

Study Trip Report_October 2015

The study trip started in Bologna and was followed by 2 nights in Venice. In Bologna we met with locals who explained the traditional architectural customs of the city, focusing heavily on their numerous arcades and the culture/role of towers particularly in the 11th century. We climbed up the tallest tower and saw the adjacent tilting tower, which was never completed.

We spent two days going to each and every exhibition at the 56th Venice Arts Biennale, *All the Worlds Futures*. Reviews were written describing the experience of the exhibitions gardens and of the exhibitions themselves.

Then following Venice, all 14 students and 1 teacher travelled to the Western border of Italy. We were stationed in Vernazza, Italy, the second village in a stretch of 5 villages making up Cinque Terre. We set out to visit each of the five villages by foot and train to heavily investigate the concept of entropy and how it is evident in this area of Italy. In one of the villages, Manarola we met the founders and visited the studio/museum of *Collettivo Parisse*, a memory archive of Manarola. They held events and created a museum of historical everyday objects that pertained relevance to the grounding history of the area.

In Vernazza we met with a local, Margaritte who is working on reestablishing the heritage of building terraced stone walls along the mountainsides - for harvesting olives and maintaining proper irrigation from the mountaintops down into the valleys. We visited a restricted beach, which was made of small and large stones gathered together as a result of landslides and stones carried down by the river. The region had a strong culture in stone usage, which is currently dwindling - thus Margaritte is heading a cultural association fighting the diminishing culture.

We learned of the different types of stones that were found and traced them through from their origin to the point as we held the remains in our hands. Many of the stones were solid chunks of Carrara marble. After we collected stone elements from the beach and surrounding areas we had a session with a marble expert who gave us a tour of the Carrara Marble Museum. Following the museum was a visit to the Carrara marble quarry to get an understanding of the rigorous process; from the use of diamond string cutters excavate the marble, to the shipment down to the industrial port, to the point where they are made into architectural and household objects. We trekked up through the central valley of the quarry and drove to the tops of the different valleys.

We collected eroded marble and purchased polished marble to carry back to our studios in Bergen, Norway.

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Nordic Pavillion, Venice Biennale, Venice



Carrara Marble Quarry, Carrara



Vernazza, Cinque Terre