

With Professor Franz Werner

# Switzerland + Beyond: The Crossroads of Art, Architecture + Design



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*(All content is subject to changes)*

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**Deadline for Course Deposit: June 1, 2009!**

**Also check pictures and video at: <http://www.summerstudiesabroad.net/>**

**To download registration forms go to:**  
[http://www.risd.edu/sumstudreg\\_abroad.cfm](http://www.risd.edu/sumstudreg_abroad.cfm)

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Grüezi! Buon giorno! Guten Tag! Bonjour!

**Confrontation with different cultures is stimulating and inspiring to an artist's thinking and work; it serves to increase the student's awareness of the cultures, history and artistic traditions of Switzerland, Italy, France + Germany.**

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## Course Description:

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Switzerland is located in the very heart of Europe, close enough to easily visit sections of Germany to the north, France to the west and Italy to the south. For this reason, students in this course get an opportunity to explore not only Switzerland, but those areas of France, Germany and Italy that are a stone's throw away.

Stone, of course, is the material for much of the older architecture to be found, but given the work of Swiss pioneers – from Paul Klee, Le Corbusier, Alberto Giacometti and Jan Tschichold to Emil Ruder, Armin Hofmann, Wolfgang Weingart, Peter Zumthor, Jacques Herzog, Pierre de Meuron and Mario Botta – there is much to admire about the use of symbol and color in the region. Indeed, this is the very reason that Switzerland has been able to establish such acclaim in the international design world.

Led many times by Professor Werner (himself a native of Switzerland), the course focuses on guided research trips to significant nearby sites, including the Alsace in France, and Venice in the Veneto region of Northern Italy as well as the Frank Gehry-designed Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein, Germany. Delving far deeper than would a typical tourist, students observe and record characteristic qualities, histories, design languages and cultural attributes of the various locations in an illustrated travelogue, using a design medium of their own choosing. Travelogues are later reviewed and discussed during regular critiques, leading to the development of a mutually agreed-upon design project that serves the chosen site in a functional (e.g., promotional) way.

The student's goal, ultimately, is to differentiate between historical art epochs as well as to creatively confront relevant historical, cultural and commercial design aspects of the original site in a final project. Professionals and students from any design and art-related background are welcome. If you are unsure about whether you qualify, contact Prof. Werner at [fwerner@risd.edu](mailto:fwerner@risd.edu).

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## Project Description:

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### **Project 1:**

Students first experience several English language guided tours led by professionals and experts in the field. During these tours, students are asked to keep an illustrated travel log. For example, when taking guided architectural or museum tours, students need to record the information provided with a camera (still and/or video), through sketches and by collecting various materials, not to mention keeping written accounts. The students' assorted visual recordings will be reviewed and discussed during regular crits later on.

### **Project 2:**

With all the material gathered in Project 1, the students are fully equipped to create a design relevant to a selected site. Since the students are asked to design a T-shirt that should say something about the place(s) visited, the following elements come to the forefront:

*Commercial Promotion • Cultural Attributes • Historic Events*

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**Tools:**

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- Pencils (soft, medium, hard)
- Markers
- Tape (masking, clear)
- Camera
- Color: e.g. water color and/or color crayons and color pencil
- Water containers (plastic with lid)
- Appropriate paper choice in accordance with choice of tools
- Small sketch book
- Knapsack for carrying tools and materials
- Container box for your collection of small visual.  
Highly suggested brand: KOLO-100-2043 <http://www.kolo.com/>

**Note:**

If you need further, detailed instructions on what type of equipment and tools to bring, please contact:  
Professor Franz Werner at: [fwerner@risd.edu](mailto:fwerner@risd.edu).

2009 Itinerary: (subject to changes)

<p><b>Wednesday • 7/29</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>12 pm</p> <p>1 pm • Check-in at Hotel in Basel, Switzerland, <a href="http://www.swissotel.com/">http://www.swissotel.com/</a></p> <p>5:30 pm • Meet at Hotel</p> <p>6 pm</p> <p>6:30 pm • Welcome Dinner/Party Time!</p>	<p><b>Thursday • 7/30</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>9:30 am • Meet at Hotel</p> <p>10 am • Guided Tour of contemporary Architecture in Basel (<i>Herzog &amp; de Meuron, etc.</i>), Switzerland, <a href="http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herzog_&amp;_de_Meuron">http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herzog_&amp;_de_Meuron</a></p> <p>12 pm</p> <p>2 pm • Guided Tour of the Basel Paper Mill, Swiss Museum for Paper, Writing and Printing, Basel, Switzerland by prominent designer <i>Wolfgang Weingart</i>, <a href="http://www.basel.ch/en/culture/museums/paper_museumhome">http://www.basel.ch/en/culture/museums/paper_museumhome</a></p> <p>6 pm</p>	<p><b>Friday • 7/31</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>9:30 am • Meet at Hotel</p> <p>10:30 am • Guided tour of Vitra Museum (<i>Frank Gehry</i>), Fire Station (<i>Zaha Hadid</i>) in Weil am Rhein, Germany</p> <p>12 pm</p> <p>1 pm • Lunch at the Museum Restaurant, <a href="http://www.design-museum.de/index.php">http://www.design-museum.de/index.php</a></p> <p>6 pm</p>	<p><b>Saturday • 8/1</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>Home Work</p> <p>Suggested Visits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kunst Museum</li> <li>- Tinguely Museum (<i>Mario Botta</i>)</li> <li>- Europa Park, Europe's largest amusement park, <a href="http://www.europapark.de/lang-en/c51/default.html">http://www.europapark.de/lang-en/c51/default.html</a></li> </ul> <p>6 pm</p> <p>9 pm • Fireworks for the National Day of Switzerland.</p>
<p><b>Sunday • 8/2</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>7:30 am • Meet at Hotel</p> <p>8 am • Departure with charter bus to Ronchamp, France</p> <p>10 am • Guided Tour of "Notre Dame du Haute". (<i>Le Corbusier</i>).</p> <p>12 pm</p> <p>Group Lunch in the Alsace Region of France. (<i>Fine French Cuisine!</i>)</p> <p>5 pm • Arrival in Basel</p> <p>6 pm</p>	<p><b>Monday • 8/3</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>7:30 am • Meet at Hotel, departing by Coach for a 4-day guided Tour.</p> <p>10:30 am • Guided Tour of Therme Vals, (<i>Peter Zumthor</i>) <a href="http://www.therme-vals.ch/fakten/index_en.html?__locale=en">http://www.therme-vals.ch/fakten/index_en.html?__locale=en</a></p> <p>12 pm</p> <p>2 pm • Arrive in the famous mountain resort St. Moritz, Switzerland</p> <p>6 pm</p> <p>Check-in Hotel, <a href="http://www.salastrains.ch/">http://www.salastrains.ch/</a></p>	<p><b>Tuesday • 8/4</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>9:15 am • Meet at Hotel</p> <p>9:30 am • Depart by coach for Venice, Italy</p> <p>12 pm</p> <p>4 pm • Arrival in Venice, Italy</p> <p>5 pm • Check-in Hotel, <a href="http://www.hotel-venezia.com/ita/index.asp">http://www.hotel-venezia.com/ita/index.asp</a></p> <p>6 pm</p>	<p><b>Wednesday • 8/5</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>9:00 am • Meet at Hotel</p> <p>9:15 am • Guided Tour of Venice, Italy</p> <p>12 pm</p> <p>7 pm • Group Dinner</p>
<p><b>Thursday • 8/6</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>10 am • Depart Venice, Italy for Zürich, Switzerland</p> <p>12 pm</p> <p>4 pm • Arrival in Zürich, Switzerland</p> <p>5 pm • Check-in Hotel, <a href="http://www.swissotel.com/">http://www.swissotel.com/</a></p> <p>6 pm</p>	<p><b>Friday • 8/7</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>9 am • Meet at Hotel, heading for guided Tour of Zürich, birthplace of <i>Dada</i> and visit of <i>Center LeCorbusier</i>.</p> <p>12 pm</p> <p>1 pm • Depart by Train to Winterthur for a guided tour of the Museum for Photography, <a href="http://www.fotomuseum.ch/">http://www.fotomuseum.ch/</a></p> <p>6 pm</p>	<p><b>Saturday • 8/8</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>9 am • Excursion into the Swiss Alps</p> <p>12 pm</p> <p>6 pm</p>	<p><b>Sunday • 8/9</b></p> <p>6 am</p> <p>Homework</p> <p>12 pm</p> <p>6 pm</p> <p>Farewell Dinner and Presentation of Projects</p>

color key:

- Home Work
- Art
- Architecture
- Design

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## Course Policy:

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Foreign students who are in the United States on student visas will have to determine for themselves what documentation they may need to return from Switzerland to the United States.

Bring with you prescriptions for any medicine(s) you may require along with a copy for the faculty. Alert faculty to any allergies (including medicines).

Students are discouraged from renting and driving vehicles, including motorcycles and scooters.

Any travel not required of students for the course should be understood to be non-course related and undertaken on the student's own initiative and at his/her own risk.

A student wishing to remain in the host country after the course is over, or to travel elsewhere prior to returning to the United States should tell the faculty of his or her intentions, including, if possible, how the student can be reached. Students should also alert parents to any such plans.

Possession or use of narcotic or unlawful drugs is a criminal offense in Germany, Switzerland, Italy and France. Violators of the law are subject to prosecution and imprisonment. There is no bail.

All students must stay in the accommodations provided; no exceptions are made. For detailed description of these accommodations, please inquire of Professor Franz Werner.

Students enrolled in this course are expected to abide by the laws of Germany, Switzerland, Italy and France as well as the rules of conduct deemed proper by the Rhode Island School of Design.

You are required to provide Professor Werner with the following documents prior to departure:

- Telephone number of parents or relatives
- One photo-copy of your passport page showing your photograph and your Swiss visa (if needed).
- One copy of your medical prescription(s).

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**Check-list:**

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- 1) Passport, 2) visa(s) for non-US citizens, 3) international student card
- ATM debit card, credit cards
- Personal medications, copy of medical perscriptions, small first aid kit. Remember to alert faculty to any allergies, including medicines
- Tools and materials
- Camera; batteries; plug adapter kits, (available at Target, Staples, etc.)
- Travel guide: “Switzerland” by Lonely Planet
- Knapsack + plastic drinking bottle
- Bathing suit
- Rain jacket or windbreaker
- Flip-flops (hygienic in common showers, etc)
- Comfortable hiking shoes or sneakers
- Flashlight

*Suggestions:*

A small and unique American souvenir, to offer in situations where you are invited to someone’s home for dinner or to repay a kindness.

Total luggage should be limited to 2 pieces. Too much luggage creates unnecessary inconvenience!

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**Addresses:**

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- **Swiss Embassy, Washington D.C.:**  
ph: 202-745-7900 • <http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rep/nameri/vusa/wasemb.html>
- **Franz Werner (*Professor*):**  
ph: 401-277-4843(RISD), 401-323-3184(cell) • e-mail: [franzwerner@mac.com](mailto:franzwerner@mac.com)  
<http://www.imvdesign.com/>
- **Embassy of United States of America, Berne, Switzerland:**  
Jubilaumsstrasse 93, CH-3005 Bern, Switzerland  
ph: + 41 (0)31-357-7011, fax: + 41 (0)31-357-7344 • <http://bern.usembassy.gov/>
- **Embassy of Italy in the United States:**  
[http://www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/ambasciata\\_washington](http://www.ambwashingtondc.esteri.it/ambasciata_washington)
- **Embassy of France in the United States:**  
<http://www.ambafrance-us.org/>
- **Embassy of Germany in the United States:**  
<http://www.germany.info/relaunch/index.html>
- **Hotel in Basel, Switzerland: swissotel, Le Plaza**  
Messeplatz 25, 4005 Basel, Switzerland  
ph: +41 (0)61-555-3333, fax: +41 (0)61-555-3970  
<http://www.swissotel.com/EN/Destinations/Switzerland/Swissotel+Le+Plaza/Hotel+Home/Hotel+Description>
- **Hotel in St. Moritz, Salastrains**  
7500 St. Moritz, Switzerland  
ph: +41 81 830 0707  
<http://www.salastrains.ch/>
- **Hotel in Venice, Italy: Venezia**  
Via Teatro Vecchio 5, Mestre Centro, Venezia, Italy  
ph: +39 04 198 5533  
<http://www.hotel-venezia.com/ita/index.asp>
- **Hotel in Zürich, Switzerland: swissotel Zürich**  
Am Maktplatz Oerlikon, Schulstrasse 44, 8050 Zürich, Switzerland  
ph: +41 44 317 3111  
[www.swissotel.com/zurich](http://www.swissotel.com/zurich)

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Course Fee:

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**Package includes:**

- 3 RISD/CE credits that are easily transferable to your home institution
- First Class Hotel
- Hot Breakfast
- Group Meals
- Ground Transportation in Europe from July 29, 2009, 1 PM through August 10, 2009, 1 PM
- Museum Fees
- Tips
- Tour Guides
- Lecturers
- Instructional Supplies
- Travel Insurance

**Total Tuition:**

- \$3,750.00  
(*Airfare is not included*)
- Discounted student airfares are available from: STA, [www.statravel.com/](http://www.statravel.com/)  
1-800-781-4040
- If you are intending to use “Frequent Flyer Miles” make your bookings early and it will generally cost you 50,000 miles for a round trip ticket.
- Also try discounted airfares on the internet:
  - [www.wholesale-fares.com](http://www.wholesale-fares.com)
  - [www.Travelzoo.com](http://www.Travelzoo.com)