Inverted Urbanism, Chicago + Venice 6 + 3 credits 6 studio + 3 elective

“An organism is a complex thing and growth so complex a phenomenon that for growth to be so uniform and constant in all parts to keep the whole shape unchanged would indeed be an unlikely and an unusual circumstance. Rates vary, proportions change, and the whole configuration alters accordingly.”

D’Arcy Wentworth Thompson - “On Growth and Form

**Studio Objective:** This studio will focus on the evolutionary nature of urban growth in response to new programs, changes of context and upcoming epoch of future urbanism. Studio will attempt to project future models within the context of the historical city. It will elaborate study of new possibilities of urban form, physical and sociological configuration with consideration of the past, and focus towards the future. It will study the opportunities to redefine and improve urban livability with its integrated city infrastructure. It will implement the possibility of evolving city structure and technology to better use the ecological systems, introduce the opportunity to reduce the carbon level with growing city densification.

**Summer Session A Elective 3 Credits, May 23 – July 2, 6 weeks**
Research based class, looking at comparative Cities of Chicago and Venice and concepts of “Resilience” and its application to both historical events and predicted future conditions of environmental, economic and social change. The course will be focused of research and comparative analysis that will be independent but related to Summer B

**Summer Session B Studio 6 Credits, June 6 – July 30, 8 weeks studio**
Design studio will be comparative city studies, developed in collaboration with the faculty of Architecture in Venice, IUAV, where students will be working on similar program and approach for sites in both the Santa Marta District in Venice and the Chicago South Loop. The studio will travel to Venice for a week to collaborate in the studios of IUAV and the students from Venice will spend a week in Chicago.

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Venice:

Is Venice a city of the past or the future? Perhaps the future is the connection between Venice and the redevelopment of its surrounding industrial areas however the first step may be the leveraging its Institutions and location to attract the leading minds in the world to collaborate and develop new technologies that focus both theoretical and applied research. We propose the development of an educational and research “incubator” where researchers and students can live, collaborate and develop new technologies with support commercial, residential, entertainment and cultural facilities open to the public as well. Open space in the form of parks and recreational space will be included as well as public access to the waterfront. This development will be an extension of IUAV and a visible affirmation of that. Venice can be a city both a historical and a city of the future. Students will also look at the issues of density, the understanding of the historical patterns of Venice translated to new development with the significant inclusion of natural systems creating meaningful connections to place and location.

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Chicago:

Chicago today is an incomplete work of art, with preponderance of parking lots, undefined west and south boundaries, expressways separating the city, creating edges of ambiguity. Although there has been great benefit to the magnificent lakefront plan, celebrating the critical role of the natural feature, the broad scope of thoughtfully developed lakefront urban fabric decays and is undefined moving towards west and south with miles of asphalt and concrete, in many cases underutilized. This area that is within walking distance to the Chicago River, The Lake and the Central Business District of the City of Chicago has latent potential to be the environment for both a renewal and vision of what Chicago could be, redefining Metropolis for the future. The Architect and Planner must take the same responsibility toward their City as Daniel Burnham took over 100 years ago. Like Burnham we must learn from the past to project into a changing and unpredictable future, a future of economic unpredictability, climate change and unresolved social divisions that continually plague the City.

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Venice:
Venice today is a city that is a complete work of Art. No other city is so completely integrated with its natural context. Our travel to Venice is not to contemplate a city of the past but to look at what it could portend for a city of the future; A city that is completely pedestrian friendly, development that is formed by the open space system, mass transit that is low carbon and ecologically sustainable and the significance of the Institution as a part of each district. Venice teaches us the importance of the city fabric and how that fabric creates meaning place.

Travel:
IIT Students will work in collaboration with Venice students in IAUV studio, students will have an opportunity to exchange accommodation with Venice students, to reduce the cost of travel. Travel will include site visits, work in studio, visit of Architecture Biennale. The Students from IUAV will then travel to Chicago and share studios with you at IIT.

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