

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY // ARCHITECTURE IN GENOA

FALL 2015

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Florida International University Faculty

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Publication Design

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ISBN

COPYWRITE INFO

OTHER INFO

























































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I have always loved cityscapes. It has always been somewhat therapeutic for me. Upon looking out, you feel so small in such a big world. This reminds me to stay humble and to keep moving forward. Genoa is fortunate to have several places that look out into the city.







INTRODUCTION

In the Fall semester of 2015, the FIU Department of Architecture sent twenty-three students to study in Genoa, Italy as part of the Architecture in Genoa Study Abroad Program. The class was almost evenly split between 4th- and 5th-year graduate students who traveled abroad to gain first-hand experience of important architectural projects and to develop an advanced design proposal in a radically different urban context.

For the first time in the program's history, the department had one of their own faculty members in residence for the entire semester to teach courses and lead study trips to various cities in Italy, France, and Switzerland. Senior Instructor Eric Peterson travelled with the students to Rome, Florence, Milan, Como, Turin, Pisa, Lucca, Lyon, and Basel to visit iconic architectural sites, including projects by Alberti, Michelangelo, Bernini, Boromini, Terragni, Le Corbusier, Zumthor, Piano, MVRDV, Herzog and de Meuron, Calatrava, and Rem Koolhaas.

"It was a fantastic opportunity for the students to see both historic and contemporary projects by some of the most influential architects in history," said Peterson. "These are projects they have studied in text books – to see them first hand is a tremendous experience."

In addition to teaching a seminar course that focused on architectural precedent, Peterson attended an Italian language class with the students, coordinated a course on twentieth-century Italian art and architecture, and taught a vertical design studio.

Chair of FIU Architecture Jason Chandler visited at midterm to review the students' work and to lead the study trip to Milan and Como.

"I am excited that we have FIU faculty teaching in Genoa," said Chandler. "It helps to foster a greater sense of connection between what the students learn in Italy and the work that they do here in Miami."

In Fall 2016, a new class of architecture students will travel to Genoa, and the teaching model will be further enhanced with additional visits by FIU faculty members, who will lead workshops and study trips while pursuing research opportunities in the region.

10 INTRODUCTION

VALERIA FOSSI / / D10













NATALIA MONTANA // DO8 MIKE PEISEL // DO8







// D10 ADAM MEDAL















MARIA PAGLIA // DO8







ANA MARIA REYES // DO8









RAFAEL ROCHA // DO8



матнеw карцал // D10















MATTEO FOCHESSATI



R E Y E S

LOREN

A



GIANNI FRANZONE



GABY MORENO





CULTURE AND ART IN ITALY

Professor Alessandro Cavalieri has worked extensively with ERASMUS students, Intra-European foreign exchange students studying in Italian Universities, and with MARCO POLO students, non-native speaking Asian exchange students studying in Italian Universities. He is qualified by professional and academic bodies to teach Italian language to both non-native and native Italian speakers. Professor Cavalieri has taught with the FIU Architecture in Genoa Program since 2008.

STUDIO CRITIC

Elisa Cagelli completed her Ph.D. at the School of Architecture and Design of Genova, with research on urban transformation and reactivation strategies for abandoned territories. Excerpts of her thesis La Città Sospesa: Genova, un Caso Studio were published in scientific publications.

PROGRAM MANAGER

Matthew Rice is dedicated to helping FIU build an academically focused study abroad experience that maximizes the opportunities of living and learning in a complex city. Serving as the FIU Genoa Program's director since its inception in 2005, he is responsible for coursework, teachers, academic travel, student housing, and legal matters. Rice has organized workshops involving students of both FIU and Genoa design schools, as well as workshops in Miami for University of Genoa students.

SENIOR INSTRUCTOR

Eric Peterson serves as the lead instructor of the Architecture in Genoa study abroad program. He earned a Master of Architecture from University of Florida and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Middlebury College. He teaches design studios and fabrication courses; his research focuses on fabrication, prototyping, and furniture design.

STUDIO CRITIC

Riccardo Miselli, obtained a Ph.D. in Design and Composition Architecture with a thesis entitled Towards New Codes For Architecture. He combines practice, research, and teaching as complementary fields of activity. He is author of several essays and books such as, Genova A/R, a City-Laboratory for Social Housing, (LetteraVentidue, 2013) which catalogues his personal research and teaching activity. Professionally he works with Eleonora Burlando, co-owner of NEOSTUDIO, www.neostudio.info. URBAN ARCHITECTURE OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Matteo Fochessati is curator at the Wolfsoniana – Palazzo Ducale Fondazione per la Cultura, Genova. He has a degree in Contemporary Art from the University of Genova, with a dissertation on The Italian Informal and The Influence of International Visual Art in The Postwar Period, and a degree in Contemporay Art, with a thesis on Futurist Mural Art. From 1990-93 he was collaborator of the art journal Tema celeste and became collaborator of the Giornale dell'arte.

URBAN ARCHITECTURE OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Gianni Franzone has a degree in German Literature and Art History from the University of Genova with a dissertation on Town's image in the German figurative culture 1905-1918. From 1990 to 1993 he was Registrar of the Mitchell Wolfson Jr. Collection in Genoa, the Italian branch of the Wolfsonian Foundation based in Miami Beach, and he later served as Assistant Director of the Wolfsonian Foundation in Genoa from 1993 to 1998. Since 1999 he has been curator of the Wolfsoniana-Palazzo Ducale Fondazione per la Cultura.

MAA CANDIDATE

Maria Lorena Reyes Bahamon received her Masters of Architecture from Florida International University in May 2015. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Arts in Architecture as a resident in the FIU Genoa Program, and working as a Graduate Assistant for Architectural Design 8 and 10. Her research will focus on exploring the intricate physical and metaphorical networks expressed in modern day Genoa.

MAA CANDIDATE

Gaby Moreno earned her Masters of Architecture from Florida International University in May 2015. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Arts in Architecture as a Fall 2015 resident in the FIU Genoa Program, and working as a Graduate Assistant for Architectural Design 8 and 10. Her research focuses on adaptive reprogramming of buildings in the medieval core of the Genoa. VISITING STUDIO CRITIC

Darci Pappano is the Director of the Cruise Ship and Super Yacht Design Program at Florida International University. She earned a Master of Interior Architecture from Florida International University, a Bachelor of Interior Design from the University of Florida, and a Bachelor of Arts from University of South Florida. She currently leads academic exchanges between FIU and UNIGE Nautical Design Department and is the founder and principle of Darci Design.







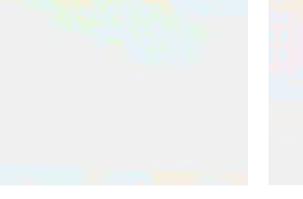


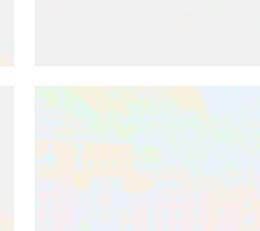








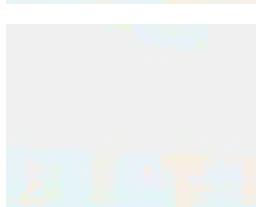


















LIGURIA EXPERIENCE

To study architecture in Genoa one must grapple not only with its ancient walls and narrow medieval streets, but also with its much more recent history. After its decline as the dominant international hub of banking that helped finance the age of exploration, Genoa languished for several hundred years before emerging as a major industrial port in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Genoa became the largest shipbuilding port in Italy and filled a key position in the Industrial triangle, a manufacturing region encompassing Turin and Milan in the north with Genoa defining its southern tip. At its height, Genoa's port was the largest by trade volume in all of Southern Europe. By the 1990s the most productive period of Italian industrial production was past, and the Porto Antico was effectively returned to the city as a space of leisure and retail commerce. Meanwhile the Western port facilities expanded considerably to accommodate both the substantial remaining trade and the larger vessels that modern transport technology favored. Genoa is still the busiest port in Italy, connecting active cargo rail lines from Milan and Turin to the rest of the world. As this commercial activity gradually shifts to the periphery of the city, the historic center is being re-programmed as a hybrid space of retail and residential central business district and an emerging touristic center focused around its historic port. As a result, rail and highway systems are adapting to the shifting nodes in the expanding port facilities opening new spaces near the city center for requalification and development.

Genoa's sense of its own identity is a curious mixture of pride in being home to the oldest continuously operated bank in all of Europe, the hometown of the mythic figure of Christopher Columbus, and the center of important organized labor movements in the early twentieth century. As architects, it is our task to evaluate the particular Genovese urban condition as it presents itself formally and systemically and imagine a new way to live in this ancient city emerging from one economic modality into another. At the same time, we must reflect on the way that the residents of the city view themselves and their heritage understanding that architecture is a critical tool for expressing civic identity.

The legacy of Genoa's industrial past looms large in the city, from the abandoned waterfront infrastructure to the newly renegotiated allocation of public space formerly used for trade and ship building. Renzo Piano's preliminary proposal for waterfront requalification implemented in the 1990s has successfully guided the urban waterfront through the first phase of its transition from working port facility to touristic retail and entertainment hub. This new land use at the waterfront has profound impacts on the historic center, not only transforming the gritty areas just off the port into picturesque retail districts but calling into question existing transportation networks and land use more broadly throughout the city. Genoa is now poised to renegotiate not only its waterfront, but land use adjacent to railway lines and yards built to accommodate large volumes of commercial traffic close to the city center. As the historic center adapts to new post-industrial uses the rest of the city will need to be reconsidered. The potential for this work is more than simply rethinking land use and proposing new buildings and programmatic uses. It involves establishing and articulating an emerging civic self-expression that is uniquely Genovese.

LIGURIA EXPERIENCE









Villetta di Negro

A candid moment captured of the girls of Via Luccoli, as they observed the city of Genoa from above. On the ledge was written, "Live so that you remember," and that's exactly what they did.

Palazzo Rosso

The intricacy of Genoa's many levels seen from the viewing platform of Palazzo Rosso.



Mercato Orientale

A source of Genoa's diverse food culture, and the main location that students would frequent for fresh produce or their favorite baked goods.



Da Maria A typical Ligurian dish, Insalata di Polpo, served at a popular lunch location frequented by students throughout the semester.

Palazzo Rosso Stair

Franco Albini's modern intervention in a historical palace of Genoa.

Forte Diamante

Image taken from Forte Diamante during a hike done by the group on the first week of the semester, an introduction to Genoa's terrain.





Portofino

The Ligurian Coast tour featured stops along the Italian Riviera, which is a part of the Mediterranean Sea in northwest Italy. This day was a bonding experience for the group as they swam in the sea and ate gelato on the shore.

Monumental Cemetery of Staglieno

Filled with life-like statues of mourning figures, cloisters, gardens, and a replica of the Roman Pantheon, this cemetery is a must-see for all.





San Lorenzo Cathedral

Also called the Genoa Cathedral, this was the sight of the students everyday as they made their way to and from the studio, and often a central meeting place for a quick lunch between classes.

Piazza de Ferrari

Located in the heart of the city, this link between the historical and modern parts of Genoa was the meeting place for the group before class trips.





Gelato Culture

Regular gelato stops were always a good bonding experience for the group, and a great reward after miles of walking each day.

Porto Antico

The group on the first night of the semester after having dinner at the port.

THE FORTS OF GENOA

A Forte Diamante

Built in 1758, this fort is one of the defensive structures located within the walls of the city.

B Vista

The views from the top are breathtaking, giving a panoramic overview of the port, the city, and the region.

c Team Building

An important step in building a positive group dynamic at the beginning of the semester, the students helped one another on the steep climb to the top of the mountain.









С









THE COAST OF LIGURIA

А Coastal Tour

The end of summer in Italy is the prime time to visit coastal towns and local beaches before the seasons change.

- В **Approaching Portofino** A pastel-hued harbor lined with super-yachts, this port destination is a short boat ride from Genoa.
- С **Early Morning Sunrise** Travel /study trips begin early allowing students to witness the sunrise in picturesque locations.
- D Free-diving at San Fruttuoso A 10th Century Ligurian monastery.







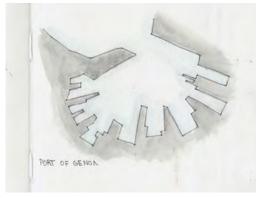




THE ANCIENT PORT OF GENOA

- A Sketching the Porto Antico Sketching is a daily activity that helps to build an understanding of the complex urban fabric of Genoa.
- B **Working Waterfront** Shipbuilding remains an important economic driver for the city.
- ^c **Orientation** The shape of the waterfront is the result of centuries of modifications to the shoreline.
- Porto Antico The new Port of Genoa is being transformed by architect Renzo Piano.











THE HISTORIC CENTER OF GENOA

Via XX Settembre А

An immense retaining wall and Monumental bridge marks a former entrance to the walled city.

- В Vicoli Narrow alleys lined with multi-story buildings define the spatial quality of the historic center.
- С Church of Santa Maria in Passione The remains of an ancient church in the historic center feature a wooden dome.
- Dark Alleys D The narrow streets of the historic city center turn day into night.

Piazza Dell'Erbe Е

A rare opening in the city fabric provides an opportunity for socializing in the sunlight.











DAILY LIFE IN GENOA

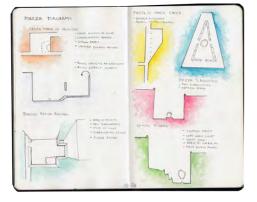
- **Sketches of Home Life** А Students live in double rooms in apartments with a shared kitchen.
- В Spatial Analysis of Genovese Piazzas Drawings in plan and section help build an understanding of public space.
- С **Caricatures of Roommates** Shared domestic spaces foster strong relationships between students who live together for a semester abroad.
- Sharing a Home Cooked Meal D Cooking for each other is a way to learn about local food culture in Genoa.



- "Meet Me in Piazza de Ferrari" F The center of Genoa is the perfect spot for meeting up with friends.
- G San Lorenzo Passing by the Cathedral of San Lorenzo, the main street of Genoa is active day and night.







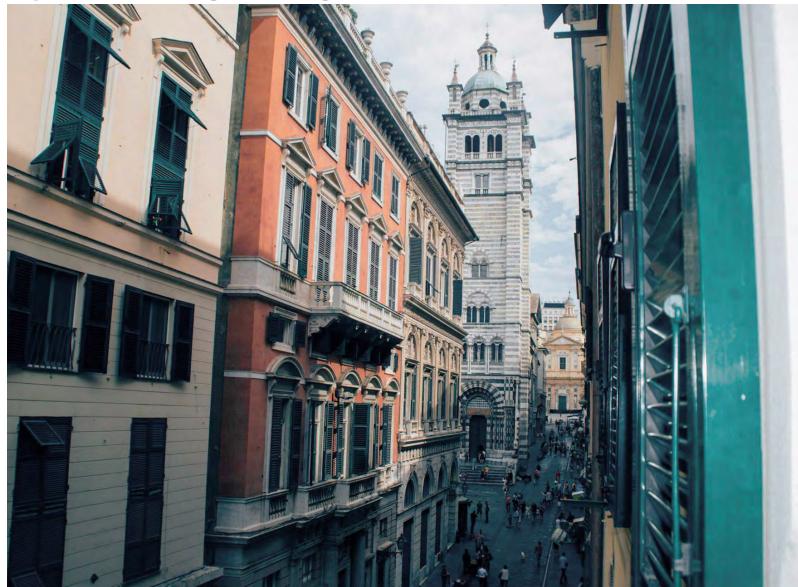






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My sketchbook is one of the useful tools I had throughout the semester. We were encouraged to sketch and draw as much as possible, so I was able to document the things I saw as well as my experiences through drawing.



MOVEMENT IN GENOA

- A **Salita** Sketch of a typical hillside pathway known as a Salita.
- **B** Funiculare

This mass transit solution for steep slopes is an inclined rail car attached by cable to a second car. As one ascends the hillside the other descends.

^C **Terraced Architecture** Public buildings in Genoa feature multiple entries and rooftop terraces that negotiate the steep terrain.











ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND GASTRONOMY

А Antipasto

To eat well is to learn how to speak Italian.

Local Products В

Part of the Italian language class included lessons on how to by local products such as pasta, bread, cheese, meat, and vegetables.

С **Group Dinners**

The group dines out together on several occassions throughout the semester.

Gnocchi al Formaggi A classic Italian dish, this pasta made D from potatoes is a hearty favorite.

Focaccia Е

This classic Italian bread is a staple of Genovese cuisine.

F **Dining Out**

While cooking at home is encouraged, students are also fond of local restaurants.

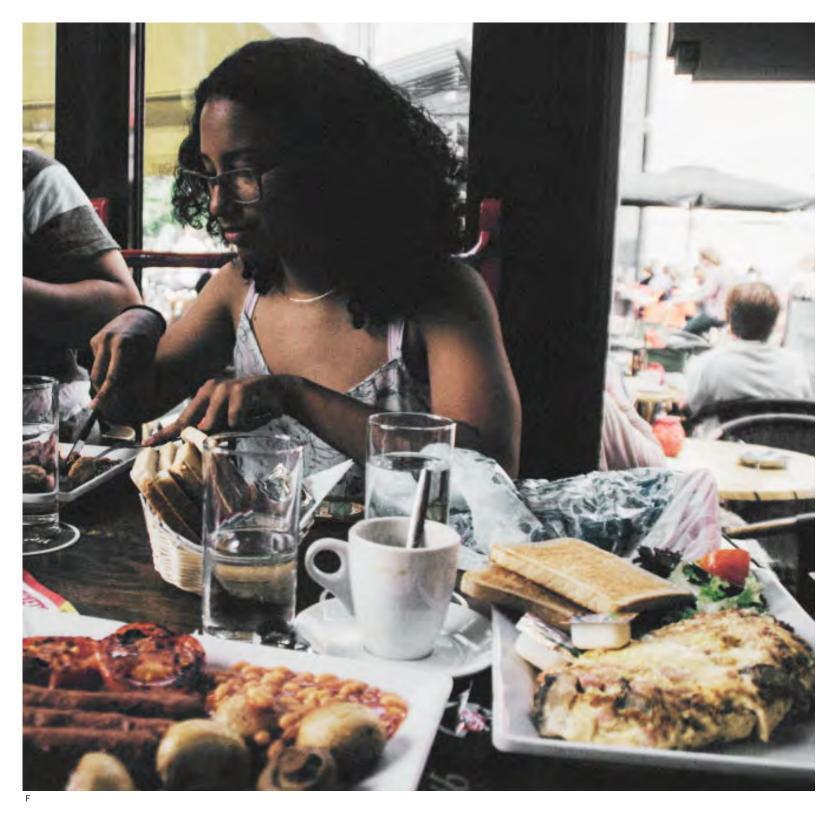












COLLABORATION WITH ITALIAN STUDENTS

Art School Ukunda UNIGE/FIU Urban Design Workshop November 5-12

UniGe: Cristiano Lepratti FIU: Eric Peterson & Matthew Rice

Critics: Elisa Cagelli, Riccardo Miselli, Elisa Marini.

The annual architecture workshop engaging the FIU students and UNIGE architecture students of Professor Cristiano Lepratti proposed a sustainable design for a school in East Africa near the city of Mombasa, Kenya.

Mixed teams of UniGe and FIU students proposed complex programming, spatial design, material, and tectonic solutions for this low-income community. Later, Architecture students from Professor Lepratti's class traveled to Kenya to present design proposals to local stakeholders.







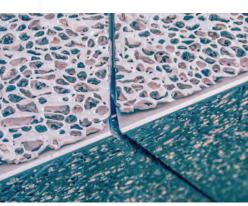










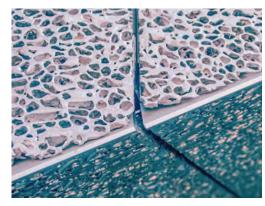






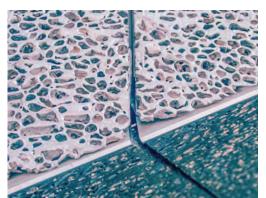






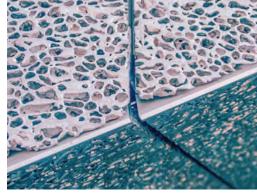
















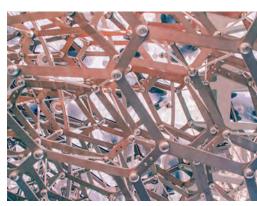




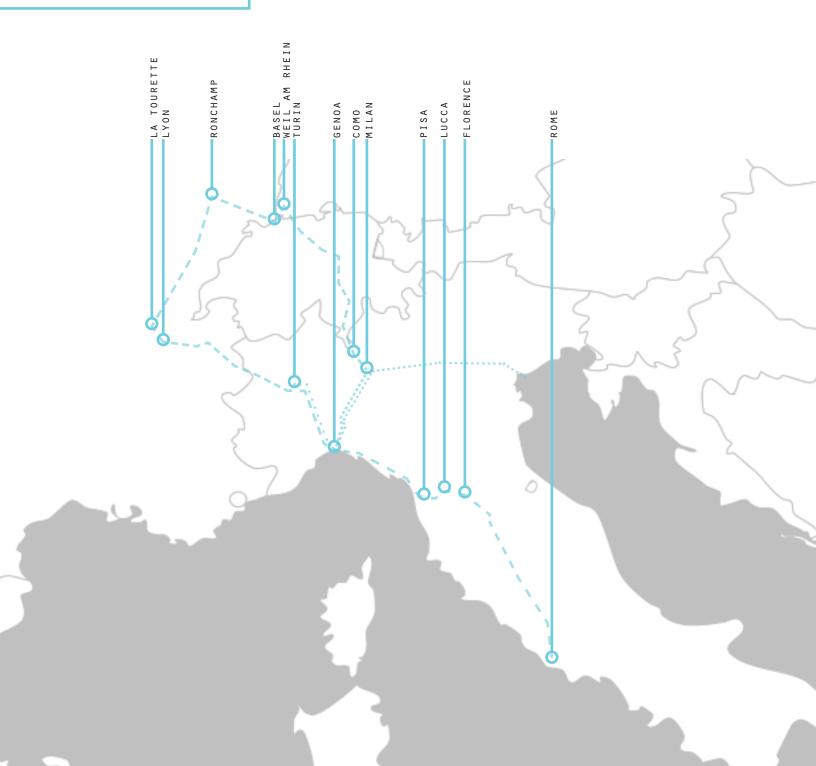














DESIGN PILGRIMAGE

In Le Corbusier's Travels to the East we see the mind of a young architect blossom as he visits and draws important architectural precedents for the first time. Indeed, for young architects and designers, travel is among the most important activities one can engage in, provided that it is accompanied by rigorous drawing and analysis of important architectural works.

The Architecture in Genoa program is founded on the principle that students learn best when they see architectural principles in action. We look at projects from many different eras attempting to distill architectural concepts rather than focusing on any particular time period or architectural style. Modern and contemporary architecture are particularly interesting because they are closer to our own experience and taste. But the architecture of the renaissance, medieval, and ancient periods has many lessons for the inquisitive student.

The travel / study programs are supported by a course in architectural analysis that asks students to draw and diagram architectural projects including buildings, piazzas, public spaces, and urban conditions.

In 2015 students had two primary study trips and several shorter day trips: Rome and Florence Lyon and Basel Daytrips to Turin, Milan, Como, Pisa, and Lucca.

The first travel / study experience established the grounds for investigation for the entire semester. We visited Turin to examine the inimitable work of Baroque master Guarino Guarini, as well as the renovation of the Lignotto Fiat Factory by Renzo Piano. This contrast helped us to address several important questions: How do we make sense of the legacy of renaissance ideas about space, material, detail, symbolism, and narrative? How do we understand the role of detail in contemporary architecture? and, How can architecture make sense of its past, both near and distant, while remaining distinctly contemporary?

The second travel / study trip to Rome and Florence examines two cities to discover the roots of western thinking about order and systems of architectonic logic. We visited projects by the most important renaissance artists and architects including Alberti, Brunelleschi, Bernini, Boromini, and Michelangelo to witness first-hand how the evolution of ideas about order are translated into concrete form as an expression of ideology that transforms cities from uncoordinated agglomerations of built work to more geometrically rational compositions. We then learn how advances in representational techniques coupled with a rising fascination with the individual as a primal figure leads to more playful compositions that are stretched and warped to satisfy a more whimsical taste during the baroque and mannerist period.

The final travel / study trip is focused on contemporary architecture and urban design. By visiting contemporary work by architects such as Renzo Piano, Zaha Hadid, Herzog and De Meuron, Tadao Ando, Peter Zumthor, and Coop Himmelblau as well as modern architecture by Le Corbusier, Mies van der Rohe, and Giuseppe Terragni, students learn to see the relationship between ideas and built form. Through our travels we learn how to see and identify ideas that take concrete form as principles and concepts within the built environment.

Additional day trips to Pisa, Lucca, Milan, and Como allowed us to examine important historic and contemporary architectural projects, to investigate urban plans, and to visit several art and design exhibitions including the Triennale.

DESIGN PILGRIMAGE









Musée des Confluences

Located at the confluence of Rivers Rhone and Saone, the museum by Coop Himmelblau features challenging contemporary forms and materials.

Sainte Marie de La Tourette

Monestary designed by Le Corbusier. The group spent the night in the monastery sharing a meal and attending evening vespers with the monks.



Gare de Saint-Exupéry

The railway station near Lyon, France was designed by Santiago Calatrava with soaring structural ribs enclosing a single spatial volume below.

The Orange Cube

One of two buildings in Lyon design by Jakob and McFarlane, both feature Boolean volumes shrouded in a brightly painted waterjet-cut aluminum skin



Ronchamp

This modern masterpiece by Le Corbusier sits on a hilltop in rural France and serves as a pilgrimage destination for architects from around the world.

Coloseum

This ancient stadium in the heart of Rome remains an impressive engineering feat and serves as an example of the enduring power of monumental architecture.





Swiss Countryside

Switzerland considers its agricultural landscapes as one of its most important national assets. Rural land owners can apply for subsidies to support traditional farming practices.

Vitra Fire Station

Zaha Hadid's first built project is the centerpiece in Vitra Design Museum's collection of contemporary architecture that houses various functions of this famous furniture company.





Royal Saltworks

Brunelleschi's most famous project was, at one time, the largest unsupported dome in the world. It features paintings of the rapture on the interior of its eight-sided dome.

Casa Giuliani Friggerio

This apartment building designed by modernist architect Giuseppe Terragni challenges the viewer to re-conceive ideas about mass, volume, surface, and void.

TURIN

- A **Passarella Olimpica** Designed for the 2006 Winter Olympics.
- B **Dome of San Lorenzo** Guarino Guarini's Baroque masterpiece.
- C Pinacoteca Agnelli Part of Renzo Piano's renovation of the Lingotto Fiat Factory.
- Helipad and Bubble Part of Renzo Piano's renovation of the Lingotto Fiat Factory.
- ^E Lingotto Fiat Factory Students on the rooftop test track.













LYON

- A **Musée des Confluences** A view of the Green Cube from Coop Himmelblau's controversial project.
- ^B **The Orange Cube** A view to the River Saône from inside Jakob and MacFarlane's Orange Cube.
- ^C **Musée des Confluences** Water collected on the roof of the museum fills the fountain below.
- D Gare de Lyon Saint-Exupéry An impromptu lecture inside Calatrava's 1994 train station in Lyon.



D







LE CORBUSIER

A La Tourette

The interior spaces of the monastery are characterized by abundant natural light filtered by colored glass panels and raw or polished concrete.

- B Window at Ronchamp Light is filtered into the sanctuary through a thick tapered wall with colored glass panels highlighting the heavily textured stucco.
- Color in the chapel at La Tourette Le Corbusier used intense colors to modify the quality of the light entering the sanctuary.







VITRA

- A Vitra House Herzog and De Meuron's VitraHaus serves as a showroom for Vitra furniture.
- ^B Warehouse by Sanaa An undulating polycarbonate skin clads the shipping warehouse.
- ^C Herzog and De Meuron Seating Covered seating outside VitraHaus provides an extended vestibule linking interior to exterior.
- D Buckminster Fuller An architecture collection is incomplete without a Bucky Fuller geodesic dome.









BASEL

- Beyeler Foundation by Renzo Piano The museum used a layered roof system А to filter light into a series of masonry volumes built from local stone.
- В **Beyeler Foundation**

The overhanging roof encloses exterior volumes of space creating a link between the interior and exterior of the museum.

Basler Münster С

The 11th Century Romanesque and Gothic style cathedral, rebuilt in the late 15th century, sits on a hillside overlooking the Rhine and towering over the town. Originally a Catholic cathedral, it is now a Reformed Protestant church.

D

Beyeler Foundation

A reflecting pool at the same level as the interior floor connects the exterior spaces of the garden to the gallery spaces within.









VALS

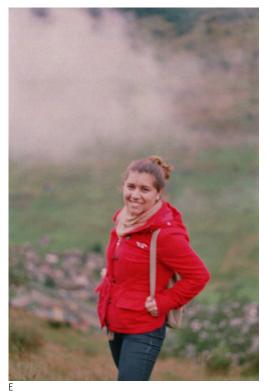
- A **Therme Vals** Peter Zumthor's famous spa sits in a steep slope in the Swiss Alps.
- B Vals, Switzerland A charming village in the mountains.
- c **Swiss Alps** Beautiful views from the spa.
- ^D **Peter Zumthor** Striated local stone cladding.
- ^{E F} Hills Above the Town Students hiked up the mountainside to view the town from above.

















ROME

- A Foro Romano Ancient forum from the Capitoline Hill.
- B Baths of Caracalla This ancient public bath provides a quiet respite from the crowds.
- c Inside the Colosseum This ancient stadium inspires wonder.
- D **Trevi Fountain** Bernini's iconic public fountain.
- E Outside the Colosseum The first sight of the Colosseum signals an arrival in Rome, an arrival in Italy.











FLORENCE

- A **Basilica di Santa Croce** This Franciscan Basilica by Brunelleschi
- B houses the tombs of famous Italian cultural figures, important frescoes by Giotto, and the famous Pazzi Chapel.
 C
 - Loggia at Palazzo Rucellai After a lecture on Alberti's contribution to renaissance architecture students take a break on the steps of the Loggia.

Cattedrale di Santa Maria Del Fiore Brunelleschi's most famous and enduring work towers over the city announcing the 15th Century's bold new approach to architecture.









MILAN

- A Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II The glass roof of the Galleria encloses a large volume of public space typical of sacred buildings.
- B Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II The scale of the immense interior space encourages a playful response to the light.
- ^C **Rooftop of the Duomo di Milano** Several hundred spiral steps lead to a rooftop terrace.
- ^D **Duomo di Milano** Gothic Facade of the Duomo di Milano.













COMO

- **Monumento ai Caduti** Giuseppe Teragni's memorial to the fallen solders of the first world war. А
- В Novocomum An important example of early modernist housing by Giuseppe Teragni.

Casa Giuliani Frigerio Jason Chandler discusses the intricate layered facade of Giuseppe Teragni's last building, the Casa Giuliani Frigerio. С











PISA/LUCCA

- A **Duomo di Pisa** This cathedral on the Piazza dei Miracoli serves as an excellent example of Romanesque architecture.
- B Battistero di San Giovanni The largest Baptistery in Italy, it straddles the boundary between Italian Gothic and Romanesque
- ^c **Campanile di Pisa** This fascinating engineering gaffe is a popular cultural destination.





RENZO PIANO OFFICE VISIT

- ^A Models on Display in the Archive
- ^B Full-scale Prototypes in the Garden
- ^C Drawings on Display in the Archive
- D Detailed Basswood Models
- **E** Models and Presentation Drawings





Going on an office visit to a Master Architect, who humbly stayed close to his own way of sketching gave me the impression that anything can be done, so long as I do it because I love it. The love he has for what he does inspired me to pursue my goals.

-Adriana Balcaceres







