The Program:

The College of Architecture and Urban Studies is offering its annual Interdisciplinary Summer Education Abroad Program in Western Europe. This 36-day program explores the landscape, cities, construction, art and culture as we travel from Paris into the Netherlands, on to Duisburg, Berlin and Munich. After a stop in Stuttgart, we move on to Basel, Switzerland and end in Zurich. We feature an interdisciplinary approach to studying how the built environment and culture may be interpreted in a broad cultural context.

All curious participants are welcome.

The program begins in Paris, the city of lights, experimentation, grand projects and small details. Paris combines studies of monumental urban development during the last two centuries, modern architecture and gardens of the kings and their courts. We will examine layers of urban design and development through comparative studies and close-looking. City and town development in France, the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland offers opportunities to see how regions are claiming their cultural heritage through contemporary economic development. Local and regional projects in the Netherlands challenge conceptions of building, urban redevelopment, landscape remediation and brownfield development using newer technologies and high expectations for more sustainable development practices as they support a high quality of life and concepts of city living. Contemporary sites will challenge concepts of urban design and development at all scales. All locations offer numerous opportunities to study and compare art, design, urban planning and design, landscape and architectural sites, and construction methods and materials from the scale of a door knob to the breadth of a region.

Program at a Glance

Subject: Art, Architecture, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design along a transect of Western Europe

Dates: May 18 – June 22, 2010

Credit: Variable credit. (3 to 6). Additional credits are possible through pre-arranged independent study.

Eligibility: Undergraduate students with junior standing and graduate students may apply. This program is coordinated with Virginia Commonwealth University. Students from other universities must apply under the Commonwealth Student Program. Please contact us for further information

Program Fee: $6000, plus Virginia Tech tuition and airfare. Fee includes shared lodging in two and three star hotels or hostels, breakfast and dinner, and ground transportation during the program. *(The fee subject to change as the currency exchange rates change.)*

Travel Program duration: 36 days

Pre-trip planning: Participants participate in a weekly one-hour seminar during the spring semester. Other arrangements will be made for off-campus students.

Post-trip Exhibition: Program participants will design and mount an exhibition and produce a pamphlet during the Fall 2010 semester that synthesizes their study.

For More Information:

Virginia Tech Contact:
Professor Terry Clements, Landscape Architecture
Office: (540)231.6683, or E-mail: tclement@vt.edu

VCU Contact:
Professor Rab H McClure, Interior Design
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The Program

This 36-day program explores the landscape, cities, art and culture as we travel from Paris, and north to Lille before moving onto Amsterdam, a laboratory of urban housing experiments from the middle-ages to contemporary times. Duisburg, Germany offers the change to see brownfield site restoration and remediation at a regional scale while Berlin’s redevelopment and economic revival both questions and offers answers to contemporary issues of civic, government, and residential development in a formerly divided city. Munich and Stuttgart continue to develop their city centers and new urban centers. Stops in Basel and Zurich, Switzerland give site scale examples of new construction and urban design. Day trips to the Vitra Museum and Ronchamp’s Notre Dame du Haut offer opportunities to see sights outside the city. We feature an interdisciplinary approach to understanding how the built environment and culture may be interpreted in a broad cultural context, as well as study design, construction and project implementation at a variety of scales. All curious participants are welcome.

The travel program builds upon preparatory meetings held during the spring semester. Off-campus students will be assisted in their preparations for study and travel. Students and faculty will meet in Paris to begin an intense and exciting exploration and study of the city, its art and culture, streets, buildings, construction and places.

In each city and while traveling between destinations, students and faculty will explore such design issues as the similarities and differences in physical design across places and centuries, the uses of a variety of building materials, climatic influences on design and use of public and private spaces, and the city as a cultural setting.

The trip includes visits to museums and exhibitions, as well as meeting design professionals.

Education Abroad Financial Aid
Information for VT students
Paperwork must be filled out by mid-February 2010. Contact the University Office of International Outreach, Education and Development (OIRED) for more information. Additional information can be found at the University Financial Aid Office.

Application and Cost
A $500 non-refundable deposit will be billed upon submission of the financial agreement form. This constitutes your intention to participate and reserves your space. Applications will be accepted beginning November 16, 2009.

A total program fee is $5550 Students are responsible for lunches and other personal expenses. Students are also responsible for arranging plane fare and ground transportation to and from the group meeting and departure points. (The fee subject to change as the currency exchange rates change.)

All fees are due in full by April 10, 2010.

Individual tuition varies depending on residency status and enrolled credit hours. Tuition, the deposit and fees are billed directly by VT student accounts.

Eligibility
The course is open to students in good standing, including continuing graduate students and undergraduate students with junior standing. Interested professionals are also encouraged to apply. Participants should be curious about comparative aspects of the built environment in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, construction, interior and industrial design, art and culture.

Multi-disciplinary participation enhances the observations and discoveries of everyone on the trip and challenges all of us to see the world around us in broader contexts.

Students from other universities or persons enrolling as special students in VT summer school may receive transfer credit. However, it is their responsibility to arrange for credit transfer.

The program rewards those with flexibility, curiosity and a willingness to be engaged in an intense study of the building, design, and culture.