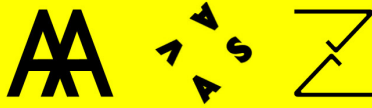


LEARNING FROM MEXICO CITY



LATIN AMERICA

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LEARNING FROM MEXICO CITY

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Open for creatives
from Latin America
and beyond

6-24
JULY 2026
Mexico City

@ZYANYA
Rey Maxtla 188,
CDMX



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Gabriel Orozco: Yielding Stone
Mexico City, 1992

EXTENDED BRIEF

LEARNING FROM MEXICO CITY

1. Introduction and eligibility
2. Programme structure
3. Our site and accommodation
4. Schedule + Public Programme
5. The team

LEARNING FROM MEXICO CITY

1. INTRODUCTION AND ELIGIBILITY

The AA Summer School arrived in Latin America in 2025 with an intensive three-week programme based in Mexico City. The course welcomes creatives from the region and beyond who are eager to engage with and contribute to the city's rich cultural sphere. Rooted in the AA's tradition of experimental and provocative architectural education, the programme promotes learning through direct engagement, on-site exploration, and active collaboration with local cultural institutions.

Mexico City functions as both context and classroom. Students learn from the city through guided urban explorations, collective research, and a public programme of lectures and conversations with local architects and artists. These encounters foster intergenerational, cross-disciplinary dialogue that informs and expands participants' creative practices.

This year, AASS Latin America returns with an extended and enhanced programme that immerses participants in the contradictions and surprises of Mexico City. Renowned for its intensity and apparent chaos, the city oscillates between the magical and the overwhelming. Embracing this duality, the programme seeks to uncover the hidden rhythms and meanings embedded in everyday urban life, recognising the ingenuity of the streets as creative acts from which architects can learn. Through observation, interpretation, and action, students are encouraged to reveal the extraordinary within the mundane. The programme culminates in a collective installation conceived and built by the students: a public spatial event that assembles three weeks of research, experimentation, and collaboration into a shared architectural outcome.

The AASS LatAm pairs intensive studio work with a vibrant public programme: daily talks, juries and portfolio reviews with leading Mexican and international architects, artists, and curators; hands-on making labs (photo, video, timber, ceramics, metal, textiles, CNC/laser) that feed directly into a final collective installation. Participants will join curated field trips and exclusive studio visits, and present their work in public exhibitions open to all.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must be aged 18 or over. The course is aimed at creative minds from Latin America and beyond: prospective architectural students, current architectural students, trained architects and/or artists who would like to experience the learning environment at the AA; those who are considering a change of school; those who have just completed school; individuals considering a change of career; and newcomers to architecture are all welcome to explore and innovate at the AA Summer School.

image: Kate Crowley, 'Trash Collection: A Ritual of Everyday Life'
AA Summer School in LatAm. Exhibited at Lago Algo, 2025



2.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Suggested reading:

Allan Kaprow, 'How to Make a Happening'

WEEK ONE — OBSERVATION

Learning to see the city through filters, biases, and instruments.

Guided urban walks, site mapping, photographic and measured recording.

Seminars on local history, material culture and key precedents.

Workshops and rapid, site-based exercises to identify opportunities.

By the end of the first week, students will have a series of individual recordings (photo, video, drawing and/or mapping) that answers, 'what are you choosing to see, and with what instrument?'

WEEK TWO — TRANSLATION

Transforming observations into collective spatial propositions within our site.

Synthesis of findings into diagrams, concept sketches and programmatic tests.

Design workshops, critical reviews and small-scale prototypes to test ideas.

Permissions/logistics confirmed for production phase.

By the end of the second week, we will translate our individual readings into a collective, spatial proposition: Full-scale testing as a field of fragments

WEEK THREE — PRODUCTION

Finally, the project becomes an event-space: a constructed multiplicity of situations.

Intensive making labs (timber, textiles, metal, digital fabrication, etc.) and assembly in collaboration with workshops available on-site at Zyanya.

On-site assembly and continuous adjustment.

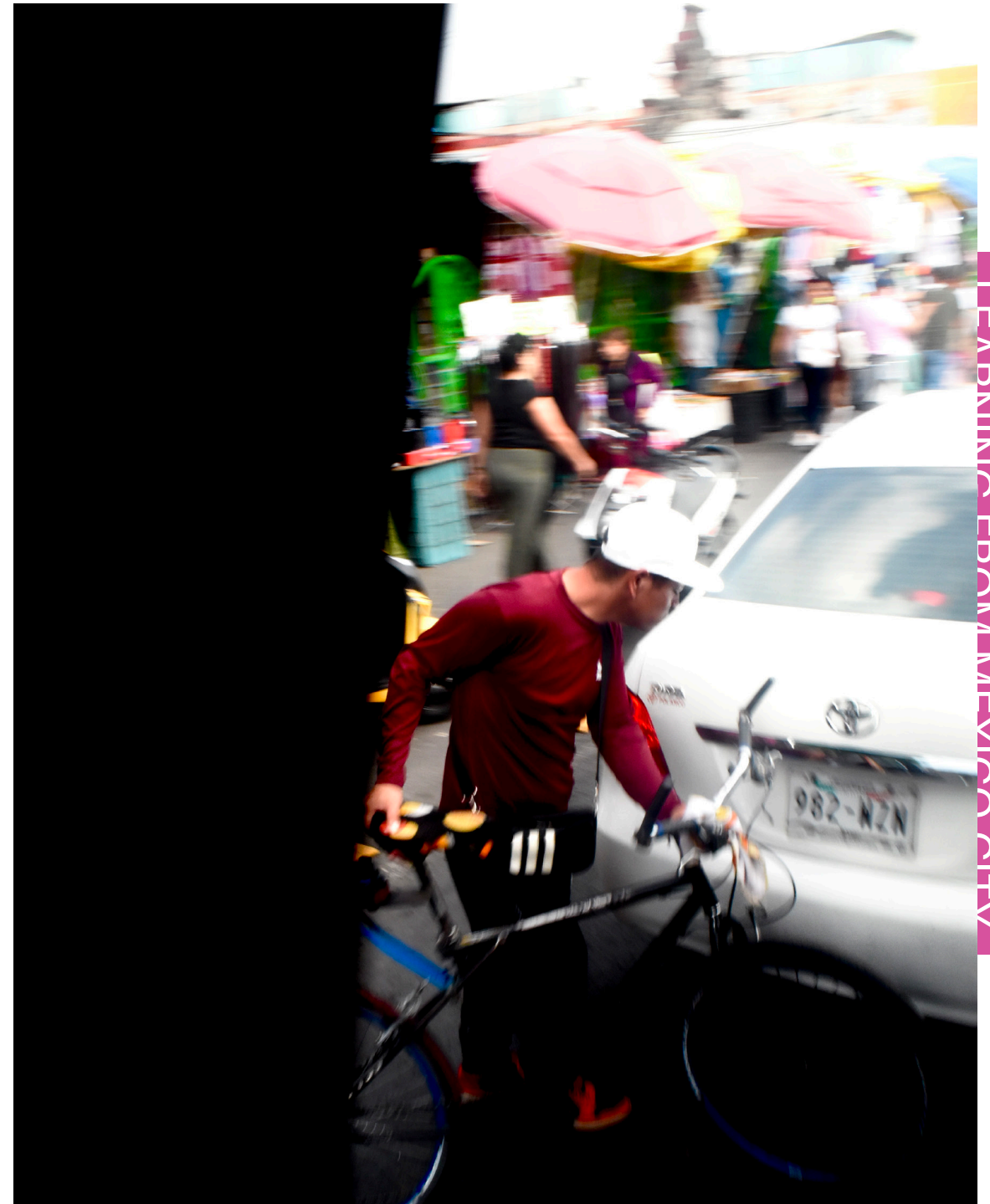
Final juried review and public presentation.

Coordination across scales and groups (space, furniture and objects)

Across the three weeks, students move from constructing ways of seeing, to staging spatial situations, to assembling a collective environment in which multiple realities can coexist simultaneously—transposing the intensity, informality, and multiplicity of the street into an interior space.

Throughout the course, students are immersed in an internal public programme that brings together practitioners from Mexico's art and architecture scenes. The aim is to foster a transdisciplinary and intergenerational dialogue that actively informs and challenges their work.

image taken by AASS LatAm 2025 student, Sina Anouk



2.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

PREVIOUS CONTRIBUTORS

The programme has engaged a range of practitioners across architecture, art, and curatorial practice, including: Tatiana Bilbao, Andrei Harwell, Percibald García, Pablo de Laborde Lascaris, Andrés Souto, Adeline de Monseignat, Magdalena Picazzo, Lola Aronis, Elena Tudela, Isabel Fernandez, Susana Rojas, Hortense Blanchard, Luis Young, Monica Arzoz, Carlos Bedoya, Daniel Daou, and José Amozurrutia

PREVIOUS SPONSORS

Lago Algo, Chapultepec

SITE VISITS

Participants engage directly with the city through curated visits to key cultural and urban sites, such as:

Museo Tamayo

Museo Nacional de Antropología

Casa Luis Barragán

Cuadra San Cristobal, Barragán

Zócalo

Central de Abastos

Tlatelolco

Ciudad Universitaria UNAM

... and more!.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All making materials included. Participants will be provided with a shared studio/workshop space.

We recommend applicants to bring their own laptops, camera, and drawing tools.

Flights are not included.

Internal transportation within Mexico City is included.

Image of a group pinup session during the AA summer School in LatAm, Lago Algo, 2025



3. OUR SITE AND ACCOMMODATION



Image of Zyanya as presented during ARCO NORTE, a project bringing together cultural spaces in the north of Mexico City and those operating beyond the hegemony of the city's centralised cultural districts. Curated by PROYECTOR, 2024

ZYANYA
<https://www.zyanya.io/>
 @zyanya

Located in Azcapotzalco, a historically industrial area of Mexico City, Zyanya occupies a former factory now regenerated as a shared environment for artists, makers, and workshops. The project builds on the site's industrial past, preserving its material identity while opening it to new forms of collective inhabitation.

Conceived as a platform for encounter, Zyanya brings together diverse creative practices within an active space of production—where making, exchange, and collaboration unfold simultaneously. This condition positions the site not only as a place of fabrication, but as a living interior landscape shaped by overlapping communities and processes.

It is within this environment that the Summer School is based: a space that operates simultaneously as a studio—open, experimental, and in constant transformation—and as part of an existing creative ecosystem to which students actively contribute.

ACCOMMODATION

Basic accommodation at an artist residency/hostel approximately 40 minutes from the studio at the city centre will be provided for students coming from abroad. As Mexico will be hosting the FIFA World Cup during this period, students who prefer alternative arrangements are encouraged to book early.

Sina Anouk Dullenkopf, 'Cleeceañera!'
 AA Summer School in LatAm, 2025





4. SCHEDULE + PUBLIC PROGRAMME

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	WEEK 1 9/6/2025 10/6/2025 11/6/2025 12/6/2025 13/6/2025					WEEK 2 16/6/2025 17/6/2025 18/6/2025 19/6/2025 20/6/2025					WEEK 3 23/6/2025 24/6/2025 25/6/2025 26/6/2025 27/6/2025										
MORNING	WELCOME DAY / BRIEF INTRO	FIELD TRIP	FIELD TRIP	FIELD TRIP	FIELD TRIP	TUTORIALS	STUDIO	STUDIO	STUDIO	STUDIO					EXHIBITION PREP						
EVENING	LECTURE: panel 1	STUDIO & TUTORIALS	STUDIO	STUDIO & TUTORIALS	STUDIO	LECTURE: panel 2	STUDIO	PIN - UP	STUDIO & TUTORIALS	GUEST TUTORIALS	STUDIO & TUTORIALS	EXHIBITION PREP	EXHIBITION PREP	EXHIBITION PREP	EXHIBITION OPENING / PARTY						
	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Potential guests</td></tr> <tr><td>Fernanda Canales, Elena Tudela, Gaby Carrillo</td></tr> </table>					Potential guests	Fernanda Canales, Elena Tudela, Gaby Carrillo	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Potential guests</td></tr> <tr><td>Fabian Martinez, Maureen Evans</td></tr> </table>					Potential guests	Fabian Martinez, Maureen Evans	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Potential guests</td></tr> <tr><td>Fabian Martinez, Maureen Evans</td></tr> </table>					Potential guests	Fabian Martinez, Maureen Evans
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***FOR UPDATES AND NEWS ON OUR PUBLIC PROGRAMME, PLEASE FOLLOW @AASS_LATAM

5. THE TEAM

MAITE GARCIA-LASCURAIN - Programme Head

Maite is an architect trained at the Architectural Association (AA) School of Architecture in London. Her work operates at the intersection of built projects, object-based design, and academia, approaching architecture as an expanded and playful field working across multiple scales. She is the founder of Taller MGL (www.taller-mgl.mx), a Mexico City-based initiative that bridges practice and academia, fostering collaborative exploration among emerging architects through a transdisciplinary approach to creative processes.

Alongside her practice, she is actively engaged in teaching: she is a design studio professor (Projects I and II) at Universidad Iberoamericana, and a visiting tutor at CENTRO. In 2024, she was part of the Jóvenes Creadores SACPC cohort (formerly FONCA, a grant programme led by the Mexican Secretary of Culture) for the project 'Crónicas Periféricas'.

CONTACT : MAITE@TALLER-MGL.MX

JOSE IGNACIO (NASO) VARGAS - Programme Head

Naso is a Mexican architect whose work spans practice, research, and teaching. He graduated with honors from Universidad Iberoamericana, where he received the Cátedra Blanca Cemex award in 2012, and began his professional formation as an assistant to Ricardo Legorreta. He continued his studies at the Architectural Association School of Architecture in London and the Glasgow School of Art, completing an MPhil in Architecture and Urban Design at the AA in 2017.

After collaborations with Tatiana Bilbao and FRAMA Copenhagen, he founded his studio in Mexico City in 2018 (www.naso.mx). From 2018 to 2023 he served as studio master at the Faculty of Architecture at Universidad Iberoamericana, combining pedagogy with an ongoing practice of design and research.

CONTACT : NASO@NASO.MX

image: AA Summer School in LatAm. Collective installation at Lago Algo, 2025
student work shown in this image by Patricio Tejedo and Rodrigo Valentin



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Damian Ortega: Cosmic Thing, Mexico City, 2002

