College Programs
Field Trip Week at CAP: What one week in our college is able to offer... - page 2
  Southern Cities: Our Southern Sojourn - 2
  Seattle/Boeing Plant Study - 3
  Oakland / San Francisco - 3
  Chicago - 4
  Los Angeles - 4
  Urban Planning Field Trip to Detroit, Michigan - 5
  New York City - 5
  One Day in Sandtown - 6
  Solar Decathlon 2013 - 7
  New York Field Study - 7
  "What Does It Mean to Be an Architect?" Field Study - 8
  Indianapolis - 9
  Buenos Aires, Argentina - 9
  City of Chicago - 10
  New Orleans & Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore - 10
  Washington, D.C. - 11
  Second-Year Field Study Tour - Montreal – Ottawa – Toronto - 12
  World Travels: CAP Students Visit Japan - page 13

Facilities and Technology
DBL News: What’s Going on in the Design-Build Lab - page 14
Introducing Helen Ulrich as CAP’s New Design Resource Manager - page 15
Jacki Sciscioe Joins the Architecture Library Staff - page 15
Field Trip Week at CAP: What one week in our college is able to offer...

“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only a page” said Saint Augustine, fourth-century theologian and philosopher. For architects and planners, travel is learning through discovery. It affords opportunities to examine new approaches, processes, and cultures ripe with rich solutions for the universality of the surprising and complex act of living in community.

This longstanding tradition for architects is exemplified at CAP in what we fondly know as “Field Trip Week,” a truly magical week in the life of CAP students. Dating back five decades, CAP sets aside one week in early October for students and faculty, armed with their sketchbooks and felt tip pens, to study, sketch, and join together during weekend treks through noteworthy destinations in North America and sometimes the world. Over 600 students disperse throughout the country every year, following carefully orchestrated and targeted unique educational experiences focused on the study of the intricacies of architecture, nature, people, commerce, politics, sociology, and the city.

Field Trip Week is a distinctive tradition at CAP. A college built on the central tenants of experiential learning, community engagement, and multiculturalism. We dedicate this special issue of CAPLIFE to honor the spirit of Field Trip Week 2013 and our students and faculty who collectively invested hundreds of hours, thousands of miles, and precious treasure, in order to study and visit dozens of cities and locations stretching from Muncie to Buenos Aires, Argentina, a truly monumental undertaking. It is amazing what one week at CAP is able to offer…

~ Michel Mounayar, Associate Dean

Southern Cities: Our Southern Sojourn

“That sinuous southern life, that oblique and slow and complicated old beauty, that warm thick air and blood warm sea, that place of mists and languor and fragrant richness...”
Anne Rivers Siddons, Colony

Early October is fall field studies week at CAP and a time for wandering, wondering, and engaging the city’s architecture and built environments. Our third-year studio experienced the magic of the southern landscapes, that slow-aged perfection in architecture, history, and hospitality. Inspired by the Oglethorpe plan of 22 park-like squares in the port city of Savannah, the colorful tapestry of materials and construction methods creating the Rural Studio environs in Alabama, and the porches of the Charleston single house along the Battery, the city and rural landscapes blend, mix and create transitions between styles and eras for extraordinary results. In a quest to reveal design and building techniques, materials, and expressions of these thoughtfully crafted and cared for environments, we traveled to design outreach centers and universities like Rural Studio in Alabama, Savannah College of Art and Design, and Clemson’s Charleston Center. Additional stops included Lions Park Playscape where an interactive maze is built of recycled 55 gallon galvanized drums, Railroad Park in Birmingham with its brick-filled gabion wall and “seatscapes”, and the Clemson Botanical Garden and Nature Playscape in Cincinnati which showcased natural elements of play and leisure harmoniously sited to its landscape. These places breathed fresh air into our own design-build project for Head Start’s Outdoor Learning and Play Environment in Muncie. Our travels began on a crisp Sunday morning as fourteen of us squeezed into two seven-passenger vans. Stopping in Birmingham and Newbern, Alabama, Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia, Charleston and Clemson, South Carolina, Gatlinburg and Nashville, Tennessee and Cincinnati, Ohio, we traveled over 2200 miles, arriving back to CAP with seven days of memory-making magic.

~ Pam Harwood
SEATTLE/BOEING PLANT STUDY

This year our graduate studio traveled to the Boeing plant just north of Seattle. Students planned for the trip on their own and were free to roam Seattle, visiting places such as Seattle’s Public Library, Pioneer Square, Pike’s Place Market, St. Ignatius Chapel, and a myriad of other destinations. Several students used the trip to start their thesis research. The formal stage of the trip focused on our project search for a second life for airplanes. Architecture Chair Mahesh Daas and Professor Walter Grondzik joined us on our tour of Boeing’s facilities, which included a VIP plant-floor tour by Professor Eggink’s brother and Boeing engineer Roy Eggink. Students were able to see the assembly of Boeing’s airplanes and the processes in which engineers manufacture large planes. As part of the experience, students presented their current studio works to a group of Boeing engineers, showing them conceptual designs for the reuse of airplane structure and incorporation of aerospace technologies in architectural design. As part of the same focus, students also visited the Futures of Flight Museum to learn about the history and future of aeronautical technologies. Overall, the presentation and visit were a huge success, and Boeing is very interested in Ball State’s ideas related to reuse of decommissioned airplanes as a contribution to the sustainability of the aerospace industry.

~ Joshua Stowers

OAKLAND / SAN FRANCISCO

This year our studio traveled to Oakland and San Francisco, CA. Students experienced the city by subway, light rail, cable car, bus, ferry and foot (with or without a surfboard). We visited and toured numerous progressive offices in the region, including SOM SF (tour given by Alum Benjamin Damron), Fletcher Studio (http://www.fletcherstudio.com/), and FUTURE CITIES (Nataly Gattegno + Jason Kelly Johnson). We also toured University of California Berkeley College of Environmental Design and California College of Arts. The students explored Morphosis’s Federal Building, Herzog and deMuron’s De Young Museum, F. L. Olmsted’s Golden Gate Park, Haight/Ashbury, the Mission, North Beach, Chinatown, Downtown Oakland, Telegraph Ave, Cathedral of Light by Craig Hartman of SOM, St. Mary’s by Pier Luigi Nervi, and Golden Boy Pizza. We are thankful that we missed the BART Strike and bummed that Alcatraz was closed due to the government shutdown. As much as I tried, we are lucky no one got lost, shot or abandoned.

~ Joshua Coggeshall

Studio: Architecture 601
Professor Harry Eggink
Number of Students: 7

Studio: Architecture 501
Associate Professor Joshua Coggeshall
Number of Students: 9
CHICAGO

The 2013 CAP first year field trip to Chicago allowed students of the CAPFY fall admission class to explore a range of issues applicable to the disciplines of urban planning, landscape architecture, and architecture. Students had a full itinerary of walking tours of the University of Chicago campus buildings and courtyards, including examples by Raphael Vinoly, Bertram Goodhue, and Frank Lloyd Wright. The tour ventured on to the Illinois Institute of Technology campus, with visits to Crown Hall by Mies van der Rohe and the McCormick Tribune Campus Center by OMA / Rem Koolhaas.

We took in several open spaces in the Chicago downtown loop, including visits to the Chicago Vietnam Memorial (Ross Barney and Jankowski), Chicago Model City exhibit, and a Wendella Architecture river boat tour. Views of the Aqua tower (Studio Gang) and the park at Lakeshore East (James Burnett) generated good discussion. Extensive study of Millennium Park, including the Pritsker Pavilion (Gehry Partners), The Modern Wing of the AIC (Renzo Piano), The Lurie Garden (Kathryn Gustafson) and Cloudgate (Anish Kapoor).

Students experienced early transit-oriented development with a walking tour of Oak Park, a neighborhood with a history of progressive social diversity and sites relevant to Frank Lloyd Wright. We enjoyed a guided tour of Unity Temple, a walking tour of the Lincoln Park historic neighborhood (with several blocks that survived the Chicago fire), and a day at the Chicago Botanic Garden of Glencoe, Illinois, including landscapes by Dan Kiley, Ohme van Sweden, plus well as buildings by Edward Larabee Barnes, and the recent Rice Center for Plant Science Studies by Booth Hansen (rated LEED gold).

~ Lohren Deeg

LOS ANGELES

Associate Professor Timothy Gray and sixteen ARCH 301 students travelled for six days in Los Angeles. In addition to visiting a variety of contemporary architectural landmarks such as the Frank Gehry Symphony Hall, the Getty Center by Richard Meier and the Cathedral of our Lady of the Angels by Raphael Moneo, the group also visited early modern landmarks such as the Schindler and Hollyhock Houses. The group was also taken on guided tours of the architecture programs at USC and Sci-Arch, and attended a lecture at the Architecture building at UCLA. Brandon Welling, BSU Alumni and now Associate at Morphosis, gave students a tour of their firm and their inspiring internationally recognized work.

The group spent one full day visiting the Solar Decathlon Site in Orange County, where a Ball State team headed by Professor Michele Chiutili and partnering with the University of Louisville had their entry the “Phoenix Home” on display.

~ Timothy Gray
URBAN PLANNING FIELD TRIP TO DETROIT, MICHIGAN

Ten students, representing urban planning and architecture disciplines, both at undergraduate and graduate levels, participated in the Detroit field experience September 29 through October 2. Detroit is a city on the cusp of collapse or recovery, or perhaps both. A contest between these forces has been in play since 1967 and is now desperately coming to a head. The venues included two contrasting tours of the downtown by D-Hide and Rock Ventures, various neighborhoods of the city, the Heidelberg Project, an artist protest in a decimated neighborhood, and Earthworks Urban Farms. Students also engaged a representative of the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation in a round table discussion. The students were accompanied by Professors Barb Andersen and Bruce Frankel, who organized the experience with the assistance of MURP students Jeff Lauer and Stephen Hughes.

~ Dr. Bruce Frankel

NEW YORK CITY

My ARCH 301 students traveled to the New York City environs to examine the site of their current design project located on Pier 5 in the East River on the Brooklyn waterfront. We then visited with members of the architecture community in Manhattan.

Presentations by Randy Croxton and his staff at Croxton Collaborative Architects, Bill Browning at Terrapin Bright Green, a research and consulting group affiliated with Cook + Fox Architects, and a scheduled tour of the Hearst Building designed by Norm Foster provided significant exposure to Design-for-Sustainability in the current Manhattan context.

In addition, the group visited the offices of Skidmore Owings and Merrill to learn of their completion of the One World Trade Center Building and numerous other projects throughout the world which are engaging the challenges of long-term sustainability and high performance. For added exposure, we made the usual treks to the Empire State Building, the Guggenheim Museum, the Museum of Modern Art, the Skyscraper Museum, the Ground Zero Memorial and the High Line. The students also ventured out on their own and collected hundreds of images of the Manhattan urban context.

~ Bob Koester

~ Photo courtesy of Ross Goedde
ONE DAY IN SANDTOWN

For two decades CAP students have visited the Sandtown neighborhood in West Baltimore, Maryland. These trips, often held during field trip week, provide students a glimpse of urban life in one of the most storied areas of B-more. Sandtown is the setting for The Corner: A Year in the Life of an Inner-City Neighborhood by David Simon and Ed Burns, which became a six-hour HBO series, and was often the setting of the TV show Homicide: Life on the Street.

The experiences of CAP students are in contrast to these stories of crime, drugs, and neighborhood blight. That is because we have been visiting one of the greatest examples of community redevelopment in the country, a story that has been happening one row house, one family, one changed life at a time. Students learned about the dedication of a few individuals who have committed their lives to transforming a neighborhood in partnership with residents and thousands of volunteers who show up throughout the year to help rebuild through Sandtown Habitat for Humanity.

Urban Planning Professor Scott Truex began taking CAP students to this neighborhood in the early 1990s after he helped develop the national AmeriCorps program for Habitat for Humanity International. Since that time, more than 200 students have worked a day or more pounding nails, ripping out flooring, painting walls, and this year even planting lettuce.

We have worked with Lando, Gary, Denise, Jane, Stink, Danny, John D, John B and many more neighborhood residents and staff who welcome us and work with us on each visit.

The first chapter of the remarkable Sandtown story began when Allan and Susan Tibbels (plus daughters Jen and Jessica) along with Allan’s lifelong friend Pastor Mark Gormic relocated into Sandtown and partnered with residents. They modeled the teaching of John Perkins, a civil rights activist and community developer, who founded the Christian Community Development Association, a movement for faith-based social justice activism.

Supported by a CAP immersive learning grant that provided supplies to help with the rebuilding and farming, 32 students framed walls, gathered trash, and planted lettuce as part of one day of service during the four days they spent in Baltimore. In addition to Sandtown Habitat, students worked with Martha’s Place, a recovery program for women overcoming drug addiction and homelessness. Martha’s Place partnered with Big City Farms to begin an urban agriculture program in Sandtown that is part of a citywide effort to grow more local food.

The day in Sandtown came after three days of touring Inner Harbor, Fells Point, and Annapolis, where students heard presentations by folks from the Office of Sustainability, developers, community activists and design firms. Landscape Architecture Professor John Motloch and his graduate studio also participated in the trip, as did several students from other departments outside of the college. CAP alumni Jennifer Mielke, (MUPD) and Amy Gilder-Busatti (BLA) made presentations to the students discussing their professional activities and life in Baltimore.

The next chapter in Sandtown + Ball State will begin in the spring semester when students in Professor Truex’s urban agriculture class will continue to work with neighborhood residents through Martha’s Place to expand food production activities and help design and build an aquaponics system to help the neighborhood’s residents become more self-sufficient.

~ Scott Truex
SOLAR DECATHLON 2013

Since 2011, a series of studios have been offered to allow architecture students in the undergraduate and graduate program to participate in the Solar Decathlon competition. The 2011 field trip to the Solar Decathlon in Washington DC was organized before Team Kentucky/Indiana submitted the proposal for 2013. This year students who have traveled to Orange County, California, actually participated in this grueling competition.

The ARCH 601 studio has worked this fall on the Phoenix House and has also explored concepts for the participation in the 2015 competition. Being able to travel to the competition site in Orange County, assemble the house, and visit the other houses has provided a challenging but unique and exciting learning experience.

Eleven BSU students in total, plus three recent graduates (who have continued to be with the Team), have been involved at different stages of the competition in Orange County, and some of them for the entire duration. The students are from Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Family and Consumer Science.

The Solar Decathlon 2013 opened to the public on October 3, and to assemble the house, the Team worked from 7 am to 2 am almost every day, from September 23 to October 1. The competition ended on October 12, and on the following day the disassembly started. Everybody left by October 18. During the jury days, students were able to take turns, so most managed to enjoy the southern California beaches and downtown Los Angeles.

Thanks to the University of Louisville team, who did the fundraising and organized all travel, students had free accommodation, food and transportation.

More information on the team and the competition can be found at www.solardecathlon.gov.

~ Michele Chiuini

NEW YORK FIELD STUDY

The 4th-year Landscape Architecture studio traveled by Amtrak from Waterloo, IN, to Penn Station, NYC. In New York, we toured Central Park, Lincoln Center, Rockefeller Center, Paley Park, Seagram’s Plaza, The High Line, Hudson River Pier Parks, MoMA, Battery Park City, Teardrop Park, 9/11 Memorial, Brooklyn Bridge Park, and other sites.

The trip also included an office visit to Ken Smith Workshop (hosted by CAP alum John Ridenour) and a site visit to recently opened Hunters Point Park (Queens) with a principal of Thomas Balsey Associates.

LA 403 studio will extend the field trip through a final studio design for a Hudson River Pier 54, once home of the Cunard Line of Titanic and Lusitania fame.

~ Malcolm Cairns
“WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN ARCHITECT?” FIELD STUDY

The ARCH 203 / 301 field trip led by Professors Andrea Swartz and Wes Janz (with Olon Dotson joining the group for a day) was a sampling of the contrasts, complexities, and questions currently percolating within the architecture profession, architects, and architecture students.

“Big A” architecture firms and buildings visited included: The Freelon Group in Durham, NC (architects-of-record for the National Museum of African-American History & Culture in Washington, DC); the buildings, landscapes, and outdoor sculptures of the North Carolina Museum of Art and Museum Park in Raleigh, NC; and the High Museum of Art (Richard Meier) and its Woodruff Art Center addition (Renzo Piano), along with 1315 Peachtree Street (an AIA/COTE Top Ten from 2012, by Perkins + Will) in Atlanta.

“Small a” architecture works provided insights into the sorts of economic, social, environmental, and cultural perspectives that many architects and architecture students are engaging. This included a conversation with Bryan Bell, the founder of Design Corps, an organization that "shares a vision with many to help solve daily needs of everyday people through design"; visiting the built works of Auburn University’s Rural Studio – where it is believed “everyone, both rich or poor, deserves the benefit of good design” – in Mason’s Bend, Newbern, Perry Lakes, and Greensboro, Alabama; a chat with Pam Dorr, the executive director of The Hale Empowerment and Revitalization Organization in Greensboro, AL – “a catalyst for community development in areas of the Alabama Black Belt to end rural poverty,” and a talk with BSU alumnus Jeff Rawlins, who spoke of the thirty small projects that he has completed within three miles of his office in Louisville.

Additional sites provided texture: the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta, the Farmer’s Market in Durham, and ribs and fish at the Dreamland and Fish Market restaurants in Birmingham, among them.

Questions asked along the 5-day, 2000-mile journey included: Why be an architect? How can we best leverage our passions for the built environment? What are the limits of what we can accomplish as architects?

~ Wes Janz & Andrea Swartz
INDIANAPOLIS

Paul Diebold has been teaching the Intro to Historic Preservation class for the past eight years, and each year, he has lead a tour of downtown Indianapolis civic landmarks. The students arrived at the Indiana Statehouse for a tour lead by long-time facilities manager for Indiana Dept. of Administration, Michael Nowland. Mr. Nowland has worked in this capacity for over 15 years and provides the point of view of a practical property manager who must balance safety, durability, public access and aesthetics of a civic landmark that still serves its original purpose. The students were allowed to go up into the cupola inside the dome. Mr. Nowland also showed the students the basement tunnel which once provided access to those on horseback. The students toured Monument Circle and adjacent buildings, where Diebold provided insights from 25 years of preservation practice in matters of project review and restoration. The students then enjoyed a lunch on their own at historic City Market. The afternoon featured a walk to the Indiana World War Memorial, where staff provided background on preservation efforts and challenges with this multi-use facility which is also a National Historic Landmark. The historic catwalk upper level was open to the students. This year, the students were able to accompany the staff tour guide up to the observation level at the top of the memorial, where portions of its reinforced concrete frame were visible.

~ Paul Diebold

BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA

Ana de Brea’s ARCH 301 studio flew from Indianapolis to Dallas and the on to Buenos Aires. We stayed in the Art Factory Hostel in San Telmo. On our first day, we ventured around the city to see the Casa Rosada (Pink House) and the Edicio. In Libertador, we visited the Recoleta Cemetery and Recoleta Cultural Center to study the architecture exhibits displayed as part of the International Buenos Aires Biennial of Architecture. We also visited Puerto Madero and saw Calatrava’s bridge. And on Sunday, we were given the freedom to explore the city on our own.

We toured the Department of Architecture at Buenos Aires, Parque De La Memoria, and the Bicentennial Museum. Tuesday afternoon we visited the Palermo neighborhood and had dinner at Siga la Vaca in the Puerto Madero area.

Our with our final time in Buenos Aires, we visited the Obelisk of Buenos Aires, saw Mies van der Rohe’s chair, and had a wonderful tour of Ana de Brea’s family place.

~ Nathan Alan
CITY OF CHICAGO
For field trip week this year, the studio took a day trip to the city of Chicago. The primary goal of the trip was to learn more about the design process behind one of Chicago’s most innovative skyscrapers, the Aqua Tower. In addition to visiting the Aqua Tower site, the students had an opportunity to meet with tower designers Studio Gang Architects and learn firsthand from Ball State Alum Chris Vant Hoff the development of the project’s unique building envelope.

The studio’s current design project is also a skyscraper and is situated in lower Manhattan, New York City. For this project, students are tasked with developing an ecological approach to their designs in respect to context, environment, and program. The office tour at Studio Gang provided the studio greater insight for how to go about achieving and carrying out such a design strategy.

This trip was also an opportunity for the studio to explore the attractions and public spaces of Chicago. Students spent a significant amount of time at Millennium Park experiencing and discovering all of the state-of-the-art collections of architecture, landscape design, and art. To complete their trip, the students made sure to have dinner at Giardanos Restaurant, because no visit to Chicago would be fulfilled without a traditional deep dish pizza.

~ James F. Kerestes

NEW ORLEANS & INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKE SHORE
Our first trip was to New Orleans where we explored the city, Evergreen Plantation, Bayou Sauvage National Wildlife Refuge, and Chalmette Battlefield and National Cemetery. We visited Torre Design—an office that specializes in zoo design.

The second trip was to the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. The studio is partnering with the National Park Service to design a Dunes Parkway that connects the property’s scattered parcels, as well as provide a scenic connection between Gary and Michigan City. Students camped in the dunes for two nights.

~ Christopher Baas

Studio: Architecture 601
Professor James F. Kerestes
Number of Students: 8

Studio: Landscape Architecture 401
Professors Christopher Baas & Miran Day
Number of Students: 16 to New Orleans & 23 to Indiana Dunes

~ Photograph courtesy of Ashley Stier
WASHINGTON, D.C.

For the fall 2013 Field trip week, graduate students in the department of Historic Preservation went to our Nation’s Capital. Despite the looming governmental shut down, we forged forward with our fearless and adaptive leader, architect and professor Jonathan Spodek. We were a small group comprised of Historic Preservation and Architecture students, 6 students in all. Our well-located lodging was in Old Town Alexandria, which provided a diverse contrast to the cityscape of monumental Washington DC. The access and ease of D.C.’s metro was instrumental in being able to accomplish everything on our full and diverse itinerary. Sunday evening, we all gathered and set out for an evening stroll past the White House and other major monumental buildings of historic interest.

Due to the shutdown predicted for Tuesday, Jonathan reorganized Monday at the last minute, and with his connections at the National Park Service, we were still able to meet and have our presentation form the Chiefs of Heritage Documentation and the Technical Preservation Services. Both were extremely insightful to the governmental operations of Historic Preservation. Later on Monday, we had a detailed tour and hands-on explanation of what adaptive reuse looks like at the large corporate level. We toured the historic Yates Building; this former home for engraving and printing built in 1878 now houses the USDA forest service headquarters. Aimee Woodall, an architect at RTKL, was the lead on this project. Her insights, firsthand experiences, and ability to problem-solve opened our eyes to the task of preserving the integrity of this historic structure. With our hard hats on and fancy reflective safety vests, being able to climb the iron stairs at the very top of the clock tower was a highlight for many of us, and a little scary for the rest. After leaving the construction site, we toured RTKL offices and reviewed their past historic projects. They have a diverse portfolio, so it was interesting to see the different scope of the projects the company has worked on. The rest of our day was spent exploring the areas of Adams Morgan, Foggy Bottom, and DuPont Circle.

Tuesday morning started early with a guided tour of the Octagon House that is one of the oldest homes in D.C. It is operated by the AIA, whose headquarters are located directly behind the house. We discussed the ever-present issue of moisture and all the ways that it affects this historic structure. Upon learning the history and importance that this building played in the development of the country, it is much easier to understand why we should save and preserve this building haunted by at least 5 ghosts! After grabbing a quick delicious food truck lunch and eating on the porch of the AIA, our group was invited to sneak an “off the record” tour of the AIA roof! We had a great view of the city and an impressive view looking down onto the Octagon House. After leaving the AIA and crossing past the Washington Monument, we arrived at the most inspirational part of this field trip; a presentation meeting with Carl Elefante, at Quinn Evans Architects. Mr. Elefante’s views on city planning, urban design and historic preservation tied together with Architecture was so beautifully explained that someone should have recorded the conversation. He fully explained the big picture of “sustainability” and tied it right back to us. We toured the office space and reviewed current projects and his past portfolio. It was amazing!

Our half day on Wednesday was exciting too. We went to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. They were in the process of moving from their current location, so it was a bit hectic, but we were given a good overview of exactly what the Trust does nationally and its day-to-day operations. After that, we wandered the city with the aim of visiting the diverse food court located at Union Station, which was great to see under construction repairing damages from the earthquake.

This trip was exciting and eye-opening to the field of Historic Preservation. It was also key to understanding how the diverse fields of design, history, planning, and architecture must work together to preserve and save the most sustainable, green buildings — preexisting structure.

~ Julie Koomler
SECOND-YEAR FIELD STUDY TOUR: MONTREAL – OTTAWA – TORONTO

This year’s trip to Canada was perhaps the 45th time we have crossed Ohio and made our way into the great north country. It is a rite of passage for our program and is attended by the majority of our second-year students. This year 58 students made the trip with four faculty: Larry Barrow, Gernot Reither, Rod Underwood, and Andrew Witt.

These destinations are chosen because of the diversity of experience we can compress into seven short days. Montreal is the second largest French speaking-city in the world, Ottawa is a very English city, the Capital of Canada, and Toronto is a bustling, bustling “American-like” city. Each has its own unique architectural expression and offerings. The students walk approximately 80 miles in seven days and see places ranging from Saint Joseph’s Oratory and Jacques Cartier Square, to the Olympic site, Habitat, the World Trade Centre, and the Canadian Architectural Centre in Montreal.

This is followed by the incredible “composition” of sites in Ottawa — the Canadian National Museum, the Museum of Civilization, and the Canadian War Museum — all focusing on the Canadian Parliament building. An urban design solution links these significant places together over a 2.5 mile circuit.

The final stop on our excursion was in Toronto, with a very strong urban design focus. We toured the Eaton Center, modeled after the Galleria Victoria Emanuelle in Milan, the Canadian National Tower, Calatrava’s BCE building, “gentrified Yorkville Village,” Frank Ghery’s Art Gallery of Ontario, Will Alsop’s OCAD and Libeskind’s Royal Ontario Museum.

In addition to the expected “architectural wonders,” the students experienced a wide variety of urban sculpture, parks, plazas, gardens, and numerous buildings under construction which provided opportunities for discussion of the fundamental infrastructure of our profession. They also came to appreciate that tall window wall systems are not a single line on a sheet of paper or a thin layer of acetate or Plexiglas.

~ Rod Underwood

~ Photo courtesy of Andrew John Witt
From July 27 to August 10, Professors Lisa Dunaway (Urban Planning) and Miguel San Miguel (Architecture) led a field study in Japan focusing on urban planning, landscape architecture, architecture, and design. This course provided opportunities for individualized projects, “hands-on” activities, field lectures, daily sketching/photography, posting on a course blog, and studying the culture of one of the most unique countries in the world. The course was conducted in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, and Nara, Japan.

The College of Architecture and Planning has a history of study abroad experiences being led by teams of instructors, including CAPitalia and World Tour. Similarly, the partnership between Ms. Dunaway and Mr. San Miguel maximized the amount of knowledge and richness of experience that can be provided to the students in an immersive experience. Through personal experience, interests, and formal education, the faculty had developed expertise in the range of disciplines studied on the trip.

Japan is an island country off the east coast of mainland Asia with a documented history of the arts reaching back many millennia, including some of the most innovative design in the world today and a unique economy in which almost all of their natural resources are imported. The modern capital Tokyo, with a population over 30 million, is in the top five most populous cities on Earth, providing an urban laboratory of visual and physical interest almost without equal. Consistently ranked among the most livable cities worldwide, the historic capital of Kyoto was spared the atomic bomb in World War II due to its cultural importance.

The overall goal of the course was to enhance students’ international learning experience and global viewpoint by providing an out-of-the-classroom opportunity to study a diverse range of topics, and begin to synthesize said topics, in a country far different from the United States. Students visited a variety of sites from ancient Shinto temples to modern marvels of architectural engineering, and everything in between. Although not design-related, one highlight of the trip turned out to be Nara Park, the public park in the city of Nara which houses a 50’ tall bronze statue of Buddha, the tallest in the world, but also scores of protected and revered Sika Deer, who were so tame they would eat “deer cookies” (Shika-senbei) from our hands.

The fifteen students who participated were second year undergraduate students and first year graduate students. Their profiles and work can be seen on the course website: http://japanimmersion2013.wordpress.com. Lisa and Miguel hope to run the trip again in May 2014 and invite all CAP students interested in going to contact Lisa at lmdunaway@bsu.edu.

~ Lisa Dunaway
~ Photos courtesy of Miguel San Miguel
Many exciting projects have been going on this year in the Design-Build Lab, including Professor Harwood’s Play Center and the completion of work on the Solar Decathlon house. Also exciting this semester, Professor Tim Gray’s 3rd-year architecture studio is using the metal fabrication equipment to retrofit shipping containers into mobile outdoor classrooms, a great immersive learning experience.

Professor Gray is leading his students in a design and construction project re-purposing shipping containers to support urban agriculture and sustainable building practices. Seeing an opportunity to support emerging urban farming practices in the Indianapolis area, the studio established partnerships with Butler University and Big City Farms of Indianapolis and obtained a Provost’s grant to re-locate two containers previously used at an Indianapolis charter school which had recently closed. Professor Gray explains that each partner will receive a redeveloped container that will be an “educational tool to promote awareness of sustainable urban agricultural practices and to expand the discussion to sustainable practices in the built environment.” This involves the techniques of material reuse, but also extends to green practices such as solar collection and water management systems.

The Design-Build Lab is serving the third-year studio as a staging platform for the fabrication of many elements that will be installed in and around the containers. Here at the lab, students are experiencing what it takes to design, plan, and execute a build, learning the limitations and possibilities of budgets and lab equipment. Students have been so successful that almost all of the work has been achievable here at Ball State. Abby Cooper, one of Professor Gray’s 3rd-year architecture students, said it is exciting to be able to work on a project that “is actually being built,” and students have had the opportunity to learn new skills, including much “insight into the production of working drawings” and understanding in the “practicality of accomplishing a design’s goals.”

Professor Tim Gray’s studio is completing this semester in Indianapolis installing and finishing the projects on-site.

Photographs of students during installation courtesy of Tim Gray

Rendering courtesy of Abigail Cooper
FaCilities & t eChnology

Introducing Helen Ulrich as CAP’s New Design Resource Manager

We would like to formally introduce our new design resource manager at CAP, Helen Ulrich. Many in the building may recognize her from the Architecture Library. After 25½ years working in the University Libraries system, 12 of that in our very own building, Helen said that it was time for a change. As for her new position, she says she “loves it... as much as you can love a job.” Helen is excited to work throughout the building and have the opportunity to enjoy more interactions with students. She is thrilled to no longer be at a computer all day, but has “much more movement with different things to do” in this new position.

As for her old position, Helen said she most misses her students. They were her “right-hand” in the library. Now, she is working hard to get to know her new student workforce, “a friendly bunch of young people that are always willing to help.” She is also working diligently to understand and reorganize resources in the building, and knows it may take a little while for her to fully “grasp [her] new responsibilities.”

Helen wishes to make it clear that she intends to be a visual and active part of the CAP community. “If any faculty or student needs anything, they can call, e-mail, or stop by my office. I’m not here just for the faculty, but everyone in the college!” Welcome Helen!

Helen Ulrich
hulrich@bsu.edu
AB022 office: 285-9168

Jacki Sciscoe Joins the Architecture Library Staff

In October, the Architecture Library welcomed Jackie Sciscoe to the staff as the new Architecture Library Coordinator. Jackie had been working in Bracken Library in the Business Support Services office, so she is very familiar with the library, and she is no stranger to campus since she earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Family and Consumer Science with a Family & Child Focus from Ball State. Before she worked at Bracken Library with college students, Jackie worked with much younger students as a pre-school teacher at Head Start in Muncie for ten years.

In her free time, Jackie enjoys spending time with her nieces and nephews, making jewelry, and creating scrapbooks. She and her husband of four years, Todd Sciscoe (Group Leader for Purchasing Services at Ball State), also enjoy going on cruises and visiting the beautiful beaches of St. Thomas, Cozumel, and Bermuda. So far, her favorite destination has been Tortola in the British Virgin Islands, and she is looking forward to a cruise to the Bahamas in late November, just when the weather will be turning cold and wintry in Indiana.

If you haven’t already, be sure to say hi to Jackie next time you are in the Architecture Library. She can also be reached at jsciscoe@bsu.edu or 765-285-5857 if you need to get in touch with her about course reserves, e-reserves, or other questions.

~ Amy Trendler, Architecture Library

Photograph by Chris Helms

Cover Images — Top Left: Scott Truex, Top Right: Lisa Dunaway, Center Left: Lohren Deeg, Center Right: Ross Goedde, Bottom Right: Emily Maurer

College of Architecture and Planning
Architecture Building (AB), Room 104
Ball State University
Muncie, IN 47306
Phone: 765-285-5859
Fax: 765-285-3726
Email: cap@bsu.edu

Contents