Traveling Field Trips
Teruel/Zaragoza+Madrid/Toledo
Profs. G. Bosch, R. Farre, A. Lapunzina

Organized field trips to sites of historical, architectural, and urban significance are an essential component of the program’s activities. These include short half-day visits as well as multi-day trips to other cities.

In 2019/2020, there were two traveling field trips: a 3-day journey to Lleida, Zaragoza and Teruel (in the Fall semester) and a week-long trip to Madrid that included day-long excursions to Toledo and the Monastery of El Escorial (Spring semester).

In these trips, students not only studied buildings from diverse historical periods but also got more deeply exposed to the specific architectural, urban and cultural characteristics of the cities visited.
Traveling Assignments
all IASAP-BV faculty + guests

Traveling is an important component of all study abroad programs especially for architecture students because it provides the opportunity to visit in person cities, buildings, and sites, absorbing through personal experience what they would otherwise learn in the classroom.

At the IASAP-BV, a few periods of independent travel are built-into the program’s calendar of activities. In these travels, students work on assignments that emphasize learning through seeing and experiencing buildings and sites of architectural and urban significance which they document through graphic and written notes, photography, and video.

Specific assignments included the development of an “Architect’s Journal” (images A, B, C, H, I and J), a study of the work and contribution of “Unforgettable Masters of 20th Century Architecture” and “Contemporary Architects” (images D, E, F, and G), and a short video documentary of one relevant building in which they combine all the skills developed in the workshops that constitute this course (a few photograms are shown on images K and L).
The Building Envelope Workshop was co-organized by the iasap-bv and the ETSAV and was available to students enrolled in the two programs. The workshop was primarily taught by Illinois’ Professor Scott Murray with the collaboration of ETSAV Professors Pablo Garrido and Jaime Prous. Students worked in mixed collaborative teams.

As the primary interface between interior and exterior environments, the building envelope is an important architectural component with great potential for impacting both a building’s aesthetic/architectural expression and its technical performance in response to climate and energy consumption.

In this weeklong workshop, students were introduced to a design process that integrates several issues related to building-envelopes in contemporary practice: cultural expression, materials, construction techniques, climate-responsiveness, and energy efficiency.

Students worked in teams to design an enclosure system for an assigned building type and form, with each team working in one of three different climate zones. After researching the climate conditions for their site, each team designed and developed a facade system, producing detailed drawings and a large-scale sectional model to represent their final design.
This second section of the IASAP-BV’s 2019/2020 Yearbook of Student Work consists of pages dedicated to one or two students. At the end of the year, we invited students to submit for inclusion in the yearbook two or three of their favorite sketches/drawings from field trips and two architectural photos taken during the year. In addition to this, the program’s faculty selected one or two images from their Spring semester Architectural Design project, and in some cases a sketch/drawing or an architectural photograph from the assignments that were part of the program’s courses and activities.

We also added a fragment of a self-portrait that they did the first weekend after their arrival. It was part of “drawing practice assignments” at the beginning of the year. The assignment consisted of filling pages with lines (horizontal, vertical, diagonal, in pencil and ink) as a vehicle to “loosen” their hand; then, after filling many pages, we asked them to face a mirror and make a self-portrait over one of the pages filled with lines but without looking at the page while they made it (we ignore if they “really” complied with this, but it is beyond the point). In composing the individual pages, we considered that these portraits –fresh, unpretentious, and fun—should be featured, yet, not in full but as a sort of ‘cubist’ fragment. Many students also sent a short written reflection of their experience; we include these reflections as we received them, unfiltered and unedited.

With all this material we composed pages for each student: a full page for students who responded to our call to submit drawings and photos, and two-students per page with images selected by the faculty for students who did not submit their favorite ones. Lastly, we also asked students to submit one of two “more personal” images. Unfortunately, we do not have enough space to show all of them, but a few of the more representative of them are included on the left column of this page.

This year brought a lot of new experiences and opportunities that I would have never imagined doing. As a designer, my way of thinking and approaching design has changed for the better because I was able to experience compelling architecture firsthand. Not only am I a better designer leaving this year abroad, I’ve grown tremendously as an individual. I will forever be grateful for the friends I made and the family that was our Barcelona class.
My year with the Illinois Architecture Study Abroad Program was filled with both challenges and joys. Moving 5000 miles away from home and into a new culture proved overwhelming at times, but I learned a lot about both myself and architecture through firsthand experiences. I also met many people that will be a part of my life forever. Ultimately, this year prepared me for the future, both personally and professionally.
My “year” in Barcelona was the single most life changing experience I have ever had. I learned more than I ever thought possible in a single academic year. The tangible exposure to historical and contemporary architecture solidified my understanding of a variety of architectural concepts and elements. Even beyond academics, the holistic development I underwent and the friends I made during the year will stay with me for my entire life.
Initially, my goal for coming to this study abroad program was more about being closer to my friends and family and really, just to spend more time with them. I would never have imagined just how different my experience came to be. I have learnt so much about not only architecture but also what it means to be an architect, but most importantly, I would have never expected just how well we got along as a group.

My experience studying abroad in Barcelona has reopened my heart and mind to embracing all forms of educational experience. Whether it’s through traditional classroom learning, traveling to foreign countries, or simply intellectual conversations with peers, studying abroad has allowed me to explore different ways of learning that I will carry into all future aspects of my life.
Being a part of the IASAP-BV taught me how to study my built surroundings and how to better design buildings to become a more cohesive part of those surroundings. I also built close friendships from both classes as a result of the truly unified approach to all coursework and living so closely together in the residence hall. This experience has been one of the most academically, personally, and socially rewarding of my life.

David Bell

This year felt like a turning point in my life. Sometimes I can feel stuck in my own life but this year, this experience, opened my eyes and greased my gears. It felt like around every corner there was something new to be explored. I became aware of so many more possibilities that the world has to offer. Possibilities that I fully plan on exploring for the rest of my life.

Phoebe Glimm
Studying abroad with the IASAP-BV program was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. The program enabled us to grow as individuals and as a group far beyond any of us would have expected. We arrived with empty sketchbooks but left with pages full of friendships, memories, education, and gratitude.

This experience was so enriching, it helped me grow as an individual not only with architecture but personally and for that I am so thankful. I’ve learned so much throughout the year not only from our professors, but even from the seniors. I think most of the memories and/or lessons I’ve learned throughout the year will stick with me for a long time.

Sabas Padilla

Kaitlyn Baker

A - Productive living housing (Spring semester studio project)- B - Architectural Photography- C - Architectural/Urban graphic studies

A - Barcelona Culinary Institute (Spring semester studio project)- B - Architectural Photography- C - Architectural/Urban graphic studies
This year was by far the most interesting and developmental for me as an architect. I gained a new perspective that could never be found in Illinois, a new respect for the work I do on a global scale, and lifelong friends. While I will miss traveling the world, I will miss traveling just next door in Unihabit to hang out with my friends the most. I cannot wait to follow all our careers after this year and the great things we all will do.

Emma Dannhausen-Brun

A • Barcelona Culinary Institute (Spring semester studio project) | B • Architectural Photography | C • Architectural/Urban graphic studies
Through this program, I was able to see so much abroad that I had always dreamed of seeing, and even more that I never could have imagined. Whether it was exploring the busy streets of Barcelona, having a coffee in a cathedral in Basel, or hanging out within the cozy concrete box that is the Uninhab, there wasn’t a single moment that couldn’t be precious. My scope of learning in the field of architecture and beyond has vastly expanded. Never before have I been so sure in what I am pursuing as a career. Outside the classroom, I had opportunities to try new things and interact with a variety of people, which in turn led me to learn so much about myself. Having grown up in central Illinois and speaking Spanish at home, this year was the first time I was able to make Spanish-speaking friends. Living with a first-year student of the ETSAV also allowed me to participate with local ETSAV kids more than some peers. Even as our time abroad was cut short, I felt that the sheer dedication put into the program by Alex and Magali really showed itself, as faculty worked their absolute best to continue the experience from beyond the pond. I will cherish those seven amazing months in Barcelona for years to come.

Alejandro Toro-Acosta

This program provided me an opportunity to explore more fantastic buildings in the European countries, to enjoy the beautiful sightseeing, and most importantly, to study architecture intensively. The faculty members here just like our family members, not only taught us how to study architecture, but also took care of us in many ways.

Xinagyi Zhu
This year truly has been a journey literally and mentally. Having traveled to and from multiple places outside of my normal field of view, gave me so much to reflect upon. Mainly the confidence to navigate through unfamiliar areas whilst enjoying and appreciating everything around me despite what life throws at me.

Benjamin Tang

- Barcelona Culinary Institute (Spring semester studio project)
- Architectural Photography
- Architectural/Urban graphic studies
This study abroad program was the great opportunity to step outside of my comfort zone. Traveling to new places, meeting new people, and learning in a brand-new way made the whole year worthwhile. The fun and smiles I shared with new friends and even with the professor I will never forget.

Nicholas Athitakis

A • Productive living housing (Spring semester studio project)
• Architectural Photography
• Architectural/Urban graphic studies

B • Barcelona Culinary Institute (Spring semester studio project)
• Architectural Photography
• Architectural/Urban graphic studies

C • Nicholas Athitakis

Ruoyi [Rachel] Wei
Living in Spain is an experience I will never forget, the change in culture and views on life was something I didn’t really expect to change me, but it definitely has since I’ve been home. Another thing that I didn’t expect was the sense of family and comradery that happened between everyone living there. We became a close-knit family and I would give anything to keep the relationships I gained there.

This year abroad has taught me a lot. I realized even more how willing people are to help. One of my favorite memories is when the juniors had a deadline and we had each taken over one of the seniors’ rooms as they were helping us out as we ran into software issues.
My experience abroad taught me a lot about myself as an architecture student and changed my perspective on architecture. Seeing the variety of Romanesque, Gothic, Spanish architecture, etc. helped me understand the historical aspects of architecture. My favorite part was the sketching sessions. Being able to learn new techniques and perspectives in sketching inspired me to do more on my own.

The countless opportunities of the IASAP-BV might boil down into two areas: the atmospheres of the program, and of the place. The educational, neighborly aura of the program is a buffet for learning. I am grateful to have been a hungry student there. Also, I feel fortunate to have had the chance to immerse myself into another rich culture and history. I’ll take many aspects of life and memories from Sant Cugat with me.

Alicia Gomez

Dustin Frye

A• Barcelona Culinary Institute (Spring semester studio project)- B• Architectural Photography- C• Architectural/Urban graphic studies

A• Barcelona Culinary Institute (Spring semester studio project)- B• Architectural Photography- C• Architectural/Urban graphic studies
The year in Barcelona really broadened my horizons and deepened my understanding of architecture. I was able to focus and devote all my energy to the study of architecture. In this year, I've learned plenty of skills, especially my sketching skill has improved a lot. Traveling to different cities also enriched my knowledge and comprehension of architecture and its relationship to human, culture and location.

Studying abroad in Barcelona was a life changing experience for me. Not only did it greatly expand my knowledge and love for architecture, it opened my eyes to the minute uniqueness of cultures, but also how incredibly similar we all are. I learn how to accept the existence of cultural and societal barriers but move kilometers past them to develop lifelong friendships and a love for new experiences.
The Barcelona program has enabled me to learn so much more than I would on campus. I would do it again, even knowing my time would be cut short, without a second thought. This program is a fantastic way to form closer relationships with your peers than is often possible on campus. As for the curriculum, the program as a whole is meticulously planned out for the best possible learning experience while not bombarding students with unreasonable deadlines. This program is such an amazing once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to learn architecture, grow as an individual, and experience the world.
Thomas Cooper

This year was a definitive chapter of my life. From the relationships built—with comrades, with professors, with supporting individuals—to the curriculum, I learned too much even to begin a list. Suffice it to say: travel is a superb educational tool.

Mariah Guyot

Barcelona Culinary Institute (Spring semester studio project)

Productive living housing (Spring semester studio project)

A•Barcelona Culinary Institute (Spring semester studio project)•B•Architectural Photography•C•Architectural/Urban graphic studies

This year was a definitive chapter of my life. From the relationships built—with comrades, with professors, with supporting individuals—to the curriculum, I learned too much even to begin a list. Suffice it to say: travel is a superb educational tool.

A•Productive living housing (Spring semester studio project)•B•Architectural Photography•C•Architectural/Urban graphic studies
Jesus Sanchez

• Productive living housing (Spring semester studio project)

• Barcelona Culinary Institute (Spring semester studio project)

Calvin Stuber

• Architectural Photography

• Architectural/Urban graphic studies

Eda Shuli

• Architectural Photography

• Architectural/Urban graphic studies

David Figueroa
A • Barcelona Culinary Institute (Spring semester studio project) - B • Architectural Photography - C • Architectural/Urban graphic studies
Rachel Conover
Yuyan Zhang
Xunfan Xu

• Productive living housing (Spring semester studio project)
• Architectural Photography
• Architectural/Urban graphic studies

group photo at Monserrat where the last on-site activity of the year took place
The Illinois Architecture Study Abroad Program at Barcelona-El Vallès (iasap-bv) is part of an overarching agreement of institutional exchange between the Escola Técnica Superior d’Arquitectura del Vallès of the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (ETSAV-UPC) and the Illinois School of Architecture of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (ISoA).

The agreement contemplates the provision of scholarships for studying at the ISoA for students enrolled at ETSAV. Thus, every year, a selected group of students from the ETSAV travel to United States to spend one year of studies at the ISoA. Typically enrolled as upper-level students, they take courses in Architectural Design and in other areas of Illinois’ rich curricular offerings during the two semesters of the academic year.

As an intrinsic part of the bilateral agreement between the two institutions, the iasap-bv’s Yearbook of Student Work is once again very pleased to host and display the work produced at the ISoA and the personal recollection of the exchange students who attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2019-2020.

It was a unique opportunity being able to do the exchange at the University of Illinois. It is very interesting the way they think, how they project and how they sell the projects there because it is really very different from ours. I have learnt a lot professionally but also on a personal level. It has been incredible to live with international people, with people from other countries with such different cultures and in the end we end up being like brothers and sisters.

Laura Tardà

All my experience in Urbana-Champaign was amazing. But one of the things I enjoyed the most was the opportunity to work in the wood shop. I chose the wood furniture seminar, where we had to design and build a wooden furniture. I learned how to use almost all the tools in the workshop. I must thank Lowell, who was the person who instructed us and helped us every day. Unfortunately, I was not able to finish it and take it home, and it has stayed there in the workshop, but I hope I can recover it one day.

Marc de Antonio Ventura

Attending the UIUC as an exchange student was a life-changing experience. On the first semester, taking part in the Chicago Studio with Professor Hinders, I had the chance to live in the city and visit every week some of the biggest firms in the World like SOM, Perkins + Will or Gensler. On the second semester, in the campus in Champaign, not only I enjoyed an excellent group of professors but I also had the chance to get to foster relationships with many people backgrounds from all over the globe.

David Romeral

IASAP-BV Faculty and Staff


Guillem Bosch Folch; Invited lecturer; Professional Architect degree, UPC-ETSAB (2001); co-taught with Raimon Farré workshops in Overseas Architectural Studies in the Fall and Spring semesters.

Laia Cisteró Fortuny; Lecturer; Professional Architect degree, UPC-ETSAB (2001), Master in Theory and Practice of Architectural Design (predoctoral studies), UPC (2010); taught Architectural Design in the Spring semester.

Raimon Farré Moretó; Invited lecturer; Professional Architect degree, UPC-ETSAB (2000), Master in Sustainable Energies in Architecture UPC-ETSAB (2004); co-taught with Guillem Bosch workshops in Overseas Architectural Studies in the Fall and Spring semesters.

Marc Folch; Lecturer; Professional Architect degree, UPC-ETSAB (2002); taught Architectural Design in the Fall semester.

Josep María García; Invited lecturer; Professional Architect degree, UPC-ETSAB (2005), Master in History and Theory of Architecture UPC-ETSAB (2007), PhD in Architecture UPC-ETSAB (2012); taught one module of Architectural History in the Spring semester.

Jeffrey Kansler; Lecturer; BS in Architectural Studies (2003) and Master of Architecture (2005), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; taught Structures courses online in the Fall and Spring semesters.

Carlos Marcos Padrós; Lecturer; Professional Architect degree, UPC-ETSAB (2001), PhD in Architecture UPC-ETSAB (2018); taught Architectural Design in the Spring semester.

Celia Marín Vega; Invited Lecturer; Professional Architect degree, UPC-ETSAB (2008), PhD in the History of Architecture, Universidadd Pompeu Fabra (2018); taught Architectural History course in Fall semester.

Núria Sabatés Giner; Lecturer; Professional Architect degree, UPC-ETSAB (2006), Master in Theory and Practice of Architectural Design (predoctoral studies), UPC (2009); taught Architectural Design in the Fall semester.

Marta Serra Permanyer; Professional Architect degree, UPC-ETSAB (2005), PhD in Theory and History of Architecture UPC-ETSAB (2012); guest speaker in one module of Architectural History in the Spring semester.

Sergi Serrat; Visiting Lecturer; Professional Architect degree, UPC-ETSAB (2002); taught Architectural Design in the Spring semester.

Magali Veronelli-Lapunzina; Administrative Coordinator; Professional degree in Political Science and Public Administration, Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico (1984); Master in Public Health, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina (1986); in charge of the program’s administrative activities and students’ affairs. Conducted Mindfulness and Koru Mindfulness support sessions to interested students.

Other Participants

Burke Greenwood, Architect based in Barcelona; offered workshop support sessions about portfolio design and application to graduate school process.

Xabi Campreciós (Niaho Films), video/film maker based in Barcelona; offered a workshop about architectural video documentary in the Spring semester.

Pablo Garrido, Architect and Profesor Asociado at ETSAB; collaborated with the joint ETSAB+IASAP-BV Building Envelope Design workshop offered in the Spring semester.

Josep María de Llobet, Architectural Photographer and Professor of Photography based in Barcelona; offered a workshop on architectural photography in the Fall semester.

Scott Murray, Architect and Associate Professor at the Illinois School of Architecture; led the ETSAB+IASAP-BV Building Envelope Design workshop offered in the Spring semester.

Jaime Prous, Architect and Profesor Asociado at ETSAB; collaborated with the joint ETSAB+IASAP-BV Building Envelope Design workshop offered in the Spring semester.

Juan Carlos Sánchez Tappan, Architect and educador based in Barcelona; led field trips and delivered lectures in Module 3 of the Architectural History course in the Spring semester.

Gemma Seijo/Merit Language School (Sant Cugat); offered a certified Spanish language course to participating students in the Fall semester.

and.. Kaitlyn Baker, Rachel Conover, Asher Ginnodo, Phoebe Glimm, Shuqi Liu, Rentika Patil, Eda Shuli, Calvin Stuber, Alejandro Toro-Acosta, Rachel Wei, Yunfan Xu, Yuyan Zhang, Xinyu Zhao, Xiaoyi Zhu, Elena Albareda, Guillem Bosch, Xavi Camprecios, Laia Cistero, Raimon Farré, March Folch, Josep Maria Garcia Fuentes, Burke Greenwood, Jeff Kansler, Josep Maria de Llobet, Celia Marín Vega, Núria Sabatés, Juan Carlos Sanchez Tappan, Gemma Seijo/Merit Language School, Marta Serra Permanyer, Sergi Serrat, Magali Veronelli-Lapunzina, and all our special guests. Thank you!
First and foremost, the IASAP-BV and the Illinois School of Architecture want to thank both the institution and the members of the ETSAV/UPC for hosting the program and for the gracious assistance received throughout the entire year. Very special thanks to ETSAV’s Director, Professor Albert Cuchi, and Associate Directors, Professors Pere Fuertes and Adolf Sotoca, for their sustained support to the program. Our gratitude extends to all the other members of the ETSAV’s administration and support areas who helped us in every single aspect needed for the smooth and successful operation of the program.

The IASAP-BV team of faculty and staff are very grateful to Professor Mohamed Boubekri for his support in the Fall semester when he served as Interim Director of the School in the Fall semester. In January of 2020 Professor Francisco J. Rodríguez became the new permanent Director of the Illinois School of Architecture. As we welcome him to the School, we want to especially mention our gratitude for immediately manifesting his support of the program which, among other things, was manifest during his visit to the program soon after the beginning of his tenure as Director.

As usual, our appreciation extends to everyone in the ISoA and the CFAA for the support they provided to the program throughout the year. We are also very thankful to everyone – teachers, scholars, professionals, special guests, visitors, and external providers of service — who assisted with the development and implementation of the program’s activities throughout the entire year. The collaboration with La Seu d’Egara (and by extension with the cultural authorities and institutions of the city of Terrassa) will be remembered as one of the highlights of the year thanks to all of the individuals who believed and shared our enthusiasm with the project to document and exhibit through drawings and photographs the historical complex of Early-Christian buildings located in Terrass. We are also grateful to the Ayuntamiento de Sant Cugat del Vallès, and to Sant Cugat’s visa and immigration office of the Policía Nacional. The year could not have begun nor culminated successfully without their assistance and support.

And finally, in this very unusual 2019-2020, we cannot emphasize enough how grateful we are for everything that everyone, and especially our students, did to navigate as smoothly as we could an unprecedented global sanitary emergency. None had anticipated it, yet we can emphatically and proudly say that, despite the immense challenge, thanks to the individual and collective efforts of all involved, another edition of the iasap-bv ended successfully!

Sant Cugat del Vallès, September 2020