

School of Architecture + Design (A+D) Study Abroad in Hong Kong
Off-campus Spring Break
(Saturday March 4 – Saturday March 11, 2017)
Program description and projected fee schedule



Faculty Member of Record: A+D ARCH Prof. Henri T. de Hahn

Course Title: A cultural excursion in the metropolis of Hong Kong through the lens of urban landscapes and private and institutional architecture and interiors.

Course Number: ARCH 2984 (Special Study, variable credit course, no prerequisite), and ARCH 4984 (Special Study, variable credit course, no prerequisite). Other course number TBD.

Type: Off-campus

Introduction

Henri T. de Hahn, architecture professor at the School of Architecture + Design (A+D), wishes to offer students an immersion into one of the greatest urban cities of today's geo-political environment. During the 2017 spring semester, de Hahn will conduct an eight-day trip to Hong Kong –fondly called the *Fragrant Harbor* - tailored to students within A+D with an eye toward ARCH students. However, de Hahn welcomes the opportunity to include other design and non-design majors (both CAUS and VT students) in this study abroad program. Hong Kong is a city of many perspectives, thus other disciplines are most welcome!

Program description:

There is an opportunity to see firsthand, under the guidance of a Virginia Tech faculty, how the influences of design decisions on the production of urban space and vice-versa have defined one of the most vibrant and diverse contemporary cities in the world: Hong Kong. De Hahn wishes to offer this off-campus program for the following three reasons:

1. He got married in Hong Kong when the city was still under British rule and has returned every year to observe first hand the transformations since the colony returned to China. The *one country, two systems* policy has brought a variety of changes that have deeply marked the political freedom of its citizen, yet there are few global cities that continue to strive by transforming its skyline with such verve, energy and promise in tomorrow's future.
2. The idea of connecting diverse knowledge bases is at the center of de Hahn's teaching interest, and seems critical for the students' future ambitions as they create new knowledge based on the currencies of today's information age. Hong Kong lends itself magnificently to this ambition, as it is a city that has constantly built and rebuilt itself by transforming its history through design ideas as a political instrument for the betterment of urban, civic and *democratic* values.
3. While Virginia Tech's campus epitomizes one of the most rigorous, beautiful and idyllic Land Grant University, the increased interest of its future graduates and, in particular, its design students in

holding key leadership roles in cities around the world, makes it imperative to promote and increase metropolitan immersion programs for undergraduate and graduate students.

Contrary to a city such as Paris (France), which is deeply anchored in our minds by culture, history and revolutions, Hong Kong is a beast in its own right. A city that is divided geographically by one of the busiest and most important economic waterways in the world, the island of Hong Kong (Central, Wanchai & Admiralty, and Causeway Bay) identifies itself primarily by its old neighborhoods tucked and hidden between the majestic and overpowering skyscrapers of commerce. The mainland of Kowloon (Tsim Sha Tsui & Jordan and Mong Kok) with the New Territories to the north include some of the densest neighborhoods in the world with an extraordinary day and night street life and a number of historic pockets of great beauty and serenity.

The contradiction between tradition and innovation, at every level one may look at it, constitutes the amazement that one is confronted with upon landing on Lantau's island, 20 minutes West of the city. A state of the art subway network brings the visitor to the heart of Hong Kong and their journey truly begins. The immediacy of understanding that this is a special place flavors all the activities from seeing world architecture, urban dense neighborhoods, domesticated green landscapes, museums and historic sites, to shopping and tasting exquisite authentic Chinese food.

Students will document their discoveries, insights, and understandings of their queries through personal methods. An idea of mapping the city will be proposed as a means of understanding the urban artifact. The documentation will be organized by students in the form of an exhibition in Cowgill's lobby during the Fall 2017 semester.

Offered Title:

A cultural excursion in the city of Hong Kong through the study of urban landscapes. built architecture and designed interiors.

Course Number:

ARCH 2984 (Special Study, variable credit course, no prerequisite) and ARCH 4984 (Special Study, variable credit course, no prerequisite). Students with other A+D/CAUS/VT disciplines may join on the approval of their program chair.

Credits:

Three (3) credits will be given in the School of Architecture + Design. The instructor will provide required readings (online for those students not on campus prior to the trip) on particular topics related to Hong Kong for group discussions prior to departure.

Prerequisites:

Architecture + Design, non A+D majors and all VT students having completed 1st year and in good academic standing with a desire to be immersed culturally in one of the most important Asian urban metropolises.

Program Learning Objectives

As students and faculty will consider Hong Kong their home for five days, this program is set under the umbrella of a *Residency Program* model. The city will be walked and experienced through its state of the art metro and iconic Star Ferry boat systems. While Hong Kong is by all means an Asian city, its cultural identity is a balance between western influence as a former 100 year British colony and its Chinese cultural heritage. As such, the faculty of record proposes to study architecture and design issues within an urban non-Western context: (NAAB Student Performance Criteria # 9: Non-Western Traditions: *Understanding of parallel and divergent canons and traditions of architecture and urban design in the non-Western world.*) No

additional out-of-town day excursions are proposed outside of the schedule, thus no need for additional lodging expenses outside of Hong Kong.

The faculty's pedagogy will emphasize that learning (what will the student know; what will the student be able to do, and what intellectual value can be added to the students' experience upon completion of this program) is aimed to produce articulate and confident students who are capable of understanding new spaces and places in a short, simultaneous and targeted manner, making obvious interdisciplinary and methodological links between select A+D disciplines –the urban landscape, the built and domesticated natural environments, and constructed artifacts. Students will be able to appreciate Western influences with deeply anchored traditional cultures that make up the complexity of Hong Kong –both past and present. In addition, students will be able to:

- Raise clear and precise questions, use abstract ideas to interpret information, consider diverse points of view, reach well-reasoned conclusions, and test them against relevant criteria and standards.
- Demonstrate basic critical thinking to gather, assess, record, apply, and comparatively evaluate relevant information with taught coursework.
- Investigate through various drawing and digital methods (photography, video) a research agenda to understand, record and connect in an autobiographical manner what is experienced in a holistic manner.
- Develop an intellectual capacity to establish connections between taught material and on site learning opportunities –Hands-on, Minds-on approach.

Learning Indicators:

- Active participation by the students in pre-departure module and information sessions
- Students must demonstrate competent design skills while working in a foreign environment
- Students will reflect on the skill building exercises and cultural immersion through visual and text based documentation.

Language requirements:

- None, as English is one of the official languages with Cantonese throughout the city and the New Territories.

Required Forms:

Virginia Tech's Global Education Office (<https://www.globaleducation.vt.edu>) requires each participant to complete a Pre-Decision and Post-Decision Forms and Agreement. Faculty member of record will guide you through the process.

Saturday March 5 – Saturday March 12, 2017):

- The program begins typically with the first day of classes and ends with the last day of classes. The faculty member will be the faculty of record and the sole instructor during the eight-day program (travel included). Guest speakers may join at key moments but will not grade students' work.

Synopsis travel schedule

Date	Days	Day	Place
03.04.17	1	Saturday	Travel to Hong Kong from Roanoke
03.05.17	2	Sunday	Arrival late in Hong Kong
03.06.17	3	Monday	Hong Kong
03.07.17	4	Tuesday	Hong Kong

03.08.17	5	Wednesday	Hong Kong
03.09.17	6	Thursday	Hong Kong
03.10.17	7	Friday	Hong Kong
03.11.17	8	Saturday	Departure Hong Kong to Roanoke

Day by day suggested itinerary

Date	Suggested activities
03.04.17	Travel Day to Roanoke, Chicago and Hong Kong
03.05.17	Travel Day, Late afternoon arrival in Hong Kong, transportation to hotel and dinner with faculty. Suggested evening activities: Temple Street Night Market and Hong Kong Victoria Harbor/skyscraper lightshow.
03.06.17	Breakfast on your own. Meet in hotel lobby around 9:30am. Departure for the Star Ferry Pier to cross to the island of Hong Kong. Visit of Central/Sheung Wan/Western (Pei Cobb Freed & Partners Bank of China, and Norman Foster + Partners HSBC bank), and old historic sites of Hong Kong (Cat and Hollywood Streets, Man Mo Temple, Mid-Levels Escalator etc.) Late lunch on your own and afternoon visit of Victoria Peak by Tram. Walk down through Victoria Park back to Central (have good shoes) and remaining afternoon, dinner and evening at the student's discretion. (Suggestions provided.)
03.07.17	Breakfast on your own. Meet in hotel lobby around 9:30am. Visit to the Asia Society Hong Kong Center designed by Billie Tsien and Tod Williams (location Admiralty). Lunch together (Dim Sum Food Tour Experience) and afternoon visit of Causeway Bay. Early dinner together at local restaurant with architect Sean Ellis (in charge of Studio Libeskind's Hong Kong <i>Run Run Shaw Creative Media Centre</i>). Evening at the student's discretion. (Suggestions provided.)
03.08.17	Breakfast on your own. Meet in hotel lobby around 8:30am. Lantau Island (near airport) and cable car to Giant Buddha and Po Lin Monastery/Temple tour. A late lunch back in Central and visit of Two International Finance Center. Afternoon visit of the University of Hong Kong Architecture School. Dinner and evening at the student's discretion. (Suggestions provided.)
03.09.17	Breakfast on your own. Meet in hotel lobby around 9:30am. Walk to nearby West Kowloon Terminus construction site near hotel, and north to the Jade Market, Yuen Po Street Bird Garden/Market (off of Prince Edward Road W), the Flower and Fish Market, Ladies Market, and Langham Place Shopping Mall (Mong Kok area of Nathan Road). Visit of the Heritage Museum in the New Territories. Evening Hong Kong pre-Dinner Night Cruise in Victoria Harbor. Dinner and evening on your own.
03.10.17	Breakfast on your own. Meet in hotel lobby around 9:00am. Day's activities to be determined based on students' interest (full-day's excursion to the former Portuguese colony of Macau -60 min by boat- or to Stanley, a delightful fishing village on the island of Hong Kong are proposed as choices). Early dinner with faculty and wrap up of the week's experience.
03.11.17	Breakfast on your own. Meet in hotel lobby around 7:30am. Transportation to airport and return flight to Roanoke.

Budget based on 10 students:

In addition to VT's tuition and fees, the students are charged an Estimated Program Fee. Contingent on the number of students (independent of their in-state/out-of-state status), the Estimated Program Fee of \$3,550 which covers all provided amenities –but not inclusive of per diem during travel to and from Hong Kong, as described in the below chart. The overall cost is established to provide comfort and ease knowing that most expenses are covered.

Description	In-State (Undergrad)	Out-of-State (Undergrad)	In-State (Graduate)	Out-of-State (Graduate)
Estimated Tuition + Fees* Credits	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Estimated Program Fee**	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$3,400	\$3,400
Airfare to/from Hong Kong (HK)	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Lodging in HK	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Transportation from HK airport/hotel return	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Breakfast (included with hotel)	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Lunch and group lunches	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Dinner and group dinners	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
HK Group visits expenses	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Macao Group visit expenses	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
Hong Kong MTR metro card (~\$30)	Provided	Provided	Provided	Provided
CISI required insurance (~\$20)	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided
Passport Fee (~\$135)	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided	Not Provided

* Given that students are enrolled during the spring semester, no additional tuition is requested.

** Which includes Program costs such as: air flight, lodging, individual and group lunch and dinner meals (breakfast included with hotel), museums' entrance fees, 5-day Hong Kong metro card, Macao day trip,

Scholarships:

The School of Architecture + Design is generously providing \$3,000 in scholarships to assist students in financial difficulties in order to ease the overall costs for the Hong Kong travel program. The faculty of record will provide three (3) one thousand dollar scholarships. Requests should be submitted per email to Henri T. de Hahn no later than **Friday, September 30, 2016** and confirmation of scholarships will be communicated to each awardee no later than **Friday, October 7, 2016**.

Promotional materials:

VT and A+D will reach out by email and through appropriate collaterals to all students when the proposal has been accepted (September-October). As soon as student interest has been expressed, a series of ongoing formal and informal presentations will take place during the fall semester. In addition, a series of seminars during the spring semester will be offered by the faculty of record to introduce the various and rich components of the sites, and places scheduled for visits. Contractual documents will be drafted per A+D protocol.

Deposits and payment schedule (based on Program Fee Cost Per Student: \$3,400):

1. A \$500 nonrefundable deposit in due after acceptance into the program October 10th, 2016 with the following balances due at the following dates:
2. November 10th: Second deposit due of \$1400
3. December 10th: Third and final deposit due of \$1500.

Note:

Any funds above 10% of the total budget will be reimbursed to the students upon assessment and completion of the travel.