In Rome as in London, the assumption that myriad histories haunt and cohabit with the present moment is more pedestrian than fantastic. These cities, distinctive in constitution and inhabitation, simultaneously invite and confound interpretive frameworks. Their ground is dense and porous, stable and unstable, known and unknowable. Each is an encrustation of human territories across millennia, a tangible palimpsest of urbanity and memory.

We will mine the rich civic histories of both cities to reveal the frictions of the present day and imagine the palimpsest of the future. How do memory and identity inform the metropolis? What societal structures and histories are evidenced by the physical realities of the urban built environment? Where is wholeness hypothesized in the pixelated city? We can only act on what we can represent - our cartographic quest/mission is to bind the concrete city to the spectral metropolis.
This project aims to confront and refine each student’s ability to become quickly situated within a layered and contradictory urban present and history, both through off-site research and in-situ investigation. Our central objective is to articulate agendas, pursue hypotheses, and delineate representational strategies equal to the complexities of urban experience.

**COURSES**

**LONDON + ROME: LITERARY INFRASTRUCTURES**  
ARCH 497 - 3cr ARCH Elective  
A selection of readings, literary and historical, ancient and contemporary, that place the physical infrastructures of Rome and London in political, economic, and cultural contexts. Extensive discussion while traveling, written responses upon return.

**LONDON + ROME: RADICAL CARTOGRAPHIES**  
ARCH 497 - 3cr ARCH Elective  
An intensive attempt to capture the multilayered natures of both London and Rome in a graphic language. Analysis of cartographic precedents, extensive experimental mapmaking. Culminates in exhibited visual document.

**ITINERARY**

**6/1 – 6/6**  
**RESEARCH / 5 DAYS**  
CHICAGO / IIT  
Preliminary research, literary travels, and preparatory projection. This phase will situate the content and prepare students for the context. Speculative mapping will be paired with intensive readings.

**6/7 – 6/17**  
**FIELDWORK / 10 DAYS**  
LONDON / The Bartlett  
ROME / American Academy  
Three weeks of intensive urban exploration, Itinerant research and discussion, engagement with local partners as guides and critics.

**6/28 – 7/5**  
**INTERMISSION / 7 DAYS**  
ANYPLACE / Someplace  
Unscripted travel time for students to craft custom itineraries, explore comparisons and contradictions, or just take the slow road back to Heathrow.

**7/5 – 7/25**  
**DELINEATION / 20 DAYS**  
CHICAGO / IIT  
Three weeks of exacting collation, compilation, and refinement, resulting in the invention of highly individuated mapping strategies. Artifacts produced by individuals will be delivered via a collective installation and publication.

**COLLABORATIONS**

Our plan is to connect with institutions in both cities: The Bartlett School of the Built Environment at University College London, and the American Academy in Rome. Prof. Johnson will make arrangements when our group and itinerary are confirmed. The aim is to engage faculty as local critics and connoisseurs, borrow studio space if needed, and potentially coordinate student lodging.

**TRAVEL BUDGETS**

STUDENT BUDGET (per person):  
Airfare (ORD>LHR, STN>CIA, CIA>STN, LHR>ORD): $ 1300  
Lodging ($40/night x 20 nights): $ 800  
Food ($40/day x 20 days): $ 800  
Local costs (transit, entry fees, tours, etc): $ 600  
**Total estimate per student:** $ 3500

iitlondonrome2015.wordpress.com