INTERMEDIATE UNIT 5  
Stefano Rabolli Pansera  
Roz Barr

EXTENDED BRIEF

Abstract

The principle of the conservation of energy is mingled in every artist or technician…In architecture this search is undoubtedly bound up with the material and with energy; and if one fails to take note of this, it is not possible to comprehend any building either from a technical point of view or from a compositional one.  
Aldo Rossi, *A Scientific Autobiography*

By refusing the rhetoric of sustainability and the promises of ecology, Intermediate 5 focuses on the concept of energy as a poetic device to develop a new understanding of space and form. Developed from Aldo Rossi’s observations on the city, this approach takes distance from pseudoscience and robotic renders. Energy is a conceptual device to consider space as the temporary moment of a complex system of forces that remain visible in the evidence of form. The unit is not interested in turbines or solar panels, but in the relationship between the city and architectural form as temporal coalescence of ever-changing social, political, technical, economical energies.

These forces provide a framework for urban intervention in the North of Italy, a region that represents an extreme example of urban dispersion that has submerged our landscapes in the unsustainable ambiguity of being neither “nature”, nor city. In this entropic landscape, how can we reactivate social and political functions? An opposition to this condition of urban sprawl can be spawned through a more efficient use of resources with the reintroduction of formal principles that can reactive our environment at the urban level and at the architectural scale.

The course operates through “progressive” operations – making, unmaking and remaking. The first term will focus on the notion of energy through drawing, crafting and performing with a conceptual model that acts as spatial prototype. The second term will adopt the prototype as a tool to analyse the context, to define a programme and an architectural proposal. The third term will articulate the design project in constant confrontation with technical requirements. The final proposal, an urban intervention, will be fabricated through a constructive analysis of defined and urban constraints concluding with a 1:100 scale model.

The course work is structured on weekly deliveries that are presented by the students to external consultants Goswin Schwendinger and History and Theory tutor Ryan Dillon.

Term 1

The first term will focus on the notion of energy through drawing, crafting and performing with a conceptual model that acts as spatial prototype. The scientific and spatial research must coexist in the systematic exploration of a technique or an installation that reveals the Form as a temporary coalescence of forces.

**week 1_ 27-1 October**  
**Introduction**

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<td>Visit to Tate Modern</td>
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<td>Film</td>
<td>Michelangelo Antonioni &quot;Blow-up&quot;</td>
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<td>Workshop</td>
<td>Presentation by Ryan Dillon</td>
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**week 2_4-9 October**  
**Research**

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<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Research on Form, Entropy and Energy</th>
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</table>
Deliverables: 300 words text
Reviews: Individual and collective tutorials
Reference: Robert Smythson
Film: David Lynch “Lost Highways
Workshop: Imperial College: Introduction to Thermodynamics
Technical Study: -

week 3_1-16 October
Making
Task: Choose a force and play with it
Deliverables: Object and documentation
Reviews: Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference: Urs Fisher
Film: Michael Haneke “Benny’s Video”
Workshop: “Scientific Autobiography”
Technical Study: Technical Appraisal

week 4_18-23 October
Making
Task: Manipulate the forces to define a form
Deliverables: Object and documentation
Reviews: Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference: Giuseppe Penone
Film: Michael Haneke “Funny Games”
Workshop: “Scientific Autobiography”
Technical Study: Technical Appraisal

week 5_25-29 October
Un-making: meet the parents
Task: Understand the forces in place
Deliverables: Drawings and documentation
Reviews: Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference: Fishli Weiss
Film: Jim Jarmush “The limit of control”
Workshop: Visit to Venice Biennale
Technical Study: Technical Appraisal

week 6_1-5 November
Unmaking: Open Week
Task: Draw the forces in place
Deliverables: Drawing and Documentation of the process
Reviews: Open Jury
Reference: Tom Sachs
Film: Michelangelo Antonioni “Deserto rosso”
Workshop: Bonnie Camplin
Technical Study: Technical Appraisal

week 7_8-12 November
Re-making
Task: Re-define the “make” at a spatial level
Deliverables: Model + documentation + research
Reviews: Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference: Paul McCarthy “Head Shop/Shop Head”
Film: Michelangelo Antonioni “The passenger”
Workshop: “Scientific Autobiography”
Technical Study: Technical Appraisal

week 8_15-19 November
Re-making: rehearsal
Task: Use the artifact as an apparatus
term 2

the second term will adopt the prototype as a tool to analyse the context, to define a programme and an architectural proposal. after the unit trip, the unit goes on investigating the specific conditions of the north of italy and

week 1_ 10-14 January

Programme

Task
Define the programme as "re-charge"

Deliverables
Text and drawings of typological proposal

Reviews
Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)

Reference
Baukuh

Deliverables
Screenplay

Reviews
Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)

Reference
Jos de Gruyther & Harald Thys

Film
Radu Jude "The happiest Girl in the world"

Workshop
Performance with Goswin Schwendinger

Technical Study
Technical Appraisal

Week 9_ 22-26 November

Performance

Task
Coherent presentation

Deliverables
A1 portfolio and log book documentation

Reviews
Final Jury

Reference
Marc Camille Chaimowicz

Film
Martin Scorsese “After Hours”

Workshop
- Performance with Goswin Schwendinger

Technical Study
Technical Appraisal

Week 10_ 29-3 December

Entropic Derive

Task
Unit trip to Italy

Deliverables
Analysis and Documentation

Reviews
- The art of Measuring

Reference
Pier Paolo Pasolini “La Ricotta”

Film
Pier-Alain Croset: San Polo Lab in Brescia

Workshop
- Vittorio Pizzigoni “Palladian Villas”

Technical Study
- Inn Tec Symposium

Week 11_ 6-10 December

Site Analysis

Task
Analyze the site as entropic system

Deliverables
Drawing and urban analysis

Reviews
Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)

Reference
Pablo Bronstein

Film
Joseph Losey "Don Giovanni"

Workshop
- Vittorio Pizzigoni “Palladian Villas”

Technical Study
Tutorials

Week 12_ 13-18 December

Site Analysis

Task
Reveal the physical and political forces in place

Deliverables
Conceptual Model

Reviews
Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)

Reference
Friedrich Kiesler

Film
Wim Wenders "Alice in the cities"

Workshop
“the architecture of the city”

Technical Study
Tutorials
week 2_ 17-21 January
Concept proposal
Task
Materialize the forces in action into a model
Deliverables
Conceptual model
Reviews
Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference
Herzog de Meuron
Film
-
Workshop
-
Technical Study
Tutorials

week 3_ 24-28 January
Structural Scheme
Task
Define the structural scheme of the proposal
Deliverables
Model and structural diagrams
Reviews
Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference
Jurg Conzett and Fritz Leonhardt
Film
-
Workshop
-
Technical Study
Tutorials

week 4_ 31-4 February
Material Scheme
Task
Define a material strategy as energetic charge
Deliverables
Material samples and documentation
Reviews
Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference
Junya Ishigami & Sou Fujimoto
Film
-
Workshop
-
Technical Study
DRDH (workshop)

Technical Study
Tutorials

week 5_ 7-11 February
Concept Scheme
Task
Define a physical proposal
Deliverables
Material experiments and documentation
Reviews
Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference
Junya Ishigami & Sou Fujimoto
Film
-
Workshop
-
Technical Study
DRDH (workshop)

Technical Study
Tutorials

week 6_ 14-18 February
Urban Impact: how to recharge the entropic landscape
Task
Urban (political and formal) relevance of proposal
Deliverables
Drawings and Analysis
Reviews
Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference
Lina Bo Bardi
Film
-
Workshop
-
Technical Study
Tutorials

week 7_ 21-25 February
Presentation
Task
Unify the material into a coherent format
Deliverables
Portfolio and documentation
Reviews
Open Jury
Reference
SANAA, OMA
The third term will articulate the design project in constant confrontation with technical requirements. The final proposal, an urban intervention, will be fabricated through a constructive analysis of structural and urban constraints concluding with a 1:100 scale model.
Week 1_ 25-29 April
Drawings
Task      Draw the proposal
Deliverables Plans, Sections, Elevations in scale 1:50
Reviews   Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference  De Vydler Vinck Taillieu
Film      -
Workshop  -
Technical Study -

week 2_ 2-6 May
Drawings
Task      Visualisation
Deliverables Interior and exterior render
Reviews   Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference  Office Kersten Geers, David Van Severen
Film      -
Workshop  -
Technical Study -

week 3_ 9-13 May
Model
Task      Produce a model of the intervention
Deliverables Model in scale 1:50
Reviews   Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference  Kristian Kerez
Film      -
Workshop  -
Technical Study -

week 4_ 16-20 May
Model
Task      Produce a mock up/ detail of the proposal
Deliverables Model in scale 1:1
Reviews   Tutorials: collective (Tuesday), individual (Friday)
Reference  Studio Mumbai
Film      -
Workshop  -
Technical Study -

week 5_ 23-27 May
Portfolio
Task      Unify the material into a whole presentation
Deliverables A1 Portfolio + Logbook + TS Book
Reviews   Tutorials
Reference  Valerio Olgiati
Film      -
Workshop  -
Technical Study -

week 6_ 30- 3 June
2nd year tables
Task      -
Deliverables -
Reviews   2nd year Tables
Reference  -
Film      -
Workshop  -
Technical Study -
### week 7_ 6-10 June

#### 3rd year tables

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### week 8_ 13-17 June

#### Exhibition

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9. Your biographies

Stefano Rabolli Pansera is founder and director of Rabolli Pansera Ltd, architectural practice involved in projects in the UK, Italy and Lebanon. After graduating with honours from AA in 2005, he worked for two years for Herzog de Meuron in Basel Switzerland. He has been teaching in Intermediate School since 2005. He is director of "Beyond Entropy: when Energy becomes Form."

Roz Barr founded her practice Roz Barr Architects in 2009. The London based studio is working on projects in the UK and Spain with the emphasis of the practice being "the process of making". She worked as Associate Director with Eric Parry for nearly ten years. She has taught at the Bartlett School of Architecture and sits on the RIBA Validation Panel for Education. She has curly hair and can ski backwards.