

# Archaeology of Tourism

## Pula, Croatia



Casa Malaparte, Capri 1937, featuring in *Le Mépris* by Jean-Luc Godard, 1963

Limestone hewn from the hills of Istria was carved by the Romans to form the finest colosseum, temples and villas to be found east of Venice. Nearly two thousand years later, the Austro-Hungarian Empire constructed massive circular stone fortresses to defend the Istrian coast and islands against the Venetians. But when it finally arrived, the attack came from above, not the from the sea. It was the Allied bombing during the Second World War that destroyed parts of the city of Pula, inadvertently punching voids in its fabric, which would in time become new civic spaces.

From the treasures of antiquity to the remains of industry, distinct urban islands describe a town of multiple identities. Within the declining military and industrial infrastructures lies great potential for re-invention. Lost industry releases new spaces for new forms of tourism within the civic fabric that might involve more than just consumption, where the view and the viewer share the same environment. Our collective reconstruction will not re-lay the stones of ancient temples but we shall look to materiality and construction to guide us towards a new form of architecture of civic and civilised tourism.

We shall spend the year researching a new approach to architecture and landscape that should contribute to the fragile layering of the precious Mediterranean territory, by working with the archipelago literally and metaphorically. Our first act of design will be an Atlas of Pula and the Brijuni: a collective topological survey that will bring together in one document the past and present of the environment, territorial objects, architectural fragments and ecologies to create a new shared reality.

To start the year, we will continue building and planting together in our experimental garden on the edge of the Höggerberg campus. Here we will collectively engage with the realities of how architecture interacts with landscape over time — a full scale, real-time case study in making, growth and decay and the layering of history that is at the heart of the studio.

There will be a short obligatory studio visit to Pula on the 6th till 9th October; cost 200 CHF (hotel and transport included). For more information, please visit our website: