Paris-France, Geneva-Switzerland, Venice-Italy

Information, Big Data and Territorial Intelligence

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Travelling Studio Paris, Geneva, Venice:

Posthuman endeavors and the nature of the Postdigital.

“big data,” a disorderly offspring of postmodern digitality, is a tool for coping with, managing, and some would even say extolling complexity. Yesterday’s spline-dominated environment was elegant and modern; today’s data-driven design environment is messily postmodern: disconnected, broken, fragmentary, rickety, patchy, and aggregatory…

Mario Carpo – Breaking the Curve in Artforum Feb. 2014

Big Data @ CERN

The course proposes an investigation into the design agencies of big Data and its translations into architectural archetypes. What is the difference to prevailing models of architectural practice? Mario Carpo’s essay Breaking the Curve, in which he discusses the impact of big Data to a contemporary architecture design environment, serves as the launching pad for speculations on the characteristics of novel disciplinary modes. The course will travel to Paris, Geneva and Venice in order to work on a speculative architectural proposal based on aspects of Big Data.

Posthuman design practices and the nature of the Postdigital age form the intellectual frame which students will discuss with their peers in Paris as well as interrogating these aspects at CERN in Geneva and the Architecture Biennale in Venice.
Dates of Travel:
May 17 – June 15 2018

Travel Destinations:
France, Switzerland and Italy and the cities of Paris, Geneva and Venice.

Descriptions of Travel.
Every One of the main cities visited: Paris, Geneva and Venice, serve as a home-base for short trips in the respective areas. The home-base in Paris will be the Institute for Digital Knowledge at ENSA, where students have the chance to enter into a discourse with French peers. From this, base short visits are planned to iconic places such as Le Corbusiers Villa Savoy, Chartres Cathedral as well as the extensive collection of Computational Design Examples at the FRAC Centre in Orleans. The visit in Geneva focuses on a visit at CERN, and short visits to Sanaa’s Rolex Learning Centre, Lyon’s Musee des Confluances and Corbusier’s La Tourette Convent. The trip to Venice is primarily focusing on a visit to the Architecture Biennale’s opening day with its massive program.

Course Deliverables:
Students Log Book: Students have to keep a thorough trip diary, which includes text, images and sketches. This has to be delivered both as digital blog, as well as a printed book compiled after the trip. The SLB (Students Log Book) serves as a catalogue of ideas on speculations for the application of big data in architecture. They should also contain a record of the conversations with Peers both at ENSA as well as at the Venice Biennale. Record interesting events, encounters and inspirational pieces seen at the Biennale. The critical interrogation of ideas and exhibition pieces is highly encouraged. The examinations of this compilation of data will inform a specific speculative design idea for the new CERN Campus.

Other funding opportunities
ELF – Experimental Learning Fund through the International Institute due December 1, 2017 and March 1, 2018