

SANTIAGO
DESERTA
5-14 JANUARY
2011



**AA/PUC VISITING SCHOOL
ATACAMA & THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE CHILE**

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The AA/PUC Visiting School will approach a harsh climatic and geographical condition, the Atacama Desert in northern Chile. Considered the driest place on earth, over the last centuries this desert has nonetheless seen the emergence and collapse of several mining towns, always constrained by scarce water and energy resources and extreme weather conditions. Hosting the workshop at one of these towns – Maria Elena – in addition to Chile's capital, Santiago, the programme will address the struggle of cities striving to resist the power of the encroaching desert. Close to large reservoirs of lithium, salts and other mineral components, Maria Elena is located in an area with one of the highest rates of direct solar radiation in the world, allowing for design and conceptual speculation about its possible urban and architectural future from the introduction of new demands brought forward by the upcoming industries

of concentrated solar power (CSP) tourism and desert agriculture. Founded in 1926 by the Guggenheim family as a mining town, its plan resembles the ideal layouts of sixteenth- and seventeenth- century cities like Vincenzo Scamozzi's Palmanova or Sebastian La Preste de Vauban's Neuf-Brisach.

Within this historical and physical context the workshop will combine design and theoretical enquiry in exploring the strictures of Atacama's arid condition, and will advance ideas for the transition of the town from an ideal plan to its place within possible futures for the Chilean desert.

The workshop is organised in collaboration with the Atacama Desert Centre (CDA) and Desertec Sudamérica, and will be taught by tutors from the AA and the Catholic University: Marina Lathouri, Thomas Weaver and Christopher Pierce will join Rodrigo Perez de Arce, Arturo Lyon and Pedro Ignacio Alonso. The architecture photographer Tim Street-Porter will be a special guest. Site visits and evening lectures will provide insights into the surrounding landscape of Atacama.

APPLICATIONS

The deadline for applications is 29 November 2010. A late deadline of 13 December 2010 is also in effect, but this will incur a £50 surcharge. Application forms and additional information are available online at www.aaschool.ac.uk/santiago, and applications can be submitted via email to: visitingsschool@aaschool.ac.uk.

SCHEDULE & VENUE

The workshop runs from 5–7 January in Maria Elena, Atacama, and from 8–14 January in Santiago. Participants are encouraged to bring their own laptops, digital cameras and any other tools they may wish to use during the workshop.

ACCOMMODATION & COSTS

Accommodation for the three days in Atacama is provided, as well as flight tickets from Santiago to Maria Elena. Accommodation for the workshop's seven days in Santiago is not provided, but affordable hotels, adjacent to the Catholic University School of Architecture, can be advised. The AA Visiting School requires a fee of £650 per participant, which includes a £50 Visiting

Student Membership, made payable to the Architectural Association School of Architecture.

MORE INFORMATION

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