Studio Escher & GuneWardena  
ENAC - SAR - MA1

Team: Professors: Frank Escher and Ravi GuneWardena  
        Assistants: Thierry Manasseh and Mounir Ayoub

Duration: 1 semester

Content: The point of departure of the Studio is to apprehend Los Angeles as a place of experimentation and a laboratory of Twentieth Century Architecture. Students are invited to develop projects in emblematic sites of Californian Modernist Architecture respecting its historical, spatial and structural components.

Both semesters will start with a series of case studies including project sites and various important Los Angeles buildings. Two sites are scheduled for the fall semester: John Lautner's Chemosphere House (1960), and the Charles & Ray Eames House (1949 / Case Study House #8), two buildings that both address ideas of pre-fabrication and mass-production, but occupy differing architectural positions. While the fall semester is dedicated to case studies of well-known and costly houses, the spring semester is meant to provide a complementary approach with an introduction to the idea of affordability and frugal building as represented by Rudolf Schindler and early Frank Gehry's works.

Lectures: A series of lectures will provide the students with the theoretical background and examples of restoration projects of the 20th century modern architecture in Los Angeles.

Study Trip: The students will visit Los Angeles (around 01.10.2016 - 07.10.2016). The trip will focus on the two project's sites: John Lautner's Chemosphere House (1960) and the Eames House (1949 / CSH #8). The program will also contain other projects of J.Lautner and other Case Study Houses (i.e Saarinen, Koenig, Soriano, Ellwood). A selection of pre-war Los Angeles Architecture (i.e Wright, Schindler, Neutra, Greene & Greene) and buildings by contemporary architects in downtown (i.e F.Gehry, R.Moneo,A.Isosaki and Diller Scofidio) are also scheduled. While the trip is not mandatory for the studio it is highly recommended.

Bibliography: A selected bibliography and filmography about architecture and urbanism in Los Angeles will be distributed to students in the beginning of the semester.

Language: The official studio language is English. The assistants speak French and can adapt to students.