

Beijing Study Abroad

8 week program – 06/29/09 to 08/17/09

Program director: James Lowder (jim.lowder@gmail.com)

Other participating faculty: Robert Mangurian and Mary-Ann Ray

Introduction

In travelling to Beijing, China, this program exposes the students to an urban condition whose growth and rate of change is unprecedented. Beijing is in the truest sense a 21st century urban phenomenon, an urbanism that is antithetical to urbanism of Buffalo, NY. This sudden growth has a significant impact on the cultural, infrastructural, and social underpinnings of China as well as its status in a geo-political context.

Courses offered:

Design Studio – 6 credit hrs – faculty James Lowder

The studio will focus on the social and cultural aspects of Chinese urbanism that are now endangered due to the forces of globalization that are radically transforming the cultural and urban landscape. The *hutongs*, long and narrow public spaces compressed between linear housing structures that have long made up the urban fabric of Beijing, are currently being demolished at an alarming rate to make room for new developments. This studio will engage in a design exercise that attempts to recuperate remnants of traditional Chinese urban spaces while simultaneously accommodating new programmatic pressures and social spaces brought about by new cultural forces. The studio will include field trips, lectures, desk crits, and pin-ups with jurors from academia and professional practice in Beijing.

Urban Analysis Seminar – 3 credit hrs – faculty James Lowder

With growth occurring at such an alarming rate in Beijing, the urban plan as we know it has ceased to exist; there are multiple cities being conceived and built simultaneously. Thus, the focus of this seminar will be to project an urban “plan” through analysis and direct experience of Beijing. Readings and urban concepts will be drawn from diverse sources including Rowe and Koetter’s *collage city*, Calvino’s *Invisible Cities*, and Piero Vittorio Aureli’s Archipelago urbanism. This course will include field trips and tours around Beijing as well as in-class presentations.

Object Making Seminar – 3 credit hours – faculty Robert Magurian and Mary Anne Ray

China’s resources as a production and manufacturing economy enable the designer to produce highly-complex and refined prototypes and final artifacts at a very low cost. This seminar takes advantage of these resources through the design and production of furniture pieces. This seminar will be taught by StudioWorks (Robert Mangurian and Mary Ann Ray).

Classroom/studio space:

B.A.S.E. (Beijing Architectural Studio Enterprise)

Housing:

Apartments approx 5-10 min from BASE and 30 minutes from city center

Local transportation:

Mostly taxis, subway, and rail

Costs:

Program fee (includes tuition, lodging, classroom space,
some inner china travel Beijing):

\$5,800

Additional estimated costs:

Air fare	\$1,500
Meals	\$800
Local transport	\$500
Personal expenses	\$1,000
Total	\$3,800

Total (program fee + estimated costs)

\$9,600

For further information:

www.nytimes.com/interactive/2008/07/12/arts/20080712_BEIJING_GRAPHIC.html

www.basebeijing.cn