

The Lecture Series. The July Issue: Art saved the city's soul

Summary

The aim of this three-week-long, interdisciplinary workshop is to allow students to speculate on how Interior Architecture practices could offer new ways of addressing forgotten or underutilized spaces in European cities. In this case, students will live in and explore Florence; a perfect setting for historic inspiration, but also a city in need of new solutions for the present-day.

The workshop will be held in conjunction with the prestigious Fondazione Giovanni Michelucci and the Architecture and Art Study Abroad Programs of Washington University. The main activities will be field trips and visits to locations in Florence and other locations in Italy for discussion and sketching, lectures and feedback by distinguished international and local architects, fine artists, and urban designers, as well as a studio project. For this, students will work collaboratively in multidisciplinary groups: architects and interior architects will work together to propose an 'urban re-training' and possibilities for public re-use of a fascinating and forgotten site in the city center. Artists will also work alongside the architects and interior architects, developing independent drawing projects exploring the shared themes of collective memory, pockets of forgotten space, re-shaping contexts, and imagining potential narratives. The student work will be exhibited in Florence, with an opening night on the final day of the workshop.

Location

Lectures and special events will take place in the Fondazione Giovanni Michelucci in Fiesole. Intensive studio will take place at the Washington University studios in Florence's historic centre.

Workshop Activities

- *Orientation*: Settling in on the first weekend of the workshop will include a walking tour of Florence and introductory talks and activities
- Intensive Design Studio: Meets 9 am-1pm, 5 days a week (Mon-Fri). Studio will be held by Alessandro Ayuso, Franco Pisani, and Dr Igor Marjanovic, with the support of Regan Wheat, invited guests (local and international practitioners and academics) and teaching assistants. Studio work sessions will be open, informal and collaborative.
- Lectures: In addition to regularly scheduled talks will be given by the instructor as part of intensive studio, a lecture series held in conjunction with the Fondazione Michelucci featuring internationally and locally renowned visitors who are experts in fine art, urban design and architecture (invited speakers are from Elena Barthel from *Rural Studio*, Jonathan Hill from *the Bartlett, Studio* ++ as well as other institutions and practices). Poster for current lecture series.
- Field Trips: Two weekend-long field trips are scheduled and included in the workshop fee with visits to Pienza, Montalcino, Verona, Vicenza, and Mantova. Additionally, visits to key architectural sites in Florence will be held at least twice a week, after Intensive Design Studio, for sketching and discussion.
- Presentation and Exhibition: A select jury of local and international professionals and academics will be invited to hear the presentation of the collaborative student work. An opening celebration will follow the presentation of work.

Eligibility

This workshop is open to Interior Architecture and Interior Design students in the UK, but is also open to select Architecture students with an interest in urban and interior architecture issues. The workshop is recommended for mature and enthusiastic students who are interested in:

- improving their knowledge of sketching, urban design, and architectural history
- broadening the breadth of their portfolio
- meeting and working with students from other countries
- travelling

Awards

A certificate of completion of the workshop will be given once satisfactory final work is presented on the final day. Commendations for exceptional projects will be noted on the certificate.

Student Faculty Ratio

The maximum student-faculty ratio will be 4-1.

Instructors

Full time instruction by Alessandro Ayuso (Senior Lecturer, University of Westminster) and Franco Pisani (Architect, Franco Pisani Architetto). Additional instructional support will be given by Dr Igor Marjonovich (Associate Professor, Washington University) and Professor Regan Wheat (Senior Lecturer, Washington University).

On the occasion of the Interior Urbanism 2012 Florence Workshop, and with the support of the Misericordia di Firenze,

the Fondazione Giovanni Michelucci presents

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The multidisciplinary Interior Urbanism 2012 Florence Workshop brings together Art, Architecture and Interior Architecture students from the UK and the US to study design in Florence. It is organized and coordinated by Franco Pisani (Architect, Franco Pisani Architetto and Instructor, Insituto Palazzo Rucellai Florence), Alessandro Ayuso (Senior Lecturer, University of Westminster, London), Dr Igor Marjanovic (Associate Professor, Sam Fox School of Design, Washington University in Saint Louis)., and Regan Wheat (Senior Lecturer, Sam Fox School of Design, Washington University in Saint Louis).