



Studio Perú investigates how informal practices engage “wicked problems” such as climate change, migration, and education in contemporary cities. We will learn about these practices through research and direct experience, ultimately developing projects that use informal approaches to address contemporary issues.

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Analysis and Understanding

During the first part of the semester we will read texts on informality and study precedents from contemporary and historic designers in order to better locate our work within the broader discourse on informality in architecture. We will also analyze and document geographic, social, and economic systems in Lima in preparation for travel.

Travel and Engagement

We will travel to Perú from approximately October 4-17 (dates to be confirmed). The first part of the trip will take place in Lima where we will visit the historic center, planned neighborhoods, and informal settlements. The majority of our time in Lima will involve collaborating in the neighborhood of Alto Perú with Intuy Lab, a publicly-engaged design collaborative, and Alto Perú Surf, a local youth organization. We will be involved in workshops and possible small-scale implementation as part of this engagement. The second part of the trip will be in the Andes mountains where we will visit Cuzco, Machu Picchu, and other significant Inca sites.

Issue-Driven Design

Based on initial ideas and research conducted in Perú, students will develop issue-driven projects during the second half of the semester. These will typically engage relationships between environmental and socio-economic conditions in Lima and may involve site-specific design, systems development, and/or urban scale interventions.

COSTS

The trip to Perú will cost approximately \$2000-2500 plus international airfare (about \$600 from Raleigh). This includes all housing, Lima-Cuzco flight, insurance, and some meals. A \$1000 deposit will be due to the Office of Education Abroad at the beginning of summer; remaining costs will be due after the start of the fall semester. It is possible to secure financial aid to cover these additional costs. While U.S. residents do not require visas, citizens of some other countries will need to obtain visas.

