

## The São Tomé Design Workshop and Seminar Spring 2010

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT + HISTORICAL RESEARCH + PARTICIPATORY PLANNING AND DESIGN + CULTURAL LANDSCAPE HISTORY + PLACE-BASED DESIGN + ...

### Student Fact Sheet

A fruitful collaboration has been growing for several years now between faculty and students from the University of Illinois and governmental and non-governmental organizations in São Tomé, an island nation off the coast of West Africa. This relationship is built on mutually beneficial engagement – students learning through projects that engage complex sites and real community concerns while also providing useful technical assistance and end-products that São Tomé officials and residents can use. This spring, we have a unique opportunity to send an interdisciplinary team of students and faculty to the island. Participants will travel to São Tomé during winter break and work will continue throughout the spring semester. Ongoing dialogue with our partners in São Tomé will be supported through web, blogs, and other means. Students not traveling but part of the follow-up studio or seminar will need to also stay informed via web and blogs.

This studio is made possible through support from the Community Informatics Initiative, the East St. Louis Action Research Project, and the Department of Landscape Architecture.

### Projects

- 1) Design alternatives for Independence Plaza and seawall / walk
- 2) Land use analysis and alternatives
- 3) Design alternatives for street vendors and street-side restaurants
- 4) Exploration into sites related to slavery and the slave trade
- 5) Theoretical explorations into issues of commemoration, memory, and public history.
- 6) Other projects may emerge based on discoveries while in São Tomé

Because of the breadth of projects, we encourage an interdisciplinary team of students at various stages in their educational career, including undergraduates, masters' students, and Ph.D. students. Design and planning students should expect to continue work in the Landscape Architecture Design Workshop (LA336/438) and history-focused graduate students through a seminar (LA590). All students are expected to engage in the theoretical discussions that emerge related to history and design.

### Application Process

Submit application form to the Department of Landscape Architecture. If you have any questions, please email Laura Lawson ([ljlawson@illinois.edu](mailto:ljlawson@illinois.edu)) and/or Rebecca Ginsburg ([rginsbur@illinois.edu](mailto:rginsbur@illinois.edu)).

### Dates

August 31	informational meeting
Sept. 21	applications due
Sept. 24	notification of acceptance
Sept. 28	student confirmation of participation
Oct. 1	students purchase flights (this is done on own, with guidance)
Nov 15	Passports mailed to NY for Visas
Nov/Dec	2-3 orientation/preparation meetings TBA

## Travel Information

We are still in the planning phase, but the following is most likely the schedule we will follow:

Trip dates: December 28 – January 15, 2010

Monday, Dec. 28 or 29	Chicago to Lisbon (overnight flight) 1-2 night stay in Lisbon (independent tourism)
Thursday, Dec. 31	Lisbon to São Tomé (leaving at midnight Thursday, arriving 5:30 a.m.)
Friday, Jan 15, 2010	São Tomé to Lisbon (leaving 4:30 a.m.) Lisbon to Chicago (arriving Saturday, Jan. 16 evening)
Tuesday, Jan. 19	Instruction begins
Wednesday, Jan. 20	First meeting of studio and seminar Studio: M, W, F 2-5 Seminar: Monday, 2-4 and TBA

## Cost

The cost below is a thoughtful estimation based on current flight costs and known factors. Please be advised, however, that unexpected expenses may change the total amount. We will do our best to keep this minimal.

Approximate student cost: \$1910 - \$1985

Breakdown:

\$1500	Airfare (total cost will be approximately \$2000; students will be reimbursed \$500)
\$ 150	1-night hotel (shared room)/ food in Lisbon each way (additional nights, plan for \$75- /night for shared room, more for private)
\$ 200	excursions/incidentals on island
\$ 60	Visa

Housing, on-site travel, and food costs are being covered. Meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) will be prepared and eaten communally, with vegetarian options. If you want to eat out or drink alcohol, plan to bring additional money to cover this.

Additional costs not included above but included in student responsibilities:

- Passport
- immunizations (yellow fever and malaria).
- Travel to Chicago for departure
- Travel from Chicago to Champaign

### **Rough Itinerary of Trip**

In general, we will work very hard in the mornings until lunch. This is the best time to talk with people, conduct fieldwork, etc. During lunch (12-2) most stores and offices close. In afternoons, students will conduct independent work (i.e. more fieldwork, collecting information) or work on design concepts. Students will be on own in evenings unless there is a special meeting or need. Optional opportunities to work with youth and adults who are learning English.

Wed. – Thurs., Dec. 30, 31	Visit Lisbon’s historic castles, European promenades, contemporary parks, etc. Amount of time spent in Lisbon is variable based on student’s self-determined flight / absorption of costs
Thurs., Dec. 31	Meet at Lisbon airport no later than 8:00 p.m. (boarding gates closes at 10:45 p.m.)
Fri., Jan. 1	Arrive in early morning; transition; some touring
Saturday, Jan. 2	Tour of island
Sunday, Jan. 3	Students on own; some excursions may be planned
Monday	Meet with officials / fieldwork at sites – observation, photography, measurements Afternoon – development of initial design concepts
Tuesday	fieldwork at sites – observation, photography, measurements, continued Plantations visits / some additional site visits
Wednesday	Set up/manage community-input kiosk; work with interpreters to gather information / fieldwork at sites Afternoon – visit local quarries, material sources
Thursday	Manage community-input kiosk; work with interpreters to gather information / fieldwork at sites Afternoon –work on design concepts
Friday	Manage community-input kiosk; work with interpreters to gather information / fieldwork at sites
Saturday	Possible optional excursions
Sunday	Possible trip to Rolas Island on the equator
Monday	Finalize design concepts / presentations / gather final data
Tuesday	Finalize design concepts / presentations / gather final data
Wednesday	Final fieldwork; presentations to officials and community
Thursday	Final fieldwork; presentations to officials and community
Friday	Leave in early morning (to airport around 4:30 a.m.)

## **Preparations**

Sao Tome is on the equator. Weather will be warm, in the 80s and 90s in the day, with rain likely at some points.

Pack light many items can be purchased on the island. There will be laundry options. There are severe weight limitations on most flights.

Please plan to bring the following:

- Comfortable shoes for walking. We will walk A LOT!
- Comfortable, neat clothing.
- Sunscreen and hats recommended
- Drawing and drafting supplies (pens, pencils, color pencils, trace, scales (metric and inch, both architectural and engineering scales, sketchbook, etc.)
- Measuring tape
- Digital camera (preferred)
- Laptop (preferred)
- Portuguese/ English dictionary