Field trips are an important component of any architectural education. Our Contemporary Architecture Study Abroad Course is a one-of-a-kind multi-stop field trip that visits and studies many outstanding contemporary buildings, urban centers, outdoor spaces, plazas, and parks, and sometimes offices of world-famous architects in Europe in July and August every year.

“Taking the study abroad was a transformative experience. I gained architectural knowledge that would have taken years to acquire and it was a giant leap forward for my reading of spaces and functions of buildings.”

- Daniel Toledano - M.Arch Online

“Architecture (Buildings) Culture, Food, we had so much to say to each other.”

- Chi Li - M.Arch

“It was an mind-opening experience. Although I’ve done in-depth research about the buildings before we went, I was still shocked, the moment I stood in front of them: the visual impact, the touch of the materials, the effect of light, the movement of people, and even smells sometimes, were all out of my expectation.”

- Ying Wang - M.Arch

The course cumulates in an intensive site visit, throughout a particular region in Europe. The comprehension of the architectural precedents that we will be visiting will be supported through discussions, guided tours, walking tours, and lectures on site.

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The Study Abroad Course is an extremely exciting experience, bringing students to major capitals in Europe that are considered architectural hotspots, willed with world-class contemporary buildings from world-famous and emerging architects.

Seeing and experiencing these masterpieces in person is a palpable and powerful one, and will enhance your understanding of architecture, space and place, impacting you for years to come, well beyond your time in academia. In the last few years we have used our many international contacts to incorporate visits to world-renowned architecture offices. The 2016 study abroad took us inside the office of Herzog and de Meuron, an immense experience we will try to revisit. In 2017 we visited the Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG) in Copenhagen, the office of Zaha Hadid in London, and David Chipperfield’s office in Berlin.

Beyond these office visits, the trip will include tours through buildings that are usually not accessible to the public. You will gain insight into these buildings and a broader, more comprehensive understanding of architecture by experiencing spaces in real life, an understanding that cannot be reached through books or internet research.

The course is a one-of-a-kind offering to our students. We will prepare for the trip and learn about the sites we visit in a 4.5 week class prior to the travel that follows during the rest of the summer semester. It is possible to extend your stay in Europe after the study abroad trip concluded. It is open to Graduate and Undergraduate Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Interior Architecture and Design Students, Onsite as well as Online.

Perspective

Gain a truly global perspective which will be enriched by your first-hand insight in contemporary design. The breadth of the examples you are going to encounter will add experience and measure to your future decisions as a designer and help you to develop a multicultural sensitivity.
The course continuously features buildings and issues that are currently being discussed in architectural media and that are front and center of current architectural discourse. As a student you can expect to be able to participate in understanding these issues through your first hand experience of buildings. Most buildings we will visit are completed in the last 10-20 years. Some might be older and a few are just completed months or even weeks before we visit them.

OFFICE VISITS
In the last years we were able to visit offices of world famous architects and experienced their work methods and philosophies first hand. Offices that we visited included: Bjarke Ingels Group [BIG] in Copenhagen, Denmark (above and left), Herzog and De Meuron in Basel (below center), Switzerland; David Chipperfield in Berlin (below), Germany; Zaha Hadid in London, England (below left).

OUTSTANDING WORK FROM WORLD RENOWNED OFFICES
The Contemporary Study Abroad visits buildings of world renown architects. You can expect to see the best of the best of architectural examples in the world. Recent trips have included works by Peter Zumthor, Bjarke Ingels, Rem Koolhaas, MVRDV, SANAA, Zaha Hadid, Herzog and De Meuron, David Chipperfield and many others. Additionally, you will be able to experience buildings of young architects who are considered up and coming during the next decades.
They say the devil is in the details

Seeing great masterpieces such as the Kunsthaus Bregenz by world famous Swiss Architect Peter Zumthor to the left and starting to understand the details, the materiality, the tactile and experiential qualities is like a revelation no book or internet article can provide. This is a 1:1 classroom experience, this is the 

MEMORABLE EXPERIENCES

Have you ever climbed on to an over 500 foot (157m) tall roof of an 800 year old cathedral that is still under construction? Did you ever walk on top of a giant tensile structure of an olympic stadium that was built by a Pritzker Prize winning architect and then jump off it from 115 feet (35m) in the air, while being attached to a 655 feet (200m) long cable? Well, students who took this class in the past have done so and whenever we can do something special like this, we will endeavor to make it a part of your unforgettable experience.

Landscape Architecture and Public Space Design

The outstanding architectural examples are always embedded in intricately designed public spaces. European public areas, plazas and street life allow for ample opportunity to study and experience urban, landscape, and public space design.
While we will be taking in a lot of different buildings in a very small time frame, there are some highlights each day, where we will spend a longer time to have ample opportunity to take photographs, sketch and take in the experience.

BELOW THE SURFACE
Many of our tours take us to spaces that you will usually not experience when visiting a building. There is a deep insight to be gained from all types of background spaces and the inner workings of complex buildings, as in the example above, when we visited the giant backstage spaces of the Royal Opera House in Denmark, or the sound stages and rehearsal spaces of a large Philharmonic to the right.

Often we also visit buildings that are not accessible to the public. We initiate special guided tours that take you into spaces that you can not experience in any other way.

Walking through the wheat field you hear the buzz of the insects around you ... it was idyllic. Then you take a turn and you see there are people from all over the world who have come to see this teeny tiny little chapel, and you walk in and you have goosebumps.

-Michelee Alvarez - M.Arch

MAJOR CITIES
Besides the architectural sites we visit you will also be experiencing major European cities. While the class topic is still the major focus, you will see many of the famous sights of these cities. There are two or more days off for you to roam around on your own and to do some sightseeing.
Agora Theatre
UNStudio in collaboration with B + M, Lelystad, The Netherlands

Book Mountain and Library Quarter Spijkenisse - MVRDV

Centre Georges Pompidou / Renzo Piano Building Workshop + Richard Rogers

Louvre Lens, Lens, France - SANAA

Ruhrmuseum Essen, Germany - OMA Rem Koolhaas

Haus Lange Haus Esters, Krefeld, Germany
Ludwig Mies van der Rohe
Every Summer Semester the students assemble an extensive Travel Book in preparation for the trip. The e-book is an important guide to the sites which the course visits during the travel component of the class. After the class, a printed version of the book becomes a constant memory of the class and the buildings visited. (For onsite students a printed book is part of the course fee).

**DISPLAY AT THE VENICE ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE**

During the Biennale 2016 two of our online faculty members, Jose Mayoral Moratilla and Simon Battisti curated exhibitions and pavilions and exhibited in the Venice Arsenale. During our visit students were able to experience faculty work first hand.

**VENICE ARCHITECTURE BIENNALE**

The Architecture Biennale in Venice, Italy is the most important and most extensive exhibition of architecture in the world. Experiencing this amazing event is a truly global showcase of trends and debate and a must-do on the bucket list for all architects and designers. Our study abroad program visits the Biennale in even numbered years when architecture is in its focus and on odd numbered years, the Biennale is focused on world class art.

**ARCHITECTURE AND ART EXHIBITIONS**

In addition to the Biennale, visiting world class museums and galleries to see art and architecture exhibitions is always an important part of any study abroad trip, especially in years where we do not go to Venice, we take extra care to see other architecture exhibitions throughout our region of travel.

**TRAVEL BOOK**

Every Summer Semester the students assemble an extensive Travel Book in preparation for the trip. The e-book is an important guide to the sites which the course visits during the travel component of the class. After the class, a printed version of the book becomes a constant memory of the class and the buildings visited. (For onsite students a printed book is part of the course fee).
"... it is so hard to truly understand a building without visiting it in person."

- Ying Wang - MArch
THOUSANDS OF YEARS OF HISTORY THAT INFLUENCED THE WESTERN WORLD

Europe has a rich history that is evident everywhere. As the class focuses on European architecture and contemporary discourse, the cultural influence of European culture on the western world becomes clear through these historic examples.

PUBLIC CULTURE AND STREET LIFE

Europe’s population is outgoing and public squares and areas are very often highly populated. During the trip you will have ample time to enjoy and experience this unique culture. There are also multiple days off so you can roam around on your own and enjoy the cities we visit independently.

CONTEMPORARY WITH A TWIST OF HISTORY AND CULTURE

While we are mainly visiting contemporary and modern buildings, we will not ignore seminal historical highlights along the way. Often these historic examples enrich our appreciation and understanding of the recently completed buildings we see.
Then we went into the Rotterdam Market Hall and it was just... the hair stands up on your arm. It was amazing, like a party, there were people meeting for dinner and people tasting food. It was so much different than what we had assumed.

-Michelee Alvarez - M.Arch

Important Facts

Please read this information carefully for answers to most FAQs. Please contact your advisor or Department Director for more information or who to contact.

VISA INFORMATION
FOREIGN STUDENTS
- Foreign Students will need most likely a Visa to travel to Europe.
- The Exchange Agency we work with the AIB (Academy for International Education) will issue invite letters to each student that will enable them to apply for a Schengen Visa

DOMESTIC STUDENTS
- The Visa Process can take up to 3 months. Students are responsible for their own Visa and to make sure that they meet all deadlines.
- Students who would like to stay longer in Europe should notify us early enough in advance the AIB will issue the invitation letters accordingly.

- Generally US nationals do not need a Visa to travel to Europe but it is each student’s responsibility to make sure that this is the case (e.g. in case of double citizenship).
- If students are legal residents in the US (Green card holder) they might still need a Visa to travel to Europe.
- The travel is scheduled in a way that students can extend their time if they choose so - students are responsible for their own expenses when staying longer.

Total Costs
TRAVEL COSTS:
- The cost of the traveling component for 2018 is $3850 to cover all items listed.

TUITION:
- In addition to the travel costs students are responsible for regular tuition for 6 credits. These credits count towards your degree.

THE FLIGHT:
- Students are responsible for the cost and booking arrangements of the flight from their specific origination and for the length of stay that they decide. It has been found that students can book their own flights more efficiently and at higher discounts when booked individually.

FINANCIAL AID:
- The Foreign Study Course is a 6 credit course for Graduate students and 2 x 3 credit courses for Undergraduate students. The courses may be covered by Financial Aid. Eligibility depends on your remaining Direct Stafford loan eligibility for the 2017/2018 academic year as well as your eligibility for the Grad PLUS loan. For more information please contact Sun Chan in the financial aid office at 415-618-6228.

What is Included?
THE TRAVEL COSTS COVER:
- Accommodation
- All Entry Fees
- Architectural Tours at selected Buildings (where possible)
- Public Transportation and Flights or Train Rides between Cities in Europe
- Health Insurance
- Logistical Coordination
- Access to an amazing array of world class architecture guided by the School of Architecture Graduate Director, Mark Mueckenheim
- NOT included is the Flight to Europe (see information to the right).
- Enrollment in the classes is required and there will be an $800 down payment required by April 15th to secure the reservations made for the trip.

Eligibility and How to Enroll
OPEN TO:
- All Architecture students as well as Landscape Architecture and Interior Architecture Design Students with Director approval.
- Graduate and Undergraduate
- Undergrad architecture students are responsible to work with their advisor to determine if the summer foreign study allows them to have pre-requisite courses complete for the Fall studio course they intend to take.

- Online and Onsite (the course is taught online and onsite while the two week travel component is taken “off site” but in person)
- Students should contact their Department Director if they are in their first semester of study with us.

HOW TO ENROLL:
- Graduate Students enroll in ARH 903 or ARH 903 OL
- Undergraduate Students enroll in ARH 493 and PRO 494
- If you are an Undergraduate Online student please contact us at architecture@academyart.edu and we work with you to review whether the course can be offered and completed

Kolumba Museum, Cologne - Peter Zumthor

VENICE MUSEUM, ITALY - PETER ZUMTHOR

Kolumba Museum, Cologne - Peter Zumthor

VENICE MUSEUM, ITALY - PETER ZUMTHOR

VENICE MUSEUM, ITALY - PETER ZUMTHOR
Enroll Today

Enroll today and secure a one in a lifetime amazing architecture experience like no other. If you are interested in the program, please enroll in the classes specified on the previous page. If you have further questions, please contact Graduate Director Mark Mueckenheim at:

mmueckenheim@academyart.edu

Check out the 2015 trip on YouTube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zdSyTvoBKM