In recent years, UNESCO has identified a number of vernacular environments and cultural landscapes as World Heritage sites. While this designation was intended to protect global patrimony, the effect has been to attract international visitors to these sites. How architects and developers acknowledge, respect, and sensitively relate to such treasures is a charge to the design profession.

This studio will focus upon a semester long investigation of a special building type, a 24 unit lodge for the off-the-beaten-track traveler. Each individual student will select a location from one of four designated countries, Mexico, Italy, Spain or Australia, at which such an inn might provide access to a cultural, natural or historic point of interest.

Design at all scales from furniture to room to building to neighborhood to site will be explored. Emphasis will be placed upon professionally developed verbal, graphic and model presentations. Design studies will require freehand sketching as well as computer drawings and study models. Evaluation will be based upon regular studies and reviews approximately every 10 days. Scheduled studio attendance is mandatory.

Studio Emphases:
The search for ideas
The development of critical and creative thinking
The translation of ideas into built form
The understanding human scale
The design of quality living environments worthy of treasured sites