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This described the united and spirited commitment of the forty CAP students and three CAP faculty who set out majestically to explore the most extraordinary landscapes represented by such cities as Seville, Rome, Egypt, the Great Wall of China, and the Nile River Delta. With a focus on exploring the world’s most breathtaking study-travel programs supporting professional design and planning curricula, four common studio courses focused on framing contemporary study of sites in 16 cities and 24 countries, every one of whose cultures predicted the “discovery” of America.

While each edition of Polyark/World Tour has been distinct, P18/WT4 culminated several new learning opportunities. Among other explorations of professional practice was an expansion of the alumni continuing-education program. CAP practitioners joined several segments of the tour to discuss challenges and contributions in their professional lives, as well as critique of developing studio projects, and earn continuing-education credits to fulfill license and certification requirements. For P18/WT4 emphasis on sustainability, Dan Render (BArch ‘92) provided a one-matchstick highlight. Based in Abu Dhabi, Dan was able to arrange for us a rare insider’s visit to Masdar, a purpose-built 600,000-resident city that will be the world’s first human settlement planned, designed, and constructed for zero-waste and zero-net energy consumption in homes, work spaces, and transport. Among the site’s aims are to define phases of construction, a Master management team consisting of a planner, an architect, and a landscape architect engaged the WT4 group in a lively discussion of this newly designed city’s methods and the economic parameters that planning and design professionals must consider in order to shape truly sustainable futures. More resources are needed to support such sustainable development approaches.

In addition to an incomparably rich variety of masterworks like Istanbul’s Blue Mosque, Shanghai’s Yu Garden, and St. Petersburg’s city plan, P18/WT4 also explored a broad range of vernacular settings ‘on roads less traveled’: a dispersed village of mud-brick houses an hour by camel from Jerusalem’s Old City; the squares, fountains, and markets of central Baltic settings; the grand park complexes of China; a small city of wooden and thatched boathouses, churches, and stores afloat on a large inland sea an hour from Angkor Wat; and smaller, more ‘hidden’ parks and public spaces supporting neighborhood and village life in central Baltic settings.

Individually and collectively this Polyark cooperative gathered, grew, shaped, and cataloged a neighborhood and village life in central Baltic settings. In addition to an incomparably rich variety of masterworks like Istanbul’s Blue Mosque, Shanghai’s Yu Garden, and St. Petersburg’s city plan, P18/WT4 also explored a broad range of vernacular settings ‘on roads less traveled’: a dispersed village of mud-brick houses an hour by camel from Jerusalem’s Old City; the squares, fountains, and markets of central Baltic settings; the grand park complexes of China; a small city of wooden and thatched boathouses, churches, and stores afloat on a large inland sea an hour from Angkor Wat; and smaller, more ‘hidden’ parks and public spaces supporting neighborhood and village life in central Baltic settings.

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