The seminar will investigate the construction of spatial identity in an increasingly globalized world. Students will analyze built landscapes throughout the world and distinguish unique spatial components at various scales: from body-centered to urban spaces. We will engage philosophical and theoretical concepts related to authenticity, from Atomism to Biomimicry, which will guide student research into historicism, cultural relativism, transnationalism, consumption tourism and kitsch. Class sessions, readings, and research assignments will focus on establishing physical and socio-cultural site-specific design generators. As a result of the seminar, students will generate a personalized analytical method to describe, critique, and propose a design vocabulary based on physical and programmatic qualities that contribute to placemaking.

Partial Reading list that contains selections from:

Calvino, Italo. *Invisible Cities*. 1978