May 14 - May 19

Mexico City

Mexico City is the densely populated, high-altitude capital of Mexico. It’s known for its Templo Mayor (a 13th-century Aztec temple), the baroque Catedral Metropolitana of the Spanish conquistadors and the Palacio Nacional, which houses historic murals by Diego Rivera. All of this resides in and around the Plaza de la Constitución, the massive main square also known as the Zócalo.

May 20 - May 26

Merida

The Mayan Ruins of the Yucatan Peninsula are truly a treasure to behold. These lost cities hail back to as many as 2,000 years ago, when the Mayas were practicing such mathematical genius as astronomy and physics. Nobody knows what happened to the Mayas, but their legends - and their cities - live on to this day. This is something truly unique to this region, and the stories that these ruins tell will move you.

May 27 - May 31

Machu Picchu

Explore the abandoned city of Machu Picchu. Built in the 15th Century, its renown for its sophisticated dry-stone walls that fuse huge blocks without the use of mortar, intriguing buildings that play on astronomical alignments, and panoramic views. Its exact former use remains a mystery.

June 1 - July 9

São Paulo

Vibrant São Paulo is among the world’s most populous cities. Brazil’s financial center, it has abundant cultural institutions and a rich architectural tradition. Its iconic buildings range from the 1929 Edifício Martinelli skyscraper and the neo-Gothic Metropolitan Cathedral to modernist architect Oscar Niemeyer’s curvy Edifício Copan. The colonial-style Pátio do Colégio church marks where Jesuit priests founded the city in 1554.
Why This Program?

A dramatic demographic shift has taken place at USC, as a reflection of its urban and national context. In the 2012 United States Census, the Hispanic population was 53 million, out of 314 million, or 17% of the total, making it the nation’s largest ethnic or racial minority. In Los Angeles, however, the numbers are even more dramatic, since Hispanics or Latinos make up 57.5% of the urban population. At USC, Hispanics make up 14% of a total of 40,000 Graduate, Undergraduate and professional students, reflecting the national average, while Asians account for 23% of the entire student body.

The changes that have taken place nationally, locally and on the USC campus, as well as an official call by our University to reach beyond the southern border of the United States in the last USC Strategic Plan, strongly indicate the need for a foreign program in Central or South America at the School of Architecture. The next question, of course, is where that Program should be based, since “the Americas” is a general designation, or abstract construct, which is actually made up of many different countries, with different regional cultures, languages, customs and traditions.

In addition to Mexico, there are twenty other countries of Central and South America. In alphabetical order in Central America, these are: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. In South America they are: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

What criteria should apply to these countries in terms of selecting a place to base our Program? In the final analysis, the choice must be based on safety, budgetary issues, infrastructure, logistics, the amount and quality of both the historical and contemporary architecture available for study, access to high quality architectural offices, the quality and status of the host institution(s) and the possibility of a long-term association with them, the possibility of collaboration on promising research, and lastly, the potential for a valuable, memorable educational for our students. There are obviously also many other, subjective criteria, which complicate this decision, as well.
Why Brazil?

Looking at global dynamics today, the fastest growing economies are China, Brazil and India. Their total output is now close to the combined GDP of the United States, Britain, France and Germany and is projected to exceed it soon. This phenomenal growth is being driven by the exchange of technology and trade between these three developing countries, not on a reliance on the west, which means that the impetus for technological innovation and creativity is also shifting their way. The latest United Nations report on the Developing World, also predicts that these three countries will also become the major consumer markets in the near future, rather than depending on the developed world to be their major market. As a result of this rapid economic growth, the middle class in China, Brazil and India is growing at an unprecedented rate, and has doubled between 1990 and 2000. By 2030 it will account for 70% of global consumer spending. With an average GDP of 5%, Brazil's economy is one of the fastest growing in the world, and the largest of the Latin American nations. Brazil has taken important steps to liberalize its economy, and increase its competitiveness, making it more attractive for private-sector development.

Dramatic economic growth alone, of course, is not a deciding factor in selecting Brazil as a base for our proposed Program, since other countries in Central and South America, such as Mexico and Argentina, are now posting high GDP numbers, as well. What does mitigate in its favor is the sheer scale of that growth and the social benefits that derive from it. The subsequent impact on the built environment and the design professions involved in producing it are obvious. This frenetic level of activity aggregates with a rich Colonial legacy, most obvious in areas such as Minas Gerais, to provide richly textured opportunities for study. This more than satisfies the requirement of the amount and quality of historical and contemporary architecture, and many of the most talented architects in Brazil are just beginning to surface in public sensibility, making access to high quality offices an exciting possibility. The criteria of the possibility of collaboration on promising research is satisfied by existing USC initiatives recently established in Brazil, such as the Price School's 2008 Memorandum of Understanding with EBAPE, which is one of Brazil's premier public administration schools, and a more recent MOU with the State of Sao Paulo.
Why São Paulo?

There are many reasons for selecting Sao Paulo as the home base of the University of Southern California School of Architecture Summer Program in Brazil. It is the seventh largest city in the world, and the largest city in Central and South America, as well as Brazil. It also has the largest GDP of any Central or South American city. Sheer size is not in itself a sufficient reason to choose it, but because of its scale, and cultural, economic and political influence it exerts a powerful international and regional impact on trade, commerce, finance, arts and entertainment. This makes it a magnet for creative people of all disciplines, including architecture.

USC currently has more than 500 alumni living and working in Brazil, and many of them are located in Sao Paulo, because it is widely acknowledged to be the business capital, and economic hub of the nation. After a visit by a delegation headed by President Nikias to Sao Paulo in March, 2013, the University has also established an office in the Vila Olimpia district, to support the recruitment of outstanding students and support USC Foreign Studies Programs in Brazil. The University is also promoting collaborations between USC researchers and their counterparts in Brazil. One important, recent example is a Memorandum of Understanding between the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy and Metropolitan Development secretary of the State of São Paulo, to increase collaborations on land use, transportation planning, housing, economic development and infrastructure.

Brazil has also established a Scientific Mobility Program, which provides full scholarships for Brazilian undergraduate students who qualify for up to one year of study at USC. This offers an extraordinary opportunity for us to enrich and diversify both our Graduate and Undergraduate programs.

Why Universidad São Paulo?

The Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo da Universidade de São Paulo (FAU USP) is the largest public University in Brazil, bringing to bear its significant political influence to the Project we will be doing with the Grupo Metrópole Fluvial, Design Lab, led by Professors Alexandre Delijaicov, Antonio Carlos Barossi, Milton Braga, André Takiya. The aim of this Studio is to study, instigate and disseminate the design culture of the infrastructures and architecture of fluvial cities. We will compare Los Angeles, Mexico City and Sao Paulo. The Study will involve the Metropolitan Waterway Ring of Greater São Paulo in contact with the Waterway Department of the State Secretariat for Logistics and Transportation in 2009 of the São Paulo Government. See: metropolefluvial-fau@usp.br for more details.
Mexico City | Mexico

May 14 - Depart Los Angeles for Mexico City. Arrive Mexico City, Transfer to Hotel Best Western Majestic
May 15 - City Tour, starting with the Zocalo, ending at the Kahlo-Rivera Studio, including the Archaeological Museum.
May 16 - Luis Barragan day. Visit his projects.
May 17 - Visit Tatiana Bilbao, Alberto Kalach offices
May 18 - Teotihuacan.
May 19 - Check out of Hotel. Transfer to Airport. Mexico City to Merida Transfer to Hotel: Dolores de Alba Merida.

Merida | Mexico

May 20 - City tour
May 21 - Izamal
May 22 - Chichen Itaza, Uxmal
May 23 - Kabah, Labnah, Sayil
May 24 - Tulum
May 25 - Merida.
May 26 - Check out of Hotel. Transfer to the Airport. Fly to Cusco via. Mexico City.
On arrival in Cuzco, transfer to San Agustín El Dorado Internacional Hotel, near the Qoricancha.

Cusco | Peru

May 27 - Cusco city tour and nearby ruins (4 hours) City tour, in and around Cusco. Inca Ceremonial Center of Sacsayhuaman. Qenko.Tambomachay Qoricancha, Cusco Cathedral.
May 28 - Sacred Valley of the Incas : El Mirador, Pisac, Ollantaytambo,
May 29 - Bus and train to Aquas Calientes, Transfer to Hotel Casa Andina.
May 30 - Machu Picchu.
May 31 - Check out of hotel. Transfer to the airport. Fly to Sao Paulo. Transfer to Housing.
São Paulo | Brazil
(Studio)

June 1 - Transport to Universidad Sao Paulo. Orientation.
   Introduction to Project: Grupo Metrópole Fluvial, Design Lab.
   Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo da Universidade de São Paulo FAU USP: Professors Alexandre Delijaicov, Antonio Carlos Barossi, Milton Braga, André Takiya. The aim of this Studio is to study, instigate and disseminate the design culture of the infrastructures and architecture of fluvial cities. We will compare Los Angeles, Mexico City and Sao Paulo. The Study will involve the Metropolitan Waterway Ring of Greater São Paulo in contact with the Waterway Department of the State Secretariat for Logistics and Transportation in 2009 of the São Paulo Government. See: metropolefluvial-fau@usp.br for more details.

June 2 - Studio officially begins. Monday through Friday. (Schedule to follow.)
June 10 - Field Trip: Depart for Brasilia. Transfer to Brasília Palace Hotel.
June 11 - Tour Brasilia
June 12 - Return to Sao Paulo.
July 8 - Final presentation at Universidad Sao Paulo.
July 9 - Depart Brazil, Return to Los Angeles.
Student Budget

Airfare:
1. Los Angeles to Mexico City (May 14)
   Mexico City to Merida (May 19)
   Merida to Mexico City (May 26)
   Mexico City to Lima, Peru (May 26) ................................................................. $1,240.14
2. Lima to Cuzco (May 27) ................................................................................. $183.18
3. Cuzco-Lima to Sao Paulo (May 31) ................................................................. $587.99
4. Sao Paulo to LAX (July 9) ................................................................................ $1,250.93

Total Air: $3,262.24

Land:
1. Mexico City (May 14-19 | 5 nights)
   Hotel: Best Western Majestic: $57 a night Double= $29pp. x 5= $142.50

   Hotel: $142.50
   Tours: $693.50
   Total: $836.00

2. Merida (May 19-26 | 7 nights)
   Hotel: Dolores de Alba Merida. .)$48 double+24 single x7=$168.00

   Hotel: $168.00
   Tour: $415.00
   Total: $583.00

3. Cuzco (May 26-31 | 5 nights)
   San Agustin El Dorado Internacional Hotel: $45.00 pp. for 5 nights=$225.00
   Tour: (Cusco, Sacred Valley, Machu Picchu)

   Hotel: $225.00
   Tour: $371.00
   Total: $596.00

4. São Paulo (May 31-July 9)
   Housing: $45.00 night x 56 nights=$2,520.00

   Housing: $2,520.00
   Total: $2,520.00

5. Brasilia (June 10 | 1 night)
   Brasilia Palace Hotel: $110.00 double = $55.00 pp

   Hotel: $55.00pp
   Tour: $70.00
   Total: $125.00

Total Land: $4,660.00

Total Land and Air: $7,922.00