This travel studio will address the means by which we describe space and place, in images and words.

We will travel to the opposite side of the world, and send stories to those back home about the places we visit—in the spirit of Italo Calvino’s canonical work, *Invisible Cities*, we will endeavor each day to depict the space we inhabit – in terms both fresh and poetic – after having drawn it repeatedly by hand. We will use the act of drawing both as an attempt to capture the essence of a space, but also to meditate upon its alterity from our usual curricular surroundings, and investigate the interplay of the built environment with cultural context. Through repetition and meditation, students will build disciplinary skills while encountering new geographies, developing abilities and sensibilities, simultaneously.

This studio will begin with three weeks of preparation in Ann Arbor, wherein every student will research and build their own book to house their experiences. After that, we will travel to Colombo, Sri Lanka, spend two weeks traveling to the UNESCO port city of Galle, the southern commercial center of Matara, then north to the elephant habitats of Uda Walawe National Park, through the mountainous tea plantations and hill-country villages of Ella and Kandy, to the UNESCO sites of Sigiriya, Polonnuruwa and Anuradhapura, then conclude with a week-long intensive workshop back in Colombo. In our travels, we will visit several buildings by Geoffrey Bawa, a Sri Lankan architect whose legacy was founded in his adaptation of modernist sensibilities to a tropical context.