PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DEL PERÚ - PUCP
FIELD SCHOOL PROGRAM IN PERU
TRADITION, ARCHITECTURE AND TERRITORY IN PERU
2016 SEASON

GENERAL INFORMATION

Course: Tradition, Architecture and Territory in Peru
Location: Lima - Cusco, Perú
Time period: 1month/4 weeks.
Number of hours: 180 hours.
Professor: Dr. Adriana Scaletti,
Arch. Renato Manrique
Dr. José Canziani

SUMMARY

The cities of Lima and Cusco are arguably the most relevant case studies while trying to understand the incredibly complex and rich architecture, constructive tradition and interaction with the territory of the Spanish Viceroyal world in southern America. Lima was for many centuries the most important city of the region and thus a center of innovation and artistic development; while Cusco, as capital of the late Inca Empire and as a pivotal regional nucleus has always been a powerful influence, enriched by its unique multicultural perspective.

This course is for students interested in achieving a better understanding of Peruvian architecture during Viceroyal times -although a perspective of pre-Columbian expressions is of course part of the indispensable context- and how it clashed and mixed in turn with the ancient architectural and territorial transformations of the indigenous people already in the region. Theoretical and practical sessions will be given in both Lima and Cusco, with field work in specific sites. Visit to a number of contextual areas of cultural landscaping and heritage-valuable architecture will be also part of the program, along with exercises involving traditional building materials.
OBJECTIVES

Participating students will expand their knowledge of Latin American history, with an emphasis in South America - the former Viceroyalty of Peru - and its role in the shaping of cultural expressions in the region. They will be exposed at first to the conditions and challenges of coastal architecture (where earthquakes and tsunamis are a very pressing concern), and later, for the main part of the program, to the Andean examples in Cusco. There, the students will learn about the local constructive culture through some representative buildings of the city, and through an experience that will consist in the building of a 1:1 scale model of a constructive detail. The students will also prepare a research paper and work in the architectural, technical and photographic study of a selected historical building.

The program works very closely with the local population and especially with the local authorities charged with the protection and conservation of built heritage. This connection means that the work of the program will contribute directly to the actual preservation and respectful transformation of the buildings studied.

REQUIREMENTS

The course accepts graduate and undergraduate students of architecture, civil engineering, history and related fields; with the understanding of the specific nature of the course’s program.

No previous fieldwork experience is required. Spanish is not required, since most activities are conducted in English. All staff speaks both English and Spanish. However, it is advisable for students to have a basic knowledge of Spanish in order to facilitate a fluid interaction with the local population.

METHODOLOGY

The activities in this program are oriented according to three stages of activities: Lectures, academic visits and field work.

a. Lectures

There will be a number of conferences and lectures about Viceroyal Architecture in Peru, and the historical circumstances that originated it.

- Pre-Columbian Peru: culture and territory
• History of the Viceroyalty of Peru
• Viceroyal Architecture I & II (with complementary field visits)
• Cultural Landscapes I & II - (In association with on-site lectures about Pisac, Ollantaytambo and MachuPicchu)
• Constructive elements: wall, wooden flat ceilings, roofs, Circulation, carpentry and ornamentación

b. Academic visits

In Lima, students and their instructors will be visiting the most important examples of public and private buildings and spaces in the city, trying to emphasize its cultural relevance in the context of the continent. In Cuzco, visits to the historical center will help the participants understand better, among other things:

• The most representative buildings of the Andean Viceroyal architecture and its different expressions and types, including religious, residential and public spaces.
• The evolving urban morphology of a city where the Incan and Spanish conceptions of spatial organization meet and configure a new way of planning.
• The different uses of public spaces linked to the traditional culture.

c. Field Work in Cusco

This stage will involve two types of practical work for the course’s participants:

• Measuring and drafting of the architectural and constructive details (types of masonry, types of vaults, stairs, wood structures and frames, ceilings, etc) of some representative buildings of the city’s Viceroyal history.
• Preparing of some details on a 1:1 scale (up to a 2 x 2 meter size), to understand fully the process and characteristics of Viceroyal construction.

SCHEDULE

The Field School is scheduled to take place on July. Lectures and field work are carried out intensively for a period of 4 weeks, adding up to a total of 240 hours of practical work, 32 hours of lectures and site visits.
WEEK 1

During the first week, the study of the historical, cultural and social context that resulted on the Viceroyal Architecture and its principal characteristics will take place in Lima.

WEEKS 2 and 3

From the second week on, the program will take place on the city of Cusco. In the mornings, field work will consist in the recognition and measuring of the buildings and elements of the local constructive tradition. In the afternoons, all the information will be gathered and represented with drawings and technical specifications. In parallel, there will be time for historical-documental research, to accurately analyze what is obtained in the field. Lectures, conferences and talks featuring the most relevant specialists will be organized at this time, regarding the constructive, typological and formal aspects of Cuzco’s Viceroyal architecture; and trying to allow for the integration of the field work and current research.

WEEK 4

On the last week the field work, constructive details and the theoretical contents of the course should come together for a final presentation that will hopefully also collaborate in the local conservation efforts.

EVALUATION

30% Activities in the field
30% Participation
40% Performance during the program

BIBLIOGRAPHY