

EXHIBITION SPOTLIGHT

PAN-AMERICAN STUDIO

**Pan-American Studio: SPAIN + FRANCE 2016 EXHIBITION at UH Architecture Gallery
AUGUST 8- AUGUST 30, 2016 at UH Architecture Gallery**

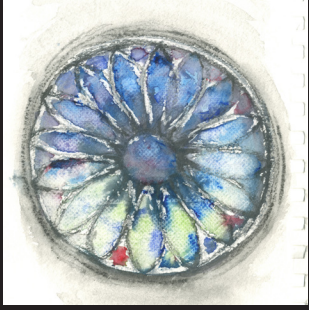
The Pan-American Studio is an international summer study program in architecture with coursework and a research agenda focusing on studying the architecture and urban development of Ibero-American cities. Thirteen graduate and undergraduate University of Houston architecture students spent the month of June 2016 in Spain and France studying the remarkable architecture of that part of the world, taking classes, and interacting with local architects. The group then returned to Houston spending the rest of the summer organizing their research and finishing their design work.

The exhibition features projects designed by the students for CASA HOUSTON, a building to house a satellite of the University of Houston architecture program to include educational facilities, a dormitory for fourteen students, a gallery, a café and apartments for two faculty members. The building is located in Madrid's Barrio de las Letras—a neighborhood between the oldest part of the city and the Retiro Park. The neighborhood boasts an impressive collection of buildings by some of the best contemporary architects in the world, such as Herzog & de Meuron's Caixa Forum, Jean Nouvel's Reina Sofia Museum and Rafael Moneo's Atocha Train Station. Students were able to study in person the wealth of architectural precedents in the neighborhood and develop projects that take into account the vibrant context, the building traditions, and local zoning codes.

In addition to visiting Madrid, the 2016 Pan-American Studio went on a bus tour of northern Spain and southern France with stops in Burgos, Bilbao, San Sebastián, Bordeaux, Pessac, Toulouse, Carcassonne, Olot, Besalú, Girona, and Barcelona. Highlights included private tours of Herzog and de Meuron's BBVA City and RCR's Horizon House; a formal dinner at the Madrid home of Marion Cisneros and Noel Vanososte overlooking the Puerta de Alcalá; two spectacular bullfights at the Las Ventas bullring during the San Isidro Festival; visiting the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Richard Rogers' Law Courts in Bordeaux, the Barcelona Pavilion, and Antoni Gaudí's Casa Mila, Sagrada Familia Church and Güell Park; a night inside the medieval walled city of Carcassonne; a memorable pic-nic in Olot catered by Les Cols restaurant; a San Juan's Night party at Chula Sánchez's apartment in the Ensanche; and visits to the offices of Enric Miralles and Benedetta Tagliabue in Barcelona, BAT in Bilbao, and RCR Architects in Olot.

Morphology is the study of form, and urban morphology is the study of the evolving shape of cities. The exhibition also contains images from excursions and documentation and comparative analysis drawings from the Morphology of the City course offered as part of the study abroad program. The class focused on the evolution of public spaces from Roman times to the present through analytical diagrams, photography, and water-coloring workshops.

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*Watercolor work from students in the Study Abroad program