

**International Summer Design
Studio**

Urban Design/Architecture/Materials
Digital Design & Fabrication laboratory
Verona Italy 2008
26th may – 29th june

*Lithic latencies/ Stone – the subversion
of substance
Residential housing / Contemporary
Living in Lessinia*



The summer program in Verona, Italy, is an intensive design research and material based laboratory. The studio will in particular explore the rich tradition of stone fabrication and the craftsmanship in construction. This becomes particularly evident through the unprecedented architecture of stone houses in the hill area of Lessinia nearby Verona. A confrontation with the often transgressive application of the unique local stone material gives suggestions for contemporary innovations. However it is not only the exciting and simple way of the architecture which lived throughout centuries, but the beautiful and well thought planning of the urban setting and its integration into the surrounding landscape, that captures a unique spirit.

The studio work will be based upon advanced digital design and information based procedures, and will be further complemented with an intensive introduction to contemporary material technologies. A stone laboratory will provide a hands-on experience to 3D modeling and fabrication techniques, and selected forms of 3D output, like CNC milling will help the students design projects to be tested through phases of prototyping. The program is geared towards a wide range of outside expertise to be integrated into the studio setting, in form of presentations by visiting critics, or visits to the studios of known architects, designers and artists.

The studio work will be enriched through travel and excursions to selected cities and architectural sites to study buildings in their urban settings. Visits to specific project related industries and companies will deepen the material related experience.

Verona is known for its antique and rich urban development, founded in the Roman time. The list of important sightseeing in and around Verona is long and reaches from the Coliseum still operating as opera house in summer evenings, the fully remaining Austrian fortification walls, the churches and piazzas, the surrounding vineyards notably the Valpolicella to the house of Romeo and Juliet.

Organization:

Director: Prof. Christian R Pongratz, Texas Tech University, Texas, USA

Guest-Faculty:

Prof. Alfonso Acocella, University of Ferrara, Prof. Michael Bechthold, GSD, Paulo Flores, Zaha Hadid, London, Prof. Ingrid Paoletti, BEST Politecnico Milano, Prof. Vincenzo Pavan, University of Ferrara, Prof. Alessio Pipinato, University of Padova;

Program Timeline:

26th may – 29th june 2008; 35 days (25 weekdays, 10 weekend days)

Courses offered:

- ARCH 4601 Architectural Design Studio VI
- ARCH 3314 Contemporary Issues in Architecture
- ARCH 4381 Urban Theory

Excursions:

Cities: Como, Verona, Lessinia hills, Lake Garda, Venice, Milan, Mantova, Sabbioneta; Marble Companies; Quarries; Architecture Universities in Ferrara & Venice; studio visits: Mendini, Citterio, R. Piano; Great Architecture works: Carlo Scarpa, Giuseppe Terragni, Andrea Palladio; Artists Studios: Castagna, Meloni;