

Architectural Association  
School of Architecture

# VISIT THE SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS 2023



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# INTRODUCTION

The Architectural Association Visiting School (AAVS) is a global architecture programme and network comprising myriad forms and agendas, all of which contribute to the perennial discourse of architectural education. Since its launch in Dubai in 2008, the AAVS has hosted thousands of students in more than 100 different Visiting Schools held across five continents. These workshops take participants on journeys of discovery that respond directly to the geographic and cultural conditions of their individual settings, providing the opportunity for participants to engage with local forms of expertise. By addressing many of today's most urgent architectural, technological, cultural, urban and social issues, they provide a distinctive and vital learning experience within contemporary architectural education.

The AAVS is not permanent, full-time, exclusive, fixed or otherwise limited in its reach. Instead, it takes inspiration from the 'non-architect' Cedric Price and his Polyark project, which radically reimagined education by promoting flexible, mobile and temporary ways of learning. In the early 1970s, this involved a couple of dozen students converting an old double-decker bus to tour the country and 'trigger dialogue' between British architecture schools and local communities. Today, these dialogues are sparked between students and communities in the UK and around the world – proving that the more we move, the more we engage and the more we challenge our perceptions of culture and architecture, the better and more connected we can be.

Christopher Pierce, Head of AA Visiting School

# DECEMBER

Bangkok, Thailand

## Curartistry: Trees and Intercorrelations to Everyday Life

16–25 December 2022

Chittawadi Chitrabongs, Jing Rakpanya

The Bangkok Visiting School explores the concept of ‘curartistry’: the curation of everyday artistry. The programme will analyse the city of Bangkok using a theoretical framework of ‘everyday life’ proposed by the late Mark Cousins in his AA Friday Lectures in 2012–13, and in his lectures for AAVS Bangkok itself in 2018–19. The intention of the workshop is to highlight and interrogate issues that are pertinent to life in the city, including those related to ecological crises, trees, nature and labour.

Students will visit overlooked sites in and around Bangkok, taking these as stimuli for conversations about everyday life. Examples include the Big Trees Garden – one of the largest transplanted nurseries and markets in Thailand – as well as a factory producing handmade bricks in Bang Prakod comprising brick ovens in dome structures, and the Old Customs House next to Chao Phraya River, which operated as a tax collection facility in the 19th century. Participants will develop skills in street photography, writing and curation, as well as building professional confidence and learning how to present their work to critics. Their final projects will be compiled into a hand-bound, A2-sized art book.

[Read more and apply](#)

Seoul, South Korea

## Medicinal Architecture

26 December 2022–6 January 2023

James Kwang Ho Chung, Ja Kyung Kim, Jongwon Na

The Seoul Visiting School: Medicinal Architecture will investigate the condition of our bodies and the spaces we inhabit, from a forensic and anatomical perspective. The aim of the programme is to confront the inevitability of our collective sickness by removing ourselves from the perpetual loop of illness and cure, and uncertainty and prophecy. The meaning, value and significance of life often only becomes clear to us in the context of death, yet if we deny this inevitability we miss many opportunities to reflect on what we have.

The programme attempts to identify and interrogate emerging medical typologies within Seoul which claim the capacity to heal. We will analyse the intents and techniques inherent to these typologies, and alongside this we will consider the genuine medicinal properties of architecture and other practices within the city. Rather than examining normative and machinic healing processes, we will instead observe, expose and create experimental tools with the capacity to impact and improve lives that are already underway. The programme will run in collaboration with K’Arts (Department of Architecture) and the final exhibition will be held in partnership with Builddweller.

[Read more and apply](#)

AAVS BANGKOK

Image by Jolene Malek







# JANUARY

Patagonia, Chile

## Water Futures in the Chiloé Archipelago

4–13 January 2023

Pedro Alonso

Water Futures in the Chiloé Archipelago is the second in a series of three workshops addressing cultural developments related to water within the Patagonian territory. The intention of the Patagonia Visiting School is to speculate on the future of these developments in the context of climate crisis and a changing environment. During the programme's first workshop in 2022, participants visited the Fiords in southern Patagonia, studying how water infrastructure is used by the inhabitants of this remote territory comprising small, dispersed settlements.

This year the programme will visit the Chiloé region in northern Patagonia, which exhibits more urban development than our previous site of investigation. Chiloé is an archipelago formed of more than 40 islands, and contains both urban areas and smaller settlements. In response to these conditions, participants' case studies and projects will focus on speculative urban programmes (productive industries, transport, dwellings, etc) that have a direct relationship to water, considering what the future holds for this environment in light of climate change. The programme is held in collaboration with the Catholic University of Chile and will be based at the Senda Darwin Biological Station, a research facility near the city of Ancud. From here, we will visit a range of sites including floating structures housing salmon industry workers, construction sites on and above the water, and the home of a wine grape-growing industry.

[Read more and apply](#)

## London, UK and Coquimbo, Chile Spring Semester Programme 2023: Coquimbo. IronBelt

9 January–19 May 2023

Naiara Vegara

The AA Semester Programme is a full-time course situated at the AA in Bedford Square; it runs for 15 weeks and is open to undergraduate and graduate students, architects and other creative individuals from around the world. The Semester Programme is studio-based and follows the renowned unit system at the AA, which provides one-to-one conversations with tutors to guide and develop students' work. Pin-ups, workshops, lectures and juries complement a varied range of interactions and forms of co-operation between unit colleagues. AA tutors and external experts are invited to discuss the projects and provide personal feedback throughout the programme. A 'Studio Only' option, which excludes core studies courses, is also available.

In Spring 2023 the programme will address the port city of Coquimbo, part of the Chilean Iron Belt – a geological province in the north of the country. As a centre of industry and a sea freight hub close to one of the largest mines in Chile, Coquimbo sits between the ocean and a mountain range on the Pan-American Highway. Participants will investigate urban challenges in this context and seek opportunities for projects to foster integration of rail infrastructure into the urban fabric, proposing new vocations for the city's waterfront. We will examine the environmental and functional conditions of the site, as well as the architectural typologies and socioeconomic profiles present in Coquimbo. Each participant will develop their own brief to target specific design challenges relating to the insertion of new developments within the existing urban fabric.

[Read more and apply](#)



# FEBRUARY

## Sydney, Australia For the Term of Your Natural Life

6–17 February 2023  
Adolfo Del Valle Neira, Oskar Johanson

In recent years, Australia has been subjected to the catastrophic effects of climate change. During the summer of 2019–20, when violent bushfires burned widely across the east of the country, millions of people were exposed to toxic smoke and more than a billion animals were killed. In 2022, much of the same region experienced widespread and devastating flooding during what became the wettest year on record, with Sydney receiving more than two metres of rain by the end of August that year.

The Sydney Visiting School will take the form of a two-week design studio, taught in partnership with the University of Sydney SSADP, which challenges students to examine the specific forces driving these climatic events and their repercussions for architecture and urbanism. Working from the University of Sydney's Darlington campus on the traditional and unceded lands of the Gadi people, participants will engage with Aboriginal Australian knowledge holders and professionals, visit exemplary architectural sites, and engage with the work of architecture in professional practice, government and the field.

[Read more and apply](#)

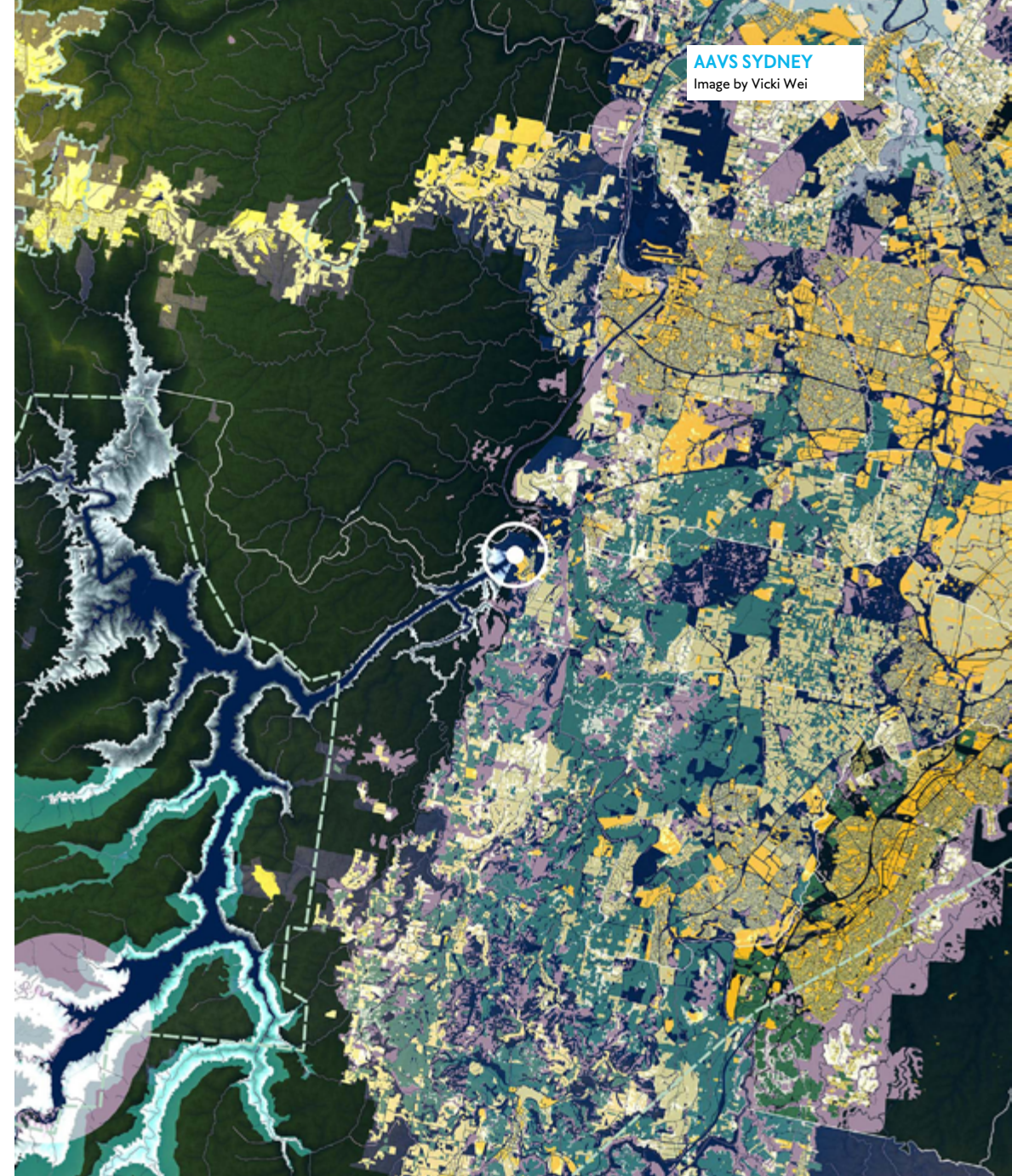
## Monterrey, Mexico and London, UK Metropolitan Landscapes

17 February–27 May 2023  
Jose Alfredo Ramirez Galindo, Clara Olóriz Sanjuán

The Metropolitan Landscapes Visiting School is a joint Postgraduate Diploma programme that runs for 12 weeks as a partnership between Tecnológico de Monterrey (Tec) in Mexico and the AA in London. The programme offers weekend sessions on campus at Tec and online sessions with the AA, and includes a week-long field trip to London. Bringing the entrepreneurial culture of Tec together with the experimental tradition of the AA, Metropolitan Landscapes examines the emerging planetary role of metropolitan regions while challenging the notion of a so-called 'urban age' in the context of the climate crisis.

The programme will critically interrogate the historical relationship between society and nature, by examining the intricate and interdependent relationships between dense urban environments and the landscapes and territories necessary for them to thrive. Participants will investigate the potential role that new design methodologies might play in creating alternative visions for metropolitan regions at a planetary, regional and local scale, in close connection with disciplines including planning, policy-making and geography. We aim to encourage the design profession to participate in wider interdisciplinary conversations, in order to transform governance structures and the management of metropolitan regions.

[Read more and apply](#)



# MARCH

Dorset, UK

## Hooke Park: Full Moon Theatre

4–7 March 2023

Francesco Anselmo

In 1992, in Gourgoubès in the south of France, an international team of physicists, engineers, artists, musicians, writers, choreographers, dancers, film directors and television producers, led by opera director Humbert Camerlo and engineer Peter Rice, created the first open-air theatre performance exclusively illuminated by the light of the moon. Thirty years later, this Visiting School programme seeks to recreate the ‘wonderful laboratory’ of the Full Moon Theatre.

The programme offers an opportunity to work together as a community following the isolation of the Covid-19 pandemic, reflecting on the fragility of our ecosystem and the impact of our actions as designers. The aim is to address critical contemporary issues that are particularly relevant in the context of ongoing climate, energy and ecological emergencies. Our laboratory will be located at Hooke Park in Dorset and the programme will take place over the course of four days in March 2023, with the last night being a full moon night.

[Read more and apply](#)

Dorset, UK

## Hooke Park: Land Matter Media

27–30 March 2023

Kate Davies

Land Matter Media will connect the forest at Hooke Park with a wider Dorset context, creating a rich tapestry of themes and ideas that weave the local agricultural, extractive and military landscapes together. Making use of the new Field Station – an outdoor study, research and event space set deep within the Hooke Park woodland – this residential programme focuses on audio-visual fieldwork, site-specific interventions and media excursions into landscape.

The programme will include talks, film screenings, discussions and excursions, as well as practical workshop sessions that encourage a hands-on attitude among our participants; we will be making work to explore ideas. Students will develop critical, land-based audio-visual work that engages and contextualises the forest at Hooke Park within a wider local and global context. Our work will culminate in a site-specific multimedia installation, screening and event at the Hooke Park Field Station.

[Read more and apply](#)

# APRIL

London, UK

## Unreal Worlds

10–21 April 2023

Inigo Minns, Sebastien Tiew

Based at the AA in Bedford Square, this film production course offers participants the opportunity to design worlds as sites for architecture and entertainment. The programme will enable those interested in working with the Unreal game engine to produce realistic and evocative environments.

Participants in the programme will develop their skills in Unreal in order to produce a short three-act film, in which the design of spaces, objects and lighting all contribute to the creation of consistent and beautiful filmic worlds. Exercises intend to introduce students to some of the fundamental elements of narrative design, including storyboards, mood boards and character design. Prior experience of using Unreal is not necessary, but basic 3D modelling skills are required.

[Read more and apply](#)





# MAY

Iceland

## A Political Ecology

May–June 2023

Óskar Örn Arnórsson, Stefan Laxness

The Iceland Visiting School is an ongoing programme which explores the relationship between the extraction of natural resources from the Icelandic countryside and their deposit in architectural form as cultural institutions within that same landscape. Each year, the programme chooses a resource-institution paradigm as the departure point from which to unpack questions of power, access to resources and everyday life. Through field work and theoretical discussions, we explore how humans, non-humans, matter and institutions are intricately linked within the space of this paradigm between the body, architecture, the urban fabric, landscape and the planetary.

The programme invites participants from all educational and professional backgrounds to critically explore the ways that architecture, urbanism and political ecology intersect within the context of Iceland. A selection of invited guests will guide participants in the development of their own exploratory methods, and help to sharpen their propositional skills through workshops, lectures and events.

[Read more and apply](#)

Orobic Alps, Italy

## The Self-Observing Landscape

10 May–27 June 2023

(AB)normal

The digital tools we use to represent the geography of Earth are rapidly changing, becoming more sophisticated, complex and difficult to control. In parallel to this, the need has emerged for the creation of ‘digital twins’ of things at every scale: from the three-dimensional scanning of single objects to the production of complex simulations of the entire planet and its systems, which enable us to observe the mutations of Earth in real time and predict its future developments. As such, these digital simulations act as tools both to interpret the present and to anticipate the future.

The Self-Observing Landscape Visiting School is based in the heart of the Orobic Alps. Participants will focus on the construction of small digital landscapes: replicas of portions of physical territory which constitute the initial fragments of future large-scale mapping projects.

[Read more and apply](#)



## San Diego, US and Tijuana, Mexico Transborder Landscapes

17–25 June 2023  
Raul Bielsa, Jimmy Ta

The Transborder Landscapes Visiting School is composed of technical courses, cartographic research, and field trips in San Diego and Tijuana. The programme runs in collaboration with Woodbury University and is open to undergraduate and graduate students and emerging professionals with a design, architectural or landscape background. We focus on the socioeconomic impact of the landscape interface between San Diego, US, and Tijuana, Mexico, considering how design interventions, cartography and agency within local communities might impact border policy.

The programme investigates geomorphological processes within the region and considers the methods through which each country manages the Tijuana River, examining the stark differences between the US and Mexico at a local level. We address the urban context in relation to social and economic issues at a metropolitan scale, considering the contrasts between the urban, desolate and wild landscapes of San Diego and Tijuana. Research will be conducted at ground level on-site, alongside digital investigations; participants are encouraged to explore their own interests by unveiling connections within various scenarios through graphic representation and cartography.

[Read more and apply](#)

## São Paulo, Brazil INTERIORCITY

30 June–9 July 2023  
Franklin Lee, Anne Save de Beaurecueil

As the Covid-19 pandemic surged through Brazil, one positive consequence that emerged from lockdown was a newfound appreciation of intimate outdoor public spaces for play and (distanced) social encounters. Small public plazas which had previously been ignored became spontaneous outdoor gyms, were rediscovered as playgrounds and offered a much-needed space in which to vent energy. Our connection with outdoor public space endures two years on, buoyed by memories of their therapeutic effect during difficult times.

In response to this phenomenon, the São Paulo Visiting School will develop proposals for indoor and outdoor structures and communal furniture that inspires adults and children to play, explore and interact. The programme aims to discover how the creativity inherent in the city, coupled with the use of natural elements in outdoor public space, can influence and transform our interior spaces. Students will create 1:1 structures and furniture using parametric design, and will engage with digital fabrication to demonstrate their proposals.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Houston, US Moonshot

June 2023  
Vittorio Netti, Levent Ozruh, Sara Martinez Zamora

As we approach a second space age, the Moonshot Visiting School will speculate on the ways in which humans might live and thrive in outer space. Architects will play a key role in shaping our inhabitation of this extraterrestrial environment; by exploring new forms of domesticity, sustainability and inclusivity through advancements in technology, this process may in turn also enable us to improve our positive impact on Earth itself.

The programme brings together individuals, companies and institutions within the space industry, introducing students to agile new technologies and ‘moonshot’ ideas with the potential for novel applications on Earth. We will design products, articulate visions and develop applications at the architectural scale through workshops focusing on additive manufacturing, extended reality and descriptive artificial intelligence. These activities will be supported by an accompanying schedule of lectures and site visits.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Venice, Italy Possibility of an Island: Super Venice Edition

June 2023  
Margherita Marri, Sofia Pia Belenky, Luigi Savio

In 2023, the Possibility of an Island Visiting School concludes its three-year programme with a workshop based on a private island in the Venice archipelago. A number of different architectural collectives will propose design briefs that address the spatial quality of temporality and transition; in response, participants will produce new tools, practices and rituals in the form of temporary architectures, video essays and photographs that speculate on the future of Venice.

The programme will be accompanied by a series of events, lectures, performances, film screenings and celebrations. At the end of the workshop, outcomes created over the past three years of the Possibility of an Island Visiting School will be published and presented in Venice.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Osaka, Japan

# Reimagining the Japanese Pagoda

June 2023

Mohammed Makki

Traditional Japanese woodworking techniques have been passed down over millennia by Daiku – master carpenters who teach their apprentices the precise and valuable skills of carpentry through methodical and time-intensive processes. However, as advanced construction methods developed throughout the 21st century and younger generations lost interest in woodworking, this valuable artform has become less prevalent within Japanese culture. While traditional knowledge continues to be employed in the design and fabrication of shrines, temples, teahouses and Japanese-style homes, it no longer manifests within mainstream architectural techniques. As such, this knowledge is under threat, yet the recent development of new digital technologies offers potential for its preservation.

Through a programme held in Osaka and Kobe, hosted by Takenaka Corporation and Takenaka Carpentry Museum, participants in this Visiting School will examine the relationship between traditional Japanese woodworking techniques and advanced computational tools. They will design and construct a Japanese pagoda, using this exercise to explore and establish a reciprocal relationship between the old and the new.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Okoboji, Iowa, US

# Worlding-with, in Company

27 June–8 July 2023

Space Saloon: Gian Maria Socci, Rebecca van Beeck, Danny Wills

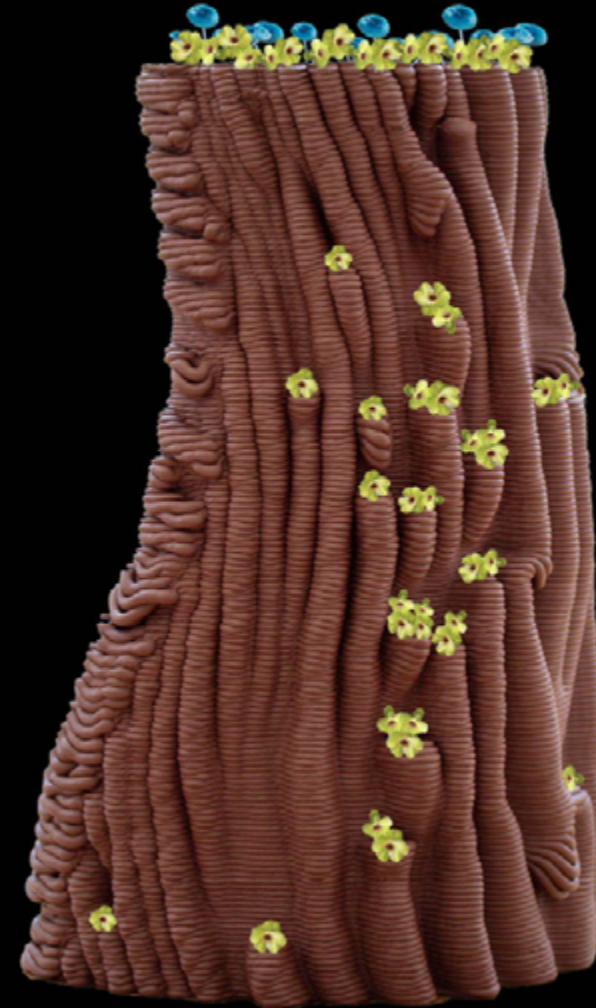
This Visiting School will undertake a multidisciplinary exploration of creative and scientific field research methods, aiming to demystify aspects of site, context and landscape. Participants will collectively research, design and build an interactive pavilion that enhances the public's understanding of water, soil, geology, flora and fauna while positively influencing and interacting with these diverse ecologies.

Led by the design collective Space Saloon, this workshop takes place on-site at the Iowa Lakeside Lab, a permanent field research station and summer camp. Together we will engage with the physical and invisible ecologies of north-west Iowa's Great Lakes region using a variety of analogue and digital tools. We will visit regional natural sites with field researchers, consulting directly with local scientific experts and lab technicians. As a collaborative unit, we will explore the use of local low-carbon, earthen or plant-based and repurposed materials.

[Read more and apply](#)

AAVS TORONTO

Isabel Ochoa, James Clark Hicks, Hannah Ni, Yingying Zeng





# JULY

Melbourne, Australia  
**Project Toria**

3–14 July 2023  
Mond Qu

Project Toria is a research and design lab that speculates about the future of the State of Victoria in Australia, exploring realms in which architecture is a vehicle of thought. The programme will bring together a diverse range of professionals and thinkers to share creative visions for what lies ahead.

A two-week laboratory will be hosted at the Melbourne School of Design, in which participants will be encouraged to imagine what a future Victoria might look and feel like. Students will be introduced to contemporary digital design techniques, tool-sets, workflows and frameworks. We will undertake local research, immersive analysis and intensive design sessions to produce a collection of projects that explore how lifestyles, mobility, energy, material and food can be reimagined in creative and unique ways. The programme will be a testing ground for speculative scenarios – from autonomous infrastructures, territorial landscapes, robotic fabrication, crypto banks, hydro-powered carbon extractors and circular urban farms to a city that can house 22 million inhabitants. Together, we seek to develop propositions that can act as catalysts for radical and fundamental change in the region.

[Read more and apply](#)

London, UK  
**AA Summer School 2023:  
London's Belly**

10–28 July 2023  
Sofia Krimizi

The AA Summer School is a full-time, three-week course comprising a unique programme of design studios, seminars, lectures and parties. Based on the AA unit system, it offers participants the opportunity to experience a diverse selection of different learning environments, teaching agendas and design techniques. The programme offers participants the opportunity to learn from each other, share insights and build connections. Tutors, lecturers and critics include past and present AA tutors, as well as academics and professionals from a broad range of disciplines such as fashion, art, graphic design, industrial design, urbanism and film.

The dual-format programme takes place both online and on-site in the AA buildings at Bedford Square. A series of units will operate from the AA premises, while others led by tutors based around the world will operate digitally in conjunction with the London-based activities. A public programme held in the AA Lecture Hall and online connects these two formats of teaching, creating a rhythm of events shared both by the students and staff in London and those participating from afar.

[Read more and apply](#)

Dorset, UK  
**Hooke Park Build**

10–29 July 2023  
Emmanuel Vercruyssen

Hooke Park Build is a fabrication programme through which participants assist in the physical production of experimental architecture at the AA's satellite woodland campus, Hooke Park. By working on active projects, students are exposed to many aspects of timber building, from forestry operations and traditional building methods to innovative robotic fabrication.

Hooke Park is a continuous laboratory wherein learning takes place through the act of making. Participants will take part in the development of Wakeford Hall, an important new building that will be the central focus of the campus; activities will relate to ongoing research into the relationship between the natural geometries of trees and engineered timber for the development of large-scale building components.

[Read more and apply](#)

Seoul, South Korea  
**Social Algorithms as Evolution**

14–23 July 2023  
Dae Song Lee, Jae Won Yi

Over the past decade, the Seoul Visiting School has oscillated between site-driven research which unveils Seoul as a city, and computational design experiments using diverse algorithmic processes. Running in collaboration with Yonsei University, the programme in 2023 seeks to build on these accumulated experiences through a new agenda focusing on the theme of evolution. We are keen to experiment with the ways in which architecture relates to human evolution, and ask how this has manifested as adaptations and variations within social rituals, systems and machines.

Participants will work in two units, each seeking to identify the 'phenotype' and 'genotype' of the inhabitants of Seoul by working with distinct briefs, methods, seminars and in specific workshops. A lecture series will accompany the programme, further exploring the themes addressed. Our ambition is that this methodological experimentation will inform architectural debate in the future.

[Read more and apply](#)







## Barcelona, Spain Ceramic Prints

17–27 July 2023  
Edouard Cabay, Relja Ferusic, Carles Sala

This year, the Barcelona Visiting School continues its research into 3D printing technologies, wine architecture and design in order to develop a series of ceramic containers for the act of winemaking. Many traditional materials used in this process have been replaced in recent decades by those that can be fabricated industrially; however, some wineries are now resuming the use of hand-crafted ceramic containers. These vessels provide nuance and character in the colour, smell and taste of the resulting wine, and the size, shape and material used in their fabrication all influence the quality of the end product. We seek to introduce computational design and contemporary digital manufacturing techniques to the winemaking process, in pursuit of novel approaches to fabrication.

Three-dimensional printing technologies will be central to our methodology, enabling us to design, prototype and process data. Working in a leading Catalan winery, participants will design and make ceramic winemaking vessels at 1:1 scale with the object of producing a few litres of wine.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Istanbul, Turkey Robotic Mediations

17–28 July 2023  
Elif Erdine, Milad Showkatbakhsh

The Istanbul Visiting School offers a unique learning and making experience in collaboration with the Ozyegin University. The programme for 2023 continues to build on previous years' work developing generative design methodologies and large-scale prototyping techniques, while bringing together a range of experts from internationally-acclaimed academic institutions and practices including the AA and Zaha Hadid Architects, among others.

The programme will investigate the relationship between form, material and structure through the rigorous implementation of innovative design and fabrication techniques. Computational methods for design, analysis and fabrication will be explored alongside physical testing, fostering learning through experimentation in an active collaborative studio environment. Throughout the programme, the associations between various computational platforms establish correlations between form-finding, material computation and structural performance. These discoveries allow participants to develop new means of interpreting conventional fabrication processes, encouraging their advancement within the domain of advanced computational and robotic methods. The key objective of the programme is to create a 1:1-scale prototype, realised using robotic fabrication techniques.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Majahua Beach, Mexico Palimpsest Barragán

19–28 July 2023  
Ingrid Moye, Christoph Zeller

Palimpsest Barragán offers a unique opportunity to engage with an architectural masterpiece of 20th-century modernism by the Mexican architect Luis Barragán. The ruins of the unfinished building that is the subject of our programme have sunk into oblivion and are currently undergoing progressive decay: they are a hidden architectural jewel set amid a jungle on the Pacific coast, not unlike the ancient Mexican pyramids. This workshop seeks to 'unearth' the ruined Barragán project and situate it within architectural discourse, but also aims to provoke wider debate regarding the preservation of its ruins from disintegration.

In contrast to the aggressive ongoing commercial exploitation of wild locations in Mexico, Palimpsest Barragán will focus on the reuse of these ruins, seeking a new and sustainable second life for the site. We will reflect on Barragán's dialogue with the landscape and how this highlights an important correlation between architecture and nature.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Rio de Janeiro, Brazil Subjective Tectonics: Cobogó

20–29 July 2023  
Roberto Boettger, Olivia Marra

This Visiting School interrogates tectonics within the tropical, post-colonial urban context of Rio de Janeiro, with a focus on cobogós – perforated elements deployed to attenuate sunlight, heat and humidity. As a cheap, efficient and versatile mode of environmental design, the cobogó represents a tangible manifestation of the continuous negotiation between shared space and the production of subjectivity. By allowing both architects and inhabitants to rethink the role of walls within a house, the use of the cobogó in domestic interiors and façades has enabled modes of living beyond the sheer (re)production of labour.

The programme will be hosted by the Instituto Inclusartiz, and begins with lectures on the history and architecture of Rio de Janeiro, alongside workshops on plaster casting, conversations about the theories and practices of construction, and talks by renowned architects. Students will work collaboratively in small groups, supported by individual tutorials and presentation reviews. Our work will culminate in the design, fabrication and assembly of 1:1-scale cobogó elements cast in plaster, to be exhibited in public.

[Read more and apply](#)



## AAVS NANOTOURISM, WÖRTHERSEE

Image by Paul Sebesta

## Stuttgart, Germany The Laboratory

21–28 July 2023

Marianne Mueller, Chrissie Muhr

The Stuttgart Visiting School is a cross-disciplinary initiative between the AA and ABK Stuttgart which brings together architects, artists, designers and researchers to speculate on life in the near future – placing the responsibility for this future back in our own hands. The programme asks: can architecture and architects save the world?

Our planet is undergoing radical change, with the climate crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, war and resource scarcity all demanding new architectural solutions and mitigations. In order for our discipline to remain relevant and able to respond to these crises, architectural practice and its terminology requires a ‘reset’. By nature, architecture is a collaborative, public and collective practice; the programme posits that a multidisciplinary approach is imperative to reorient us towards a more environmentally and socially caring architecture. Participants will seek new modes of interconnectivity between design, material, labour and use.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Dorset, UK Maeda Hooke Park: Furnishing the Landscape

July 2023

Shin Egashira with Charlie Corry Wright, Chris Sadd and others

This workshop will take place at Hooke Park, the AA’s woodland campus in Dorset. Building on a series of material fabrication experiments, participants will work solely with locally-harvested timber and clay to emphasise the opportunities offered by the mixed use of digital and analogue fabrication techniques.

These collective efforts to reimagine the present environment by revisiting traditional ideas will allow our understanding of the dichotomies between industry and craft, multiple and bespoke, and poetic and practical to coalesce. We will materialise artefacts to lay over the woodland’s current topography, and participants’ work will contribute to the ongoing development of an outdoor dining area at the heart of Hooke Park. The Maeda Hooke Park programme is made possible thanks to long-term support from the Maeda Corporation.

[Read more and apply](#)



## Hainan, China

# Meta-land for Mobile Habitats

July 2023  
Yan Gao, Soomeen Hahn

This Visiting School is sited on Hainan Island – a popular tourist destination designated by the Chinese government as a special economic zone, offering visa exemptions for all foreign visitors and numerous tax-free policies. These conditions have the potential to escalate the island's existing seasonal migrant flow from a national to international scale, and a new lifestyle based within mobile habitats is expected to emerge there as a result.

The programme will use Hainan Island as an incubator for ideas that address the concept of meta-land: places which coexist in virtual and physical spaces to support the existence of mobile habitats. In contrast to those which exist within a conventional urban or rural environment, architectural objects within the meta-land should be more innovative, faster to implement, more immersive and integrated with new means of mobility – examples include boat libraries, portable huts, walking studios, foldable houses and inhabitable transformers. By exploring new modes of occupancy for physical and virtual space through cross-disciplinary experimentation, participants will encounter a new spectrum of design opportunities, aiming to nurture a more sustainable and healthier lifestyle on Hainan Island.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Berlin, Germany

# Urban Phoenix: Rethinking Metropolitan Masterworks

July 2023  
Edith Wunsch

This year, the Urban Phoenix Visiting School, held in collaboration with TU Berlin, addresses a potential future scenario for Berlin in 2033. The programme will imagine the repercussions that could result from a lack of action in response to tipping points reached in 2022 relating to crises of climate, mass migration, economics and construction. The infamous disused International Congress Center (ICC) in Berlin continues as the stage for our work, which will explore solutions relating to the concept of urban resilience.

Students will build on this speculative narrative by contemplating questions of identity and belonging, proposing modes of spatial appropriation and use, and developing symbiotic space typologies. The aim is to equip participants with the skills and methodologies required to engage with the challenges of the future.

[Read more and apply](#)

# Nanotourism

July–August 2023  
Aljoša Dekleva, Amanda Sperger, Jakob Travnik

Tourism currently faces radical changes worldwide, having previously been one of the fastest-growing global industries. The new realities that have emerged in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic offer an opportunity to rethink how we visit places and experience our home environments in meaningful and profound ways. The Nanotourism Visiting School is an experimental research programme which seeks to articulate a creative critique of the environmental, social and economic shortcomings inherent to conventional tourism. The programme develops critical 'nanotouristic' case studies which reveal hidden aspects of a specific context, establishing new synergies between places, users and locally available materials.

Through critical investigation of the potential of our chosen sites, participants will develop 1:1-scale conceptual interventions in the form of events, built installations or strategies. Through collaboration with key local stakeholders, we will imagine and implement future collaborative prototypes of responsible tourism.

[Read more and apply](#)



AAVS DLAB 2022  
Image by Brian Zhao

# AUGUST

## New York City, New York, US Urban Futures

4–12 August 2023  
Andrew Richard Haas

The New York Visiting School, held in partnership with the Pratt Institute, investigates new computational approaches and collaborative design methodologies for the development of adaptive urban interventions – blurring the lines between physical, digital and biological spheres to create new conceptions of the city.

Focusing on Governors Island in New York City, participants will explore the unique historical context of the site and the recent attention it has attracted in the form of development and public programming, creating proposals that offer solutions to the challenges of this unique urban framework. We will reconsider the role of the designer as that of a system architect – one who produces reconfigurable environments that can continuously generate new futures. Experimentation is a key focus of the programme: we will question conventions through design that initiates discourse, offering novel solutions that can adapt to the changing landscapes of urban systems around the world.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Zürich, Switzerland Exhibiting Architecture: Media, Methods, Agents

13–20 August 2023  
Klaus Lennart, Lennart Wolff

The Zürich Visiting School invites students and practitioners from the fields of architecture, design, art, curation and theory to reimagine architecture exhibitions and their media, methods and agents. The programme draws on the rich academic and cultural landscape of Zürich, fostering exchange with institutions such as the ETH and Kunsthalle Zürich, and includes contributions from a wide range of international guests and speakers.

Participants in the programme will engage with a range of media – from models, drawings and photography to oral histories, performances and installations – to move beyond an object-focused discourse. Each day of the workshop is devoted to a specific mediality and the different curatorial methods it deploys, which will be explored through reading sessions and group discussions. Invited curators, theorists, artists and architects will give lectures, hold seminars and guide participants through exhibitions.

[Read more and apply](#)





## Koshirakura Village, Japan Koshirakura Landscape Workshop

24 August – 5 September 2023  
Shin Egashira, Carolina Vallejo

Launched in 1996, Koshirakura Landscape Workshop has evolved into an annual local event. Students become summer residents of the Koshirakura community, living and working in a former primary school building, and are encouraged to step out of their comfort zones and engage with the local people and environment. Koshirakura is one of the many post-agricultural communities which are slowly disappearing from the scenery of rural Japan, overshadowed by urban growth during the past century. The programme encourages cultural exchange, celebrating the differences between its young international participants and the ageing local population.

Students explore the intelligence inherent in locally-available materials and artifices by creating architectural forms that reflect the natural and social climate of Koshirakura. Projects in recent years have included a communal kitchen, a local bus shelter and a water drinking observatory built from reused building material.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Luxembourg Dædalus

28 August–10 September 2023  
Anouk Ahlborn, Fearghus Raftery

In 2023, this Visiting School will continue to investigate the architectural condition of Luxembourg by looking beyond its borders. Our brief this year addresses the way in which Luxembourg involves itself in international projects, following previous iterations of the programme which explored the country's ambition to become a leading economic actor in Europe, and considered its strategic transition from a steel industry-based economy to a knowledge economy. The figurative rocket launched in 2022 during the town of Esch-sur-Alzette's tenure as the European Capital of Culture will now project us towards the 18th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice.

Participants will identify creative relations between Luxembourg and Venice, explore the spatial formats of the biennale, consider the architectural ideas brought forward by national pavilions and speculate on their potential manifestation in Luxembourg. The programme will include field trips, building tours, seminars, workshops and tutorials, and students will develop their own critique through photography; these provocations will be curated to feed back into public discourse. The programme is organised in collaboration with the Master of Architecture at the University of Luxembourg and the Luxembourg Center for Architecture.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Şirince, Turkey A Cornucopian Dichotomy

August 2023  
Efe Gole, Gul Deniz Korkusuz

Based in the scenic Arkhé campus near Şirince, this Visiting School programme operates as a centre of research and experimentation within the context of heritage studies. We seek to record existing and extinct architectural forms, rituals and social practices in specific geographic areas, translating these into speculative archival experiences through workshop-based practices of making.

This year, the programme will focus on fertility, abundance and the concept of a 'good harvest'. Participants will begin by undertaking a series of field trips to various ancient and modern sites, including marketplaces and vineyards in the vicinity of Arkhé campus, accompanied by academics and practitioners. We will explore the juxtaposition of production and overproduction, and of consumption and overconsumption, reinterpreting our discoveries through debate, design and 1:1-scale fabrication.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Amman, Jordan MARS

August 2023  
Kais Al Rawi

The Mars Visiting School is a design-research programme based in Amman which incorporates visits to the Wadi Rum desert – an area famed for its unique landscape and its likeness to Mars, to the extent that it served as the set for the 2015 film *The Martian* – and the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Petra. Participants will undertake technical software workshops to develop computational design skills, which will be articulated within an applied design project and supported by a series of lectures by guest practitioners. The programme this year focuses on speculating space architecture for the planet Mars through the exploration of nature-inspired design approaches and generative techniques.

[Read more and apply](#)



## Asinara, Italy Casting Castaways

August–September 2023

Paolo Emilio Pisano, Sabrina Puddu, Francesco Zuddas

The Casting Castaways Visiting School migrates every two years from island to island across a former carceral archipelago in the Mediterranean Sea, enacting the power of nomads as decolonising agents. Our approach seeks to suggest future scenarios for these territories in relation to current trends in tourism, environmental preservation and heritage, while interrogating how architecture might provoke a departure from concepts of incarceration and colonisation.

In 2023, we will set our camp on the Italian island of Asinara – a former penal colony from 1885 to 1997 which is now a national park. The programme posits that a new project for the island can only stem from direct engagement with its bare life by deconstructing the stratified formal structures and perceptions of the former penal colony. From this position we will engage with the territory of Asinara by digging into its substance, both conceptually and physically. This will enable us to reimagine what it means to engage with an island which seems to have come full circle, periodically erasing and replacing the signs of its past like an over-recorded tape. We will approach the island with recognition that it has no trace of a local community, and that no residents are present with whom to build ties.

[Read more and apply](#)

## Mallorca, Spain Learning From Water

August–September 2023

Alexandra Chechetkina

This Visiting School is organised in collaboration with Kosmos Architects, Isla Architects and Blanca Gardelegui, and will focus on the urban and landscape ecologies of Banyalbufar in the Balearic Islands. Banyalbufar is a small village surrounded by the Tramuntana mountain range, a UNESCO World Heritage site; due to climate change, it is currently suffering from severe drought. As water is one of the most valuable resources required to support life, and will only become more precious in the future, we believe that architects have a responsibility to address this issue and its local and global implications.

Banyalbufar was inhabited and cultivated by the Moors in the 10th century, who created more than 2,000 terraces on the slopes of the mountains and developed a complex irrigation system using aqueducts, part of which is still in operation today. Through a series of workshops, we will explore the architectural, infrastructural and urban heritage of Banyalbufar to create design propositions that can meet the environmental challenges of the present day.

[Read more and apply](#)



AAVS NANOTOURISM, INTER ACT

# SEPTEMBER

London, UK

## Autumn Semester Programme

September–December 2023

Naiara Vegara

The AA Semester Programme is a full-time course situated at the AA in Bedford Square; it runs for 15 weeks and is open to undergraduate and graduate students, architects and other creative individuals from around the world. The Semester Programme is studio-based and follows the renowned unit system at the AA, which provides one-to-one conversations with tutors to guide and develop students' work. Pin-ups, workshops, lectures and juries complement a varied range of interactions and forms of co-operation between unit colleagues. AA tutors and external experts are invited to discuss the projects and provide personal feedback throughout the programme. A 'Studio Only' option, which excludes core studies courses, is also available.

London, UK

## DLAB

1–17 September 2023

Elif Erdine, Milad Showkatbakhsh

Now in its 18th year, DLAB is an annual three-week programme held at the AA's Bedford Square premises in London. The programme experiments with the integration of advanced computational design, analysis and large-scale prototyping techniques, drawing on accumulated expertise in complex architectural design and fabrication with a focus on materiality and performance.

DLAB investigates correlations between form, material and structure through the implementation of computational methods for design, analysis and fabrication alongside analogue modes of physical experimentation and prototyping. Each cycle of the programme devises bespoke architectural processes through the creation of novel associations between conventional and contemporary design and fabrication techniques. The programme culminates in the creation of a 1:1-scale prototype realised through robotic fabrication techniques, integrating form-finding, material computation and structural performance.

[Read more and apply](#)

Favignana and Venice, Italy

## Terrain Lab

3–12 September 2023

Elena Longhin

Terrain Lab provides a space for co-learning, interdisciplinary collaboration and comparative studies, examining the maritime space of the Mediterranean as a place of transition in which economic, political, racial and ecological dynamics intertwine. The programme understands design as a means of researching, disclosing, representing and questioning the various processes that take place within territories in transition. Our methodology brings together approaches from architectural studies and landscape urbanism with those of urban political ecology, environmental and cultural studies, and our aim is to foster an improved understanding of collective agency at the intersection of the anthroposphere, the biosphere and the geosphere.

The Terrain Lab Visiting School: #Trajectory 03 will begin its exploration of the transitional landscapes of the Mediterranean Sea from a site on the island of Favignana, within the Aegadian archipelago off the coast of Sicily, before travelling to Venice. Within the delicately balanced ecosystem of the Venetian lagoon, we will bring together historians, scientists, geologists, artists, architects, designers, curators and writers to discuss strategies of care for water ecologies, with a focus on environmental preservation, mass tourism, heritage and climate change.

[Read more and apply](#)

Tokyo Gedai and Toride, Japan

## Archaeology of the Present Time: Tokyo Way of Life

7–15 September 2023

Shin Egashira, Tamao Hashimoto, Fumi Kashimura

This field research workshop is organised in collaboration with the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts (Tokyo Gedai) and ICI Camp in Toride. The programme engages with two communities – the inner-city working community of Ueno, and the satellite town of Toride at the eastern edge of the city – which are situated at either end of a 30-minute commuter train journey. Two alternating perspectives of Tokyo life will be explored through the work of architects Wajiro Kon, Genpei Akasegawa and Konpeitou, offering a counterpoint to the history of post-Metabolism Tokyo.

Participants in the workshop collect stories and architectural fragments captured through photography, film, objects and drawing. We will use collage, bricolage, assemblage and montage methods to draw scattered realities together along this section of the commuter railway line that links the two communities, reflecting both contemporary and traditional outlooks. The aim of the project is to design and produce a semi-fictional atlas of Tokyo's interior landscape.

[Read more and apply](#)





# DECEMBER

Alter do Chao, Brazil

## Inhabiting the Anthropocene

17–23 December 2023

Marko Brajovic, Nacho Martí

Nature is a designer with 3.8 billion years of experience – one which refines its approaches through a process of evolutionary development. With this in mind, as a region containing significant biodiversity, the Amazon rainforest can be seen to represent the world's largest and most advanced technological laboratory. This workshop will explore the ways in which we can learn from nature, and how we might use this knowledge to design a sustainable future for all of the planet's species.

[Read more and apply](#)

