

# UPDATING THE VISUAL LEXICON

Venice Biennale to Berlin Biennale Spring Travel 2018

**Instructor:** Laida Aguirre  
**Dates in Michigan:** 5/2 - 5/3: Seminars on art and architecture  
**Dates abroad: (21 nights)** 5/26 - 6/2: Venice - Milan  
 6/3 - 6/10 : Vienna - Prague  
 6/10 - 6/16 : Berlin  
 6/19-20: Book compilation

## VENICE architecture biennale to BERLIN art biennale *and* MILAN PRAGUE VIENNA

**TRAVEL: 5/26-6/16  
 (21 NIGHTS)**  
**SEMINAR: 5/2-3**

ART - ARCHITECTURE - PERFORMANCES - STUDIO VISITS - UNLIKELY SITES

**INFO SESSIONS:**  
 THURS: 11/16 - 12:30-1p  
 FRI: 11/17 - 11:30-12p  
 TUES: 11/21: 12:30-1p  
 @ EAST REVIEW

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**'AN UPDATED VISUAL LEXICON:  
 WAYS OF SEEING IN CONTEMPORARY ART  
 AND ARCHITECTURE'**



|                               |   |  |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>STUDENT AIRFARE:</b>       | Detroit - Venice                                    | \$780  |
|                               | Berlin - Detroit                                    | \$750  |
| <b>TRANSPORTATION:</b>        | Eurail Select Pass (5 days):                        | \$356  |
|                               | Assorted Intracity transportation:                  | \$50   |
| <b>ACCOMMODATIONS</b>         | 21 Hostel nights with 3-4 students per room         | \$750  |
| <b>FOOD</b>                   | Approximately \$25/day                              | \$ 550   |
| <b>ENTRY FEES</b>             | Museums, Cultural event tickets, Architecture Tours | \$100  |
| <b>LOCAL GUIDES</b>           | \$30 / student                                      | \$30   |
| <b>TOTAL ESTIMATED BUDGET</b> |   | \$2366 (includes -\$1000 for Taubman College students) |

*"not to discover anything new but rather to see the discovered in my own way."* - O.M. Ungers

This studio will focus on developing an updated way of visual thinking within the contemporary city. We will look at the current urban condition as one where processes of history, gentrification and temporalities have written and rewritten tangled conditions of overlap and observe that rarely is anything simply one thing. We will come to understand that these complex new architectural patterns and aesthetics require a new spatial and aesthetic literacy aimed at pulling apart these layers of signification.

As students travel through Venice, Milan, Vienna, Prague and Berlin, they will compile their own survey of architectural 'lookalikes', or visual synonyms and other morphologically similar architectural elements and aesthetic patterns. We will visit permanent and temporary spatial conditions such as artist studios or architecture offices as well as canonical and non-canonical built environments. This trip will be bookended by two Biennales, the Tenth Berlin Art Biennale and the Architecture Biennale in Venice, which will offer students a chance to explore these concepts through attending site specific installations and performances. They will also offer an opportunity to understand each city's permanent structures against these more temporal layers, both of which deeply qualify an overall city's character.

Students will create their own methods of visual literacy by focusing on the identification of threads of interconnectivity between historic and contemporary uses of space and program. We will create our own book of typologies based on a visual lexicon of our own making. Through this visual grammar students will develop the capacity to deconstruct and critique spatial power structures and identify ruling aesthetic conventions.