of this workshop – where interior landscape, the informality of the city and its textural details and narratives may inspire us to speculate a new form of urban furniture. This Visiting School will collaborate with both Tokyo University of Arts and the Maeda Corporation’s Architectural and Technology Centre, to extend fabrication research and refine material composite, fabric form-work, tube bending and spraying as concrete processes. Mixing methods that apply to both analogue and digital tools, students will also be encouraged to apply for Koshirakura Workshops to encourage alternative perspectives that play on different perspectives of Japan’s landscape, providing a mixture of both contemporary and traditional outlooks.

Programme Head: Shin Egashira
Air Pollution in the past was perceived primarily as a local phenomenon which has now increasingly become a regional, hemispheric, and even global phenomenon. More than 80% of people living in urban areas that monitor air pollution are exposed to air quality levels that exceed the World Health Organisation (WHO) limits. While all regions of the world are affected, populations in low-income cities are the most impacted. New Delhi is the most polluted city on Earth right now. ‘Breath’, AA Visiting School in Delhi will investigate how we could resolve this global problem within an infrastructure and create innovative solutions to combat climate change. AA Visiting School in Delhi will operate as a laboratory of technologically – driven architectural investigation. Exploring innovative ways of pollutant capturing, lightweight and composite structures using digital technologies, the team will investigate the design process in an iterative environment. Within this iteration of the workshop we will attempt the design and prototyping of a scaled installation having a strong socio-technological impact as a result of groups working together in a collaborative team.

Programme Head: Tejas Sidnal
Middle East
ADDITIVE STEREOTOMIES
DUBAI
29 MARCH – 6 APRIL 2019

The ‘Addictive Stereotomies’ Visiting School explores the potential of innovative technology to inform novel architecture in the Middle-East. Responding to the Dubai 3D printing strategy, which specifies that two per cent of new constructions should contain 3D printed elements, we will contribute to the city’s wider ambition to make Dubai the ‘3D printing hub of the world’. Working in collaboration with the Dubai Institute of Design and Innovation (DIDI), we will build on our previous year’s work, exploring additive manufacturing (which involves joining materials to make objects from 3D model data) to create exciting, sustainable constructions.

We will generate, test and construct components using the principles of stereotomy (the art and science of cutting 3D solids into particular shapes) in order to assemble structurally stable interventions. Through an experimental design process, we will arm ourselves with core skills in generative design, digital manufacturing, and visualisation. Finally, we will present our projects and an exhibition of our outcomes in a way that shares our exploration of high-performance environments and form-making with a wider audience.

Programme Head: Riyadh Joucka

MAKKAH VS MAKKAH
JEDDAH
17 – 27 MARCH 2019

The ‘Makkah vs Makkah’ Visiting School will explore the conflict surrounding the future of the city of Mecca (‘Makkah’ in Arabic), where the Holy Mosque is rapidly being surrounded by skyscrapers. Challenging the notion of what constitutes a sacred boundary, we will trek into the unknown to explore the daily lives of the city’s inhabitants and pilgrims, along with the contrasts and contradictions that exist between them. As Makkah undergoes its most dramatic period of transformation, we will create an alternative reading of the city that casts a critical eye on its present, acknowledges its past and reimagines its future. Through deciphering blueprints of the area, we will work to bridge the gap between visible and invisible landscapes, and debate the classification of public, private and holy spaces. Our findings will be disseminated in an archival book and vignettes, which will contribute the ongoing debate surrounding this the future of this unique, spiritual and increasingly popular destination.

Programme Heads: Hussam Dakkak, Basmah Kaki, Hessa Al Bader
'Things that are Fascinatingly Boring' is an interdisciplinary workshop based in Beirut that explores new forms of collaboration. Participants from all backgrounds are invited to share their knowledge and expertise to develop an artistic critique towards Beirut's current social and political status. Rather than working with a defined goal in mind the workshop focuses on the urban contentions experienced on a daily basis by citizens in Beirut, stretching beyond architecture to generate mix-media works such as public installations, performances and photography. To interrogate the power of objects and places as tools for socio-political expression, we'll build site-specific installations throughout the city to observe the public response as well as involve people in the making. We’ll look at objects beyond their functionality and form, to break the city’s invisible and conventional boundaries.

Programme Head: Rana Haddad
From Continental Europe to the Middle East, Asia, Australia and the Americas, this year will offer new and unexpected learning opportunities across the globe. Please visit the AA Visiting School website for information on each programme, including details of how to apply, fees, and other useful information: www.aaschool.ac.uk/visiting

For a rich trawl through the culture and annual output of each programme, look us up on Facebook and Instagram where almost all of them are featured. And do not forget to sign up for the VS Monthly Communiqué when you visit online.

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