

UNITED STATES AND MEXICO  
**ARCHITECTURAL IDENTITY: Celestial Terrestrial Scrutinies**

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*Immigrants have traversed the earth, in constant motion, as nomadic societies and/or in pursuit of better futures for as long as we have attempted to understand how human beings make place. In an attempt to understand the past, current, and future situations of immigration we loop back 12,000-15,000 years ago to settlements and societies that produced cultural identity through temporal markings of the horizon, between the celestial and the terrestrial.*

*This course continues and finalizes a trilogy of spring travel courses that began two years ago in Cuba and then to Mexico City. In Mexico City we stood in the Zocalo oriented to the cathedral, an architecture and public space of colonization. Though the catholic structure dictated one's orientation and demanded presence, one realizes that the strongest presence was not of the Spaniards but of the Aztecs. Through the haze of burning copal, the presence of ritual practices performed in front of the cathedral, the excavation site of Templo Mayor that extends under the cathedral, and other signs and symbols unfamiliar to those of European descent, these triggers produce a presence of deep time, the indigenous people of Mesoamerica.*

*Last spring, the course studied the sites/architecture of those that attempted to erase the rich culture of these ancient societies. This spring will be an immersion into the timeless and deep presence of these ancient societies. Mexico City will provide a framework for introducing the previous architecture identities travel courses and how contemporary and modern architecture still learns from these ancient cultural productions. The city of Oaxaca will serve as a preparatory threshold to the ancient structures and landscapes of the Aztecs, Olmecs, Mayans, and Incas that we will engage as we travel the perimeter of the Yucatan peninsula.*

*Stories of leaping jaguars, bad winds, equitable and palpable celebrations of life and death, experiences of moving into the celestial to descend to the terrestrial, sunrise at Chichen Itza and the clarity and depth of cenotes, will be shared in interest meetings over the next couple of months.*

#### **DATES OF TRAVEL**

May 10 - June 4

#### **TRAVEL DESTINATIONS**

*Mesa Verde National Park, CO, Chaco Culture National Historic Park, NM Taos Pueblo, NM. Teotihuacan, Mexico City, Monte Alban, Oaxaca, and the Yucatán Peninsula. The tour of the Yucatán Peninsula includes the following sites: Villhermosa, Palenque, Campeche, Uxmal, Mérida, Dzibichaltún, Izamal, Chichén Itzá, Playa del Carmen, Tulum, and Chetumal*

#### **DESCRIPTION OF TRAVEL**

*We will fly to Colorado, Mexico City and Oaxaca. We will rent automobiles in Colorado and drive to three Pueblo sites. In Oaxaca we drive to and around the perimeter of the Yucatán Peninsula.*

#### **COURSE DELIVERABLES:** Metron (Collection), Documentation, Translation + Representation

*Each student works independently and in groups to collect documentation and measurement of sites using the Body Metron and other measuring techniques.*

*A drawing formatted on a template including a joiner and controlled freehand drawing with analytical and descriptive text, will be required from each site we visit.*

**Student Budget: \$1445 (\$2445-\$1000 Taubman spring travel support funds) + tuition**

**Includes housing, airfare, ground transportation, miscellany (meals, data plans, health insurance, etc.)**