STILL ELEVATION
PEZO VON ELLRICHSHAUSEN

Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema, A Favourite Custom, 1909. (Edited detail).

IIT COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE
CHICAGO, FS17
HEDONISM

“Water always flows, always falls, always ends in horizontal death”. Bachelard oneiric imagination lucidly refers to the original source, to the birth’s myth on still water, to its purifying dimension (in opposition to the rough currents of rivers or the eternally changing waves of the sea). In its flatness, heaviness, darkness or depth water shines as narcissus’s mirror. It is not only the hygienic or therapeutic bath of the naked body, or the one barely dressed, but also a sensual device, an instrument of contemplation and seduction what is reflected on its surface. This is a self portrait of our hedonistic society, with portable mirrors for lonely tourists or spectacular ones for a feeble collective memory. The celebration of the body is multiplied by the echoes of an anonymous crystalline façade. If there is no innocence in our self indulgencies, at least a sense of naturalness, a vague idealization is contained in a fountain.

NATATORIUM

The pleasure of the dancer swimming or diving into a pool tank punctuated by large windows is both the voyeuristic excitement of those who look (the mature deaf architect included) and the imagination of the one who knows is being observed. There is reciprocity in that tacit erotic complicity. The “substantial immobility” of architecture, following Borchers definition, is stressed to a degree in which the weight of a volume of water is unpredictably amplified by its movement, by the inertia of a lateral vector. Under these contradictory terms (stillness and motion, load and grace, solidity and flux), the studio will explore the sensual and physical implications of those water vessels within a vertical format, as a large arrangement of many pools floating on a tower, on a rather sculptural facility for a collective (and temporary) living at the lakeshore in Chicago.
INVENTORY
Following the Naïve Intention program, the semester will start with an introductory formal research, an inventory: a study of seemingly arbitrary resources that could trigger an unprecedented architectonic idea or experience. This semester we will select natural bodies of still water (i.e. a pond, a lagoon, a lake or a sea). The selected cases will be redrawn in plan with an explicitly over-simplified geometrical structure (as a closed silhouette, without scale, inscribed in a circle of 15 cm). The resulting figure will be extruded in three heights (5, 10, 15 cm) and then constructed as a solid model. Each student will produce a collection of 5 “water sources” in three reinvented depths (15 pieces in total). Drawings should be printed in A4 vertical format, according to given layout (solid black, white doted line, dimensions). Models should be made with mdf painted black.

CALENDAR
Week 01* (21.08-25.08): Intro PvE introduction, case assignment
Week 02 (28.08-01.09): Inventory Drawings, models
Week 03 (04.09-08.09): Inventory 1:1 drawings, finished model
Week 04* (11.09-15.09): Structure 1:500 model (3 variations)
Friday 15th: Submission
Week 05* (18.09-22.09): Structure 1:200 model (selected type)
Week 06 (25.09-29.09): Program 1:200 plans/sections
Week 07* (02.10-06.10): Program 1:200 plan/section, draft perspective
Friday 6th: Mid Term Submission
Week 08 (09.10-13.10): Fall Break Complementary readings
Week 09 (16.10-20.10): Location 1:1000 site plan, 1:100 plan/section
Week 10* (23.10-27.10): Location 1:100 plan/section, 1:500 model
Week 11* (30.10-03.11): Character
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Final drawings 1:100
Friday 3rd: Drawings Submission
Week 12 (06.11-10.11): Character
Exterior / interior perspectives
Week 13 (13.11-17.11): Edition
1:100 / 1:500 final models
Week 14* (20.11-24.11): Edition
Final models / perspectives
Week 15* (27.11-01-12): Final Reviews
PvE and Guest Critics
* PvE in Chicago

PRODUCTION
Inventory drawings (individual, A4, 5 cases, line drawings / black figure)
Inventory models (individual, 15 cases, 15cm, mdf painted black)
1:100 Complete building model (mdf painted black, no base)
1:500 Site model (mdf painted black, base 50x50cm)
1:100 (8) Floor plans, (3) Sections (line drawing, b/w)
1:1000 Site plan (40x40cm, photo collage, b/w)
2 Exterior perspectives (60x80cm, photo collage, b/w)
3 Interior perspectives: (60x80cm, photo collage, b/w, detail color)
Text (A4, 300 words, Arial 10, proposal description)

NOTE. Please see more conditions in the introduction to the Naive Intention program.
REFERENCES
Beatriz Colomina, Privacy and Publicity, 1996

FORMAT
While the inventory will be developed individually, projects are going to be developed in pairs. The requested list of production is the only mandatory material for the Final Review and further edition. The studio will work with metric system. Floorplans, sections, elevations or axonometry will be black line drawings made in CAD according to a given graphic reference. Final scale models will be made out of painted mdf (with polished plaster corners). The material will be submitted both printed (on high-resolution paper) and digital (uploaded into a Dropbox account). The final material must be delivered in A1 page together with an edited A4 portfolio. Drawings should be submitted in DWG and PDF formats and images in JPG at 300 dpi. The files must be labeled (in capital) according to the following detail: PVE_IIT_17_FS_STUDENT_CONTENT_00
Henry Ives Cobb, Chicago Athletic Association, Chicago, 1893.
Lucas Cranach the Elder, *The fountain of youth*, 1546.
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