

Yale School of Architecture, Summer 2018

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Robert A. M. Stern Rome Seminar

Rome: Continuity & Change

Course Description

Rome: Continuity & Change, a seminar offered to graduate students entering their final year of study at Yale School of Architecture, is founded on the dual premise that architects must experience, firsthand, great buildings from all places and times and that drawing is their indispensable tool for observation, inquiry and discovery.

Over the course of four weeks in Rome, students walk and draw the breadth of the city and its environs, studying topography, landscape, infrastructural systems and architectural sites. Issues of design, form, construction, composition and geometry are explored through close analysis of significant works dating from antiquity to the present. Stressing the practice of daily drawing, largely in sketchbook format using diverse media, the seminar asks students to examine buildings and urban spaces to grasp their spatial, temporal and social formation. Along with itineraries led by the instructors, the course is enriched by the frequent participation of prominent archaeologists and art historians who introduce the students to significant monuments, gardens, collections and urban spaces.

The seminar culminates with a week of independent study during which each student creates a sustained drawing of an individually chosen subject. Selecting both a site and a means of representation for this final project, students are challenged to study a given building or urban space and synthesize a unique impression of its physical, historical and social content. With each drawing created *in situ* over several sessions, they all reflect the immediate experience of the selected site and are imbued with each student's acquired experience of the city and its culture. The final drawings are exhibited and reviewed during a day-long presentation at the conclusion of the seminar and again in an exhibition at the School of Architecture in the fall.

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