

---

# DRAWING ARCHITECTURE + MAPPING THE CITY



Fall 2021 | Study Abroad Program | TTU CoA  
Wednesdays 4:30 to 7:30 pm | Recaredo 44 Sevilla

**Pedro Mena Vega** | [pmena.arqto@gmail.com](mailto:pmena.arqto@gmail.com) | [www.arquitecturaacontrapelo.es](http://www.arquitecturaacontrapelo.es)

Architecture as a language is a means of communication. This transmission is twofold: on the one hand, it *represents* reality by producing visual depictions, maps and surveys. On the other, architecture *presents* new objects which acquire publicity by resorting to shared and recognizable codes of visualization. Thus, **drawing architecture** and **mapping the city** may be a way to give a comprehensive overview of the possibilities for expression in our discipline.

Traditionally, the role of communicating architecture has been attributed to drawing, in the guise of preliminary sketches, orthogonal projections, perspective, oblique drawing and so on. However, every major innovation has introduced new possibilities, be it collage as a response to photography or visual renderings thanks to the development of computer science. This course will present the ideas behind each of these models as open to debate, and implement them in concrete exercises based on the immediate context of Seville's urban fabric.

## Course Description

This course explores visual communication in architecture, focusing on two major fields of knowledge: the mapping of a given reality and the production of images for a project. Each of them will be dealt with in a graphic exercise consisting of four 40x40 cm images with preset conditions, plus additional working layouts. Students are expected to apply, test and question the various methods of representation displayed and lessoned in class. Attention will be paid to typography, color, and design qualities of the drawings as much as to their conceptual value.

The first part of the course will revolve around mapping public space, using a varied array of specific examples from Seville's historical center. In the second part, students will select an architectural work and generate a graphic concept about it. Lectures in the first hour of each day will provide the necessary background and resources that may be put into use in the student's work and revisions during the second half of the class. The overall structure thus parallels the developing of the core studio, where the proposed exercises descend from a general, analytical view of the city to the unfolding of a specific project.

## Attendance and participation

In order to get the most out of classwork and discussions, everyone must show up regularly, on time, and prepared. Students are required to attend all classes. The College of Architecture supports the definition of four total absences as being excessive and constitutes cause for having the student drop the course or receive a failing grade.

Lectures will present a large number of references in a thorough approach to architecture, urbanism, art, design, history and sociology, hence demanding a proactive attitude in the further study of these fields. Final presentations will be held for each of the two course exercises, where students will be asked to analyze their own decision making and results in a short speech. Consistent and constructive contributions will pay off in the final grade.

Computers will be needed at all times, and up-to-date versions of design software are expected, especially Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign and CAD tools such as Rhino/AutoCAD and Revit. Further requirements will be notified in advance. The electronic or digital recording of lectures, as well as private use of phones during class, is strictly prohibited.

## Design Critique

About half of class time will be dedicated to presenting and discussing several drawings from contemporary and historical practices of architecture, art and design, in order to apply, or avoid, in our own projects the lessons we take away from them. Each week, attendants will receive a selected text regarding the subject matter of the class. Instead of requiring reading responses, they will be asked to produce a small-scale depiction to accompany the pieces. At the end of the semester, an exhibition will be arranged of all of them in order to form a visual sequence of the course development.

## Required Texts

Students are invited to purchase or borrow copies of the following publications:

- Helen Thomas, *Drawing architecture*, (New York/London: Phaidon, 2018).
- Massimo Scolari, *Oblique drawing. A history of anti-perspective*, (Cambridge/London: The MIT Press, 2012).
- John Pickles, *A History of Spaces: Cartographic Reason, Mapping and the Geo-Coded World*, (London: Routledge, 2003).
- Denis Cosgrove, *Mappings*, (London: Reaktion Books, 1999).
- Edward R. Tufte, *Visual Explanations: Images and Quantities, Evidence and Narrative*, (Cheshire: Graphics Press, 1997).

The following web resources are worth consulting regularly as well:

- [Socks Studio](#)
- [Atlas of Places](#)
- [Prof. Caruso, ETH Zürich](#)
- [Drawing Matter](#)
- [RNDRD](#)
- [Interiors Journal](#)
- [Parallel Archive](#)
- [Design Is History](#)
- [Fonts in Use](#)

## **ADA Statement**

Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor's office hours.

## **Academic Integrity**

All students are expected to familiarize themselves with the University's Academic Integrity policy. For further clarification: <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/opmanual/OP34.12.pdf>. Cheating, plagiarizing, unauthorized collaboration with other individuals in the preparation of course assignments, and signing another's name are all extremely serious offences and will not be tolerated.

## **Religious Holy Day Statement**

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

## **Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Violence Statement**

Texas Tech University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from gender and/or sex discrimination of any kind. Sexual assault, discrimination, harassment, and other violations are not tolerated by the University. Report any incidents to the Office for Student Rights & Resolution, (806)-742-SAFE (7233) or file a report online at [titleix.ttu.edu/students](http://titleix.ttu.edu/students). Faculty and staff members at TTU are committed to connecting you to resources on campus. Some of these available resources are: TTU Student Counseling Center, 806-742-3674, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/scc/> (Provides confidential support.) TTU 24-hour Crisis Helpline, 806-742-5555, (Assists students who are experiencing a mental health or interpersonal violence crisis. If you call the helpline, you will speak with a mental health counselor.) Voice of Hope Lubbock Rape Crisis Center, 806-763-7273, [voiceofhopelubbock.org](http://voiceofhopelubbock.org) (24-hour hotline that provides support for survivors of sexual violence.) The Risk, Intervention, Safety and Education (RISE) Office, 806-742-2110, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/rise/> (Provides a range of resources and support options focused on prevention education and student wellness.)

## **Office of LGBTQIA**

The Office ([www.lgbtqia.ttu.edu](http://www.lgbtqia.ttu.edu)) serves the Texas Tech community through facilitation and leadership of programming and advocacy efforts. This work is aimed at strengthening the LGBTQIA community and sustaining an inclusive environment that welcomes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions.

## NAAB Criteria

Graduates from this course will be accredited the following abilities:

A.1 Professional Communication Skills

## Calendar

M	Aug. 23	Arrival to Seville   <b>Student welcome</b>
T	Aug. 24	Host Family Pick-Up
W	Aug. 25	<b>Sevilla Cathedral &amp; Royal Alcazar</b>
W	Sep. 1	Introduction
W	Sep. 8	Assignment 1: <b>Mapping the City</b>   <b>Architecture Guide</b>
W	Sep. 15	<b>No Media Elective class</b>
W	Sep. 22	MtC: Lecture 1   Class work 1
W	Sep. 29	MtC: Lecture 2   Class work 2
W	Oct. 6	MtC: Lecture 3   Class work 3
W	Oct. 13	MtC: Lecture 4   Class work 4
W	Oct. 20	MtC: Review
W	Oct. 27	Assignment 2: <b>Drawing Architecture</b>
W	Nov. 3	DA: Lecture 1   Class work 1
W	Nov. 10	DA: Lecture 2   Class work 2   <b>Tile Workshop</b>
W	Nov. 17	DA: Lecture 3   Class work 3
W	Nov. 24	DA: Lecture 4   Class work 4
R	Nov. 25	<b>Group Lunch TTU Center in Seville</b>
T	Nov. 30	DA: Review
T	Dec. 7	<b>Departure :(</b>

Fall 2021  
Study Abroad Program  
TTU CoA



---

**DRAWING  
ARCHITECTURE  
+ MAPPING  
THE CITY**