Design Studies of the Built Environment
Exploring a transect across Western Europe
May 21 to June 27, 2020
VT College of Architecture and Urban Studies:
Interdisciplinary Summer Education Abroad Program (variable CR up to six)

The landscape architecture and industrial design programs in the School of Architecture +
Design are offering an annual Interdisciplinary Summer Education Abroad Program through
Western Europe. Students and faculty on the 37-day program will explore the design of
the built environment, across scales, and its relationship to art and culture as we travel from
Lisbon to Madrid, and Barcelona, then into Nîmes and Nice. After a stop in Milan, we move
on to Zurich before heading to Stuttgart and Berlin We will travel to Prague before ending
the program ends in Vienna. The program uses an interdisciplinary approach to studying
the built environment from the scale of the city to the size of a hand.

Students and faculty will explore such design issues as the similarities and differences in
physical design of things and places across cultures and centuries, including regional and
cultural influences on design, uses of a variety of building materials, uses of public and
private spaces, and the city as a setting for social and civic life.

All curious participants are welcome. Students from across the university and other academic
institutions are invited to participate. Contact us for more information.

Eligibility
The course is open to all students in good standing, including graduate students and undergraduate
students with junior standing.

Participants should be curious about comparative aspects of the built environment in industrial design,
arquitectura, urban design, landscape architecture, interior design, art and culture. Multi-disciplinary
participation enhances the discoveries of everyone and challenges all to see the world in broader
contexts.

Students from other universities may enroll as non-degree students in VT’s summer school. It is the
student’s responsibility to arrange for credit transfer with their home institution.

This program rewards those with curiosity, flexibility and a willingness to engage in an intense study of the
built environment, design and culture.

Credit:
1CR seminar during spring semester. Variable summer credits: 1, 3 to 6

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Application and Costs
Applications will be accepted beginning November 15, 2019. VT Summer Course registration begins December
6 and ends Feb. 7, 2020. Participants should apply before semester break in December.

A $600 non-refundable deposit will be billed upon acceptance of the application and submission of
completed financial agreement form. This contract reserves your space. Individual tuition varies depending
on residency status and enrolled credit hours. Students are responsible for lunches and other personal expenses.
Students are responsible for arranging plane fare and ground transportation to and from the group meeting in
Rome and departure from Copenhagen.

In addition to tuition and academic fees, the program fee is $7000. (The fee is subject to change if currency
exchange rates change.) The program fee includes shared lodging in local hotels and hostels, breakfast
and dinner, ground transportation when traveling as a group, and misc. entry fees. The cost does not include
individual expenses or air transportation.

All program fees are due in full by April 1, 2020. Tuition, the deposit and fees are billed directly to VT student
accounts.
The Program
Students and faculty on this 37-day program will explore product design, landscapes, cities, construction, art and culture as we travel from Lisbon to Madrid and Barcelona, before moving into the southern France cities of Nîmes and Nice. Then it's on to Milan, Italy and Zurich, Switzerland. After a stop in Stuttgart, Germany we move on to Berlin. It has been 30 years since the Berlin Wall came down. The program travels to Prague in the Czech Republic before ending in Vienna, Austria. The program uses an interdisciplinary approach to studying design of the built environment from the scale of the city to the size of a hand, exploring place, material culture, and design.

The program's interdisciplinary approach helps develop an understanding of how the built environment and culture may be interpreted in a broad cultural context as we study design of the built environment across multiple scales, construction and project implementation.

All curious students are welcome to participate.

The trip includes visits to museums and exhibitions, as well as meeting design professionals. City and town development in each location offers opportunities to see how regions are claiming their cultural heritage through contemporary economic development. Local and regional projects challenge conceptions of product design, building, urban redevelopment, landscape remediation and brownfield development using newer technologies and high expectations for more sustainable development practices as they support a high quality of life and concepts of city living. Historic two and three dimensional art works challenge and inform our world of design. Contemporary sites and sightings challenge concepts of design and development at all scales and across cultures.

All locations offer numerous opportunities to study and compare art, design, urban planning and design, landscape and architectural sites, and construction methods and materials from the scale of a door knob to the breadth of a region.

Spring / Summer / Fall 2020
The travel program builds upon a weekly preparatory seminar held during the spring semester. Off-campus students will be assisted in their preparations for study and travel. Students and faculty will meet in Lisbon to begin an intense and exciting exploration and study of each city, its art and culture, streets, buildings, construction and places. After the travel study concludes, each student will develop a graphic research pamphlet that presents and synthesizes an aspect of design discovered or uncovered. These pamphlets will be part of an exhibition of final work mounted in the fall semester.

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