Study Abroad Title: Apomechanes: Summer 2018
PennDesign Summer Abroad Program, UPenn

Instructors: Ezio Blasetti, me@ezioblasetti.net, ezioblasetti@gmail.com
Danielle Willems, willems@maetadesign.com

Study Abroad Website(s): apomechanes.net
code.algorithmicdesign.net
cargocollective.com/encodedmatter
ezioblasetti.tumblr.com

Study Abroad Dates and Location: May 17, 2018 - June 16, 2018
Architecture School
Postgraduate Course Studies Space
Course Introduction: Apomechanes

Apomechanes is a computational design workshop as well as a study summer abroad program in Greece. This is part of a series of workshops and study abroad programs that have run since 2009. The title apomechanes is derived from “από μηχανής”, literally “from the machine”, and refers to the machinic nature of the studio in an abstract/diagrammatic sense. Apomechanes is a calque from Greek meaning “god from the machine”.

The Summer Study Abroad Program Greece will organize a series of visits to both archaeological sites as well as modern and contemporary architectural sites. PennDesign students will exchange and collaborate with a selected group of Greek Architecture students, Artists and Designers during a week-long design workshop. There will be a series of lectures from professionals and academics, which will frame the proceedings of the workshop. The final presentation will take the form of a symposium and an installation. The Greece study abroad program will run from 5/17/2017 to 6/16/2017.

This program exposes students to the ancient and contemporary of Greek culture, archeology, city planning and architecture foundations. Many cannons of our discourses come directly from Ancient Greek civilization, ranging from our Democracies to City Planning, Theory and Design. Every Designer should have the opportunity to study and closely read these foundational elements. These spaces, architecture and archaeological sites in Greece hold vast value to contemporary designers and are an essential part of educating the next generation of Designers. We will cover the following topics in this program (1) Ancient Architecture, Archaeology and City Planning. (2) The Generative & the Geologic: The Ancient Rivers of Athens. (3) Contemporary Athens and Mega Developments. (4) Speculative Architectural Movements and the Venice Biennale. (5) Aegean Archipelagos and Aerial Photogrammetry.

The program is organized from the end of May to the end of June. The typical week is structured with tours of Ancient and Contemporary site in the start of the day, and guest lectures and cultural events in the evening. Lectures are organized with the Fine Arts and Architecture Departments in Athens, conveniently located in the center of Athens walking distance from the Acropolis. Weekend trips are left open to explore the cities and the islands, unless there is a planned excursion. In the past we have organized trips to Archaeological sites outside of Athens such as Meteora, Epidaurus, Peloponnese, Ionian Islands and Aegean Islands. There is also a sailing trip, which will explore the Archipelagos of Greece. We will engage in 3D scanning ancient sites. Students will live in the heart of the Ancient City Center with public transportation to sites of interest and leisure.
CONTENT
Lecturers and tours listed below have taken place in previous programs, these are scheduled according to availability of the speakers.

TOPIC 1: Ancient Architecture, Archeology and City Planning

Lectures:
- Ancient Greek System of Architectural Spacing
- Acropolis and the Agora in City Planning
- Ministry of Culture

Tours:
- Acropolis and Agora Tour
- Theatre of Herodes Atticus
- Ancient Cemetery or Kerameikos
- Filopappos Hill
- Ancient Agora
- Temple of Sounion
- Roman Agora
- Arch of Hadrian
- Library of Hadrian
- Theatre of Dionysus
- Monument of Lysicrates
- Platonic Academy
TOPIC 2: The Generative & the Geologic: The Ancient Rivers of Athens

Lectures:
- Museum National Museum of Contemporary Art of curator for EMST
- Acropolis Museum curator lecture.
- Archeological Museum
- Mapping the Mythical River of Athens

Tours:
- Bernard Tschumi, Acropolis Museum
- Takis Zenetos, Open-Theater on Mt Lycabettus
- Polytechnic University of Athens
- National Museum of Contemporary Art Athens EMST
- Archeological Museum and Ancient River Tour
- Mapping the Cephissus, the Ilisos and the Eridanos, Historic Rivers of Athens.
TOPIC 3: Contemporary Athens and Mega Developments.

Lectures:
- Niarchos Foundation Lecture: Greek Culture Institutions
- Onassis Foundation Lecture: Remap Athens.
- Ministry of Culture: What’s next for Athens?
- Lambda Development – The Hellinikon

Tours:
- Greek National Opera by Renzo Piano
- Onassis Cultural Center
- Athens Hellinikon Master Plan Development & Santiago Calatrava Olympic Complex
- Contemporary Tour of Architectural, Art and Planning Offices in Athens
TOPIC 4: Speculative Architecture Movements and the Venice Biennale.

Lectures:
- Venice Architectural Biennale Events: Vernissage.
- Dark Side Club by White Partners.
- Time Space Existence Exhibition Opening and Reception: (Palazzo Bembo)

Participants:
- New Territories _ S/he - Francois Roche
- SPAN_Matias del Campo – Sandra Manninger
- Studio Roland Snooks
- Benoit Durandin - Stephan Henrich
- Gwyll Jahn
- Apomechanes, MÆTA DESIGN - Ezio Blasetti + Danielle Willems

Tours:
- Venice, Italy Tour of The Bienalle
- Vicenza, Palladio Tour City and Villa
- Arsenal and Gardini Pavilions della Biennale
- Tour Contemporary Housing Developments
TOPIC 5: The Aegean Archipelagos and Aerial Photogrammetry

Lectures:
- Floating Amplifier: The Delos Symposia by Constantinos Doxiades
- Aerial Photogrammetry

Tours:
- Aegean Island Sailing Trip
Group trips: 2018

1] Venice Biennial Trip (optional)
Locations: _Venice, Italy (see list of exhibits)_
_Vicenza, Italy (see list of buildings and cultural sites)_

2] Aegean Sailing trip
Locations: _Aegean Islands (Paros, Naxos, Koufonisa, Ios, Oia, Amorgos, Astipalaia)_
_Archeological Sites, Architecture and Art (see complete list below)_

3] Peloponnese, Greece
Locations: _Epidavros Ancient City and Theater_
_Epicurus Apollo, Vassae_
_Nafplo, Greece_.
_Argos and Tomb of Agamenon_

Workshop Project: Apomechanes 2018
This year the Greece Program will participate in ‘Artificial Disobedience’, a curated group exhibition in the Architectural Biennale. Along with the vast traveling, touring and lecture series. There will be a computational workshop that explored how automated cities can grow in relationship to Artificial Intelligence and how that might relate to the microcosms of the city. Work completed in the workshop will be exhibited in Athens in The Athens Fine Arts Museum Gallery and Venice.