Emoción Estética
Light, Color and Solitude

A study abroad course to Mexico City in search of what Luis Barragan called "Emotional Architecture."

"Serenity. Serenity is the great and true antidote against anguish and fear, and today more than ever, it is the architect’s duty to make it a permanent guest in the home, no matter how sumptuous or how humble. Throughout my work I have always strived to achieve serenity, but one must be on guard not to destroy it by the use of an indiscriminate palette."  

Proposal

*Emoción Estética* (aesthetic emotion) will travel to Mexico City in search of glimpses of the Mexican International Style, to experience "Emotional Architecture". Luis Barragán’s work refused LeCorbusier’s notion of the house as a machine, but he sought to embed the modernist ideals with Mexico’s vernacular architecture while integrating his painterly placement of color to create and enhance the experience of light, shadow and space. This created a unique modern architecture, yet deeply connected to its roots.

To Luis Barragán a house was a refuge, “an emotional piece of architecture, not a cold piece of convenience.” Along with Mathias Goéritz, they both grew frustrated with the cold functionalism of Modernism. *La Arquitectura Emocional* a 1953 manifesto by Goéritz began to describe what the work of Luis Barragán embodied. Rather than a machine for living, Barragán embraced space, color, light, to create spaces that fostered warmth, meditation and reflection.

The course will use drawing as the main representational technique of documenting the character of these serene spaces that one must truly inhabit to understand. Photography will supplement through a careful framing to capture the attitudes of these almost indescribable, fleeting spaces. Through rigorous hand drawn sketches and photography produced on-site and in-the-moment, students will develop a body of work that seek to capture some of the ephemeral qualities latent in Barragán's spaces, to better understand an architecture of emotion.

*Emoción Estética* will be intensive study of the solemn, spiritual spaces designed by the Mexican architect, juxtaposed in the bustling metropolis that is Mexico City. These timeless works transport you away from the congested city into introspective spaces that masterfully play with light, color, and space. Barragán expected his buildings to make you feel, among those, Beauty, Silence, Solitude, Serenity, and Joy. Students will draw in the very moment they feel those things.

Schedule

May 1-3:  Drawing Intensive Workshops + Photography Methodology  
May 4:  Depart DTW - Arrive in MEX  
May 25:  Depart MEX - Arrive in DTW  
21 Total Days of Travel