

Fabricating *Cross-Cultural* Roots

Spring Studio

in

GHANA

W e s t A f r i c a

May 6 – May 27 (Travel)

Field studies in Ghana will be organized in collaboration with faculty and students at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (Kumasi) and the University of Ghana (Accra). Collaborative studio activity in 2012 will center mainly on identifying possible digital-fabrication projects that would serve to broaden our knowledge of sustainable African vernacular. To this end, initial studio activity will focus on the design of prototypical shelters needed for indigenous arts production. Studio talents will also be tapped to explore the design and production of more solar efficient templates for coastal city planning and densely-forested village development.

Subsequent studio activity in Ann Arbor will provide opportunity for a further refinement of prototypes begun in collaboration with the Department of Architecture at K.N.U.S.T. (Kumasi); here, design tasks utilizing mediums of digital sketching, pen/pencil sketching, and 3-D model building will be assigned.

Spring '12 studio studies will be sited in the grasslands of Bolgatanga, northern Ghana, the highlands of Kumasi, Central Ghana, and along the Atlantic Ocean shore in the capital city of Accra. Studio instruction in Ghana — supplemented with extended field trips throughout Ghana and neighboring, Burkina Faso—will center on African vernacular, indigenous arts production, and urban/rural field studies.

Approximately three weeks of travel and study will be conducted in Ghana, with the remaining time split between pre-Ghana orientation and post-Ghana presentations in Ann Arbor.

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