Paris: The City, Its Spaces
ARCH 782 Study Abroad Programs in Architecture –
PennDesign@Paris/University of Pennsylvania 2016

Paris Program XXXV: May 23-June 25, 2016

The Paris program is a long-established academic program that draws from many associations local to this greatest of Western cities. In its five-week study, the program consists of lectures on architecture, landscape and urbanism from important scholars, architects and engineers, with accompanied tours to buildings, parks, and professional offices.

We experience architecture and the city of Paris with an immediate sense of content.

The program addresses many questions central to the city of Paris: (1) Issues of urbanism, from the city’s seminal role in initiating the very discipline (Haussmann), to the contemporary dilemmas wrought by post-colonial peripheral developments. (2) The congruence between landscape and architecture in recent projects that bring the botanical and biological directly into the context of building. (3) Technological trajectories through which a particularly history of Parisian architecture can be traced, from the gothic cathedral, to concrete structures of Perret, to the latest achievement in structural glass technologies. (4) Contemporary civic architecture, beginning with François Mitterrand’s last great rebuilding of the city, the Grands Projets, but extending into projects at Les Halles, new project at the Parc de la Villette and the last planning for the Parisian periphery, Le Gran Paris. (5)The plethora of significant architectural moments in Paris and environs, especially the contributions of Le Corbusier, Auguste Perret, Hector Guimard and Pierre Chareau.

The program is organized from late-May to late-June. The typical week is organized with tours of sites in the mornings and evening lecturers at the Paris American Academy, located at the historic Val-de-Grace. Weekends are left free, with the exception of one group trip; in the past we have traveled to Basel, Switzerland or Lyon, France. Students live in apartments arranged by the Paris American Academy, in the 5th arrondissement in the Latin Quarter near the great and immeasurably beautiful Parc du Luxembourg.
CONTENT
Lecturers and tours listed below have taken place in previous programs, and are organized each year according to schedule and availability of the speakers.

TOPIC 1: The City

_ Marc Bedarida, Univerisité de Paris La Villette & Georgia Tech, Paris. Author, Habiter L’Utopie: Le Familistere Godin a Guise,
_ Mary Vaughn Johnson, Catholic University & Cité de l’Architecture
_ Franca Trubiano, University of Pennsylvania

Tours: Paris Underground, Roman Paris, Pavilion L’Arsenal, Passages Couverts (Arcades), Situationist Latin Quarter, Sixteenth Arrondissement Vernacular, Construction Site Les Halles, Le Front du Seine, La Défense

TOPIC 2: Technology: Histories and Futures

Lectures:  _Antoine Picon, Harvard GSD. Author, French Architects and Engineers in the Age of Enlightenment, L’Invention de L’Ingénieur Moderne: l’Ecole des ponts et chausses, 1747-185, and many others.
_ Henry Bardsley and Jean-Francois Blassel, RFR Engineers Paris
_ Bernard Cache, Objectile. Author, Earth Moves.
_ Tobias Nolte, Gehry Technologies Europe

TOPIC 3: Glass and its Politics

_Hugh Dutton, HDA Associés, Author with Peter Rice, Structural Glass_

Tours:  Nouvel, Institut du Monde Arabe and Cartier Center, Perrault, Bibliothèque Nationale de France, Parc André Citroën, Piano + Rogers, Centre Pompidou, Atelier Jean Nouvel, Dominique Perrault Architecture

TOPIC 4: Nature and Architecture

Lectures by:  _Philippe Rahm, Architect_ 
_François Roche R&Sie(n). Architect + Author, Bioreboot._ 
_Antoine Picon, Author Architecture and the Sciences: Exchanging Metaphor, Digital Culture_ and many others. 

TOPIC 5: Architecture A-Z

Tours: Le Corbusier: Maison La Roche/Jeanneret, Rue Molitor, and Villa Savoye; Chareau: Maison de Verre; Renzo Piano Building Workshop: IRCAM/ Niemeyer: Communist Party Headquarteres; Gehry: Fondation Louis Vuitton.

Group Trip: Marseille 2016

Past Trips
Lyon: Le Corbusier: La Tourette and Saint Pierre de Firminy
Basel: Herzog and de Mueron Buildings + Vitra Museum/ Ronchamp/ Ledoux, Arc-et-Senan
Bordeaux: Bordeaux House, OMA/ UNESCO St. Emilion/ Le Corbusier, Pessac