Nine students participated in the 2011 European Studies Program. Professor Jeanne Homer directed the program and worked with faculty members Randy Seitsinger, Suzanne Bilbeisi, and Moh’d Bilbeisi on its execution. Students spent five weeks in France, headquartered in Versailles but including field trips to Normandy and Chartres. The first month focused on Paris with daily analysis and design communication exercises through projects, sketches, and journaling. Students visited both historical and contemporary buildings and focused on the urban aspects of Paris and Versailles. During the second month students traveled to Rome and Istanbul with the Professors Bilbeisi where they experienced the meeting of East and West with a special focus on journaling.

Special thanks for the financial support provided to this program through the following endowments and annual gifts: the Eason Leonard Endowment, the George and Shari Schoenleber Endowment, the Allen Porter Endowment, the Burke Endowment, the family of the late Elliott Evans, and Mike and Sharon Damore.

Over the years, many who have participated in this program cite it as one of the most important educational experiences of their careers. This year, Professor Homer created a series of videotaped interviews with a few former participants exploring the value and impact the program has had on their design abilities and careers. See these video interviews at:

http://www.dextension.com/europe_video1.html
http://www.dextension.com/europe_video2.html
2012 URBAN USA PROGRAM

Twenty eight students participated in the 2012 URBAN USA Program. Professor Suzanne Bilbeisi directed the program and worked with faculty members Moh’d Bilbeisi, Seung Ra, and Nathan Richardson. Students spent a week and a half on an architecture field trip to Washington DC and NYC. Each student was required to keep a journal documenting their daily experiences. Scholarship support was provided from the Endowment for Excellence.

DESIGN STUDIO FIELD TRIPS

Experiencing architecture and cities firsthand is critical to a student’s learning experience.

Several design studios incorporate required field trips. In addition to local trips, students in ARCH 3216 visited Denver and students in ARCH 5117 went to San Juan, Puerto Rico. Both trips were coordinated with design studio projects. In ARCH 5117 students spent the semester working on several projects in San Juan and collaborated with students at the Universidad de Puerto Rico in San Juan via SKYPE. They met these students and participated in a joint review during the 5-day field trip to San Juan. The ARCH 5117 trip always has a destination to a city that supports the course’s focus on urban issues.