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Summer 2024

Field Studies in Landscape Architecture:

Spain

David Tulloch

Class Overview

The class will use a studio format to explore existing planning and design work in Valencia, Barcelona and other Spanish cities for five weeks. The class will build on daily field visits to study the plazas, gardens, neighborhoods, buildings and art of the region. We will observe, sketch, measure, photograph and write about these spaces to deepen our understanding of how they function. Whether it is Cerdà's masterplan for the city or the sculptural work of American Beverly Pepper, almost every design we study will be something that works in a uniquely Catalan way. We will also tour Central Spain to see other cities and sites that provide important cultural and historical context for Spanish design and lifestyles.

During the early portion of the class we will use sketch design problems to test how students' understanding of this unique landscape works within existing site constraints. For the last three weeks of the semester we will tackle two larger design projects, one in Barcelona and one in Valencia. The development of site-specific design interventions will give students the opportunity to apply the lessons learned throughout the class while honing their design and representation skills.

Learning Goals

Illustrate ways that Spanish physical design features and cultural landscape elements shape the daily living environments of Spanish cities

Demonstrate mastery of design addressing the interconnection between a newly familiar people and places

Connect lessons about the working and natural landscapes with the urban landscapes they support

Travel

Each day we will meet and head out to sites around the city at times communicated on WhatsApp. Every day students should always come equipped with sketchbooks, cameras, sunscreen, pens and their subway pass.

To get around the larger cities, we will use mass transit, a lot. The program will provide a pass as we arrive in each of these cities and you will need the pass to get around. If you lose or misplace yours, replacements are your own responsibility.

At the start of the trip we will embark on a cross-country trip to see sites in Madrid, Grenada, Segovia, Seville, Valencia, Toledo, and Cordoba. This will be a whirlwind trip so you will need to be rested up.



Grading

GRADING:

Sketch Design Assignments	10%
Research Paper/Presentation	15%
Valencia Design Project	20%
Barcelona Design Project	25%
Photographic Assignments	10%
Sketchbook	15%
Common Lecture Presentation	5%

Activities

MATERIALS:

Sketchbook, pens, pencils, a few color pencils, camera
Maybe trace paper. straight-edge

PHOTOGRAPHY:

Everyone is required to pitch in to our Speaker Series presentation that we will give this fall. And donating digital photos from the trip will be an important part. But photography also becomes an important way that we explore and document the landscapes that we visit. So we will have two running photographic assignments, each will require turning in a set of photos at the end of the trip. There are multiple acceptable ways to turn in sets of digital photos including: Flickr streams, Picasa, saved on the RU LA servers at Blake Hall.

1. Every student should pick one major landscape (repeats are allowed) to photodocument with ~20-30 photos (take more). These will be places like the Industrial Plaza or the Olympic parks on Montjuic or Park Guell. You should be trying to capture both the large experience and the small details. This will mean a variety of scales and settings and it will mean capturing both objects and spaces.
2. Each student is being given a theme that they will be expected to photograph throughout the trip. At the end of the trip each student should turn in a collection of 24 photos from Spain that capture the variety and depth of that theme.

PHOTO THEME STUDENT

1. Doors	Student 1
2. Bollards	Student 2
3. Stairs	Student 3
4. Paving	Student 4
5. Tiles	Student 5
6. Water	Student 6
7. Stone and brick masonry	Student 7
8. Raised planters	Student 8
9. Columns	Student 9
10. Railings	Student 10
11. Gates	Student 11
12. Benches	Student 12
13. Water features	Student 13

SKETCHBOOK: Each student is required to create a thorough sketchbook as the trip proceeds. Every single day of the trip you should be sketching and writing. At some sites we may require you to spend a specified amount of time sketching a specified object or theme in a specified way (e.g., 30 minutes at the Plaza Catalunya sketching the fountains in b/w with one color or accent). But you should also be using free time to capture thoughts about your experiences, drawing the little things that you see (like fruit at La Boqueria or paving details at Auditoria

Park), and writing about the cultural experiences. The sketchbook will also become an important place to try out your ideas for your final design.

PAPER: Each student will be presenting a research paper while we are in the field. The written paper will be around 5-7 pages long and the presentation will be given at a place/time that relates to the topic of the paper. Quality matters as often these will serve as the primary introduction that all students in the class will get.

Paper Topic AUTHOR

1. Spain: Geography and Geology	Student 1
2. Moorish Influence on Design	Student 2
3. Alhambra/Generalife	Student 3
4. Modernisme (except for Gaudi)	Student 4
5. The Mediterranean climate and veg./landscapes	Student 5
6. The Roman Empire in Spain	Student 6
7. Historic trade: Romans, Silk road, Shipping	Student 7
8. Bridges and Buildings of Santiago Calatrava	Student 8
9. Barri Gotic and Medieval history	Student 9
10. Ildefons Cerdà and the Eixample	Student 10
11. The Architecture of Gaudi	Student 11
12. Catalan language, culture and identity	Student 12
13. Superblocks of Barcelona	Student 13

STUDIO PROJECTS:

Like your previous studios, the design projects are a central part of the overall effort. Unlike those other classes, our design work will be conducted in less formal settings on sites about which we will have far less data and information. Some will be undertaken in the field, primarily in sketchbooks, at specific sites (like a park that has fallen on hard times). Field design requires improvisation but still needs to demonstrate attention to detail, thoughtful communication and care of craft.

We will devote about 1 week to a major design project on a larger site within the greater Valencia area. Each student will get the freedom to choose their design media for the project (digital, paper, mixed). Upon completion, this should be a portfolio-quality piece.

We will also devote about 1 week to a major design project on a larger site within the greater Barcelona area. Each student will get the freedom to choose their design media for the project (digital, paper, mixed). Upon completion, this should be a portfolio-quality piece.

Because design and art stores are extraordinarily hard to find in Barcelona, students choosing paper media will need to bring all of your pens and drawing utensils from

New Jersey. Because we will be drawing on small tables or floors, you can leave your T- square at home but bring small drafting tools with you.



Travel Details

The studio will begin in Madrid with an orientation at 2pm on Tuesday May 28th. Students will be free to go, after the final presentations and farewell event in Barcelona late in the day on June 30th. If your schedule requires alternate timing, please check with David and Laura.

Work Submissions

It is your job to get your design work (Final design, sketchbook, research paper) back to Blake Hall and submit it by July 22. Digital work will be submitted online. **If your travels will keep you from doing that, you should talk to Dr. Tulloch early to work out an alternative.**