

# ***STUDIO SANGUE BOM VI***

## ***RdP MARKET-MATRIX+***

ARCH A4106  
GSAPP – Advanced Studio VI

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## **OVERVIEW**

Unique in the nature, magnitude, complexity, and diversity built into its infinite intensities and cultural ranges, Rio de Janeiro is both truly amazing and impossible to suitably describe. It has been widely broadcast that significant transformation to its deep fabric is inevitable especially with the World Cup of Soccer coming to Brazil in 2014, and the Summer Olympic Games to be hosted by Rio in 2016. Further, until recently it seemed that Brazil's upward trend towards positive economic development and expanded geopolitical influence, Rio had never been better poised to leverage its distinctive potential against its intrinsic urgencies than it is at this moment. However, a palpable fragility to this optimism has permeated practically all transformative actions currently in play, as the widely broadcast waves of protests and civil

unrest throughout all key Brazilian cities in 2013 exposed a wide range of deeply troubling problems that have only been dramatically amplified through the rapid change at hand. Though how Rio's myriad challenges, constraints, conflicts, forces, ambitions and interests ultimately interweave over time remains yet to be determined, the one sure thing is that the complexity in play is uniquely perplexing at almost every level.

How might we participate in imagining potential futures for Rio into its distant future? To what degree might ideas developed from the outside sincerely mix and expand upon exchange on the inside? What can we as a studio bring to the table to spark and perpetuate such exchange?

Specifically geared to inject high levels of architectural imagination and experimentation into the ongoing and varied discourses in Rio de Janeiro regarding its spatial potentials at impactful scales, this studio will navigate a multitude of operational modes in an effort to cultivate questions which would otherwise not be raised, and develop architectural evidence that constructively points to spatial futures not yet imagined for the city.

## **STUDIO SANGUE BOM VI**

This is the sixth iteration of STUDIO SANGUE BOM, an ongoing series of immensely fruitful exchange-based GSAPP studio cycles that commenced in Rio before the city won its bid for the 2016 Olympics. Literally translated as “good blood” in Portuguese, *sangue bom* is Carioca slang that conveys a deep sense of trust and a heart-felt level of sincerity. All of our actions have been and will continue to be in the spirit of sincere exchange, one that prioritizes curiosity over certainty through every twist and turn the studio will take. While we will navigate numerous and agile exchange methods throughout the semester, the larger exchange arc at historically at play with STUDIO SANGUE BOM has been an exhibition / demonstration of the studio work in Rio, providing the enriching opportunity for participants to broadcast ideas back into our vast network of friends, allies, co-conspirators and colleagues, thus further perpetuating both the cultivated knowledge and the vibrancy of an extended conversation with respect to the future of the city. We intend to maintain this tradition through the hyper-active channels currently in play at Studio-X Rio, and have established an overall approach to this semester that is built upon all previous cycles of STUDIO SANGUE BOM.

Ultimately, the point of this studio is not to solve problems, but rather identify, invent, suggest, cultivate, refine, develop and deliver versions of an architectural imagination for Rio, in the myriad ways that only STUDIO SANGUE BOM can. Questions are what we seek to both fuel and be sparked by spatial demonstrations. It is important to point out that this is not a research studio, but rather a design exploration: we will kick the semester off by presenting all of the ground that we have covered so far, and immediately launch into spatial explorations as our prime mode of operation.

## **Rio das Pedras (RdP)**

Rio das Pedras is an astonishing place. A relatively autonomous city within the city of Rio, its distinctive configuration has evolved into a super dense and incredibly diverse fabric imbued with myriad lessons for anyone intrigued by innovative forms of urban occupation and charge. Horizontally expansive and couched at the edge of Lagoa da Tijuca, Rio das Pedras is on the one hand imbued with an extensive set of socio-spatial complexities, environmental challenges and public health concerns, and on the other uniquely charged by the vibrant radiance of its residents.

We will engage Rio das Pedras on multiple, privileged fronts throughout the semester. First, as this studio is one component of a much larger GSAPP and Columbia University endeavor that will focus on Rio das

Pedras over the next two years, there will be an introductory session (see schedule below) held on the first day of studio. Numerous special guests will be visiting from Rio to provide both a general overview and deep insight into some of the complexities tied to Rio das Pedras. Second, a comprehensive Rio das Pedras primer package consisting of maps, photos, essays and other key information (recently compiled by the MEGAMIX LAB) will also be distributed on day one. Third, with the enthusiastic support from the City of Rio and coordination through Studio-X Rio, everyone involved will have the opportunity to engage a wide array of key players deeply invested in charting out positive actions with respect to future potentials for Rio das Pedras.

Lastly, and most critical for Studio Sangue Bom, our Mid-Review Mixer will be held in Rio das Pedras during our trip to Rio. Our fundamental intent is to deliver Studio Sangue Bom's spatial questions and explorations as an invitation to engage with the imaginations and insights of elementary school-children, their parents and teachers, the general Rio das Pedras public, key activists, other GSAPP studios and advanced research scholars from Columbia University's School of Public Health and School of Earth and Environmental Engineering.

## **MARKET-MATRIX+**

Working on a large open site as shown in the illustration above, the "program" for our studio can be best described as an intricately woven, inside-out, medium-to-mega-scaled spatial matrix that primarily supports a commercial market and recreation activities. As such, we will prioritize potential spatial configurations from the outset, iteratively developing spatial matrices that may invite ideas and questions for what such a place might ultimately be. In other words, the program is inherently spatial, and we will obsessively explore such articulations throughout the entire semester.

## **RIO IMMERSION**

We will immerse ourselves into multiple versions of Rio's vibrant atmosphere, gaining invaluable insight from its rich cultural, spatial, material and social mix, thus constructing an enriched platform from which we will launch into the second half of the semester. We will engage with and be joined by an expansively diverse group of people during our time in Rio, all of whom are heavily invested in the city's future. Further, our primary intent is to exchange an incalculably wide range of ideas with all of our allies, in numerous settings. Our itinerary will be constructed with an emphasis on unique urban spatial signatures, the navigation through which will provide daily sequences of robust experiences. Given the breadth and density of our itinerary, coupled with the studio's mission, members of Studio Sangue Bom can expect to have one of the most culturally and spatially enriching weeks possible. All of this will provide fuel for our final approach to the semester, where we will re-calibrate our operations into both expanded and focused trajectories.

NOTE: While Rio is with no doubt an amazingly beautiful city, and much has changed over the past few years, it retains a multitude of serious and real dangers with respect to crime. As such, we will explore the city primarily as a group (never solo), closely following a set of protocols and practices that have been developed specifically for our journey. To be discussed further and at length in studio, these standard protocols are geared to facilitate our safe and prudent attainment of the sangue bom frequency, which we will surely feel and enjoy through our time in Rio.

## OPERATIONS / TOOLS

Studio participants will flex all digital, physical, CNC, parametric, automation, animation, visualization, analytical, and low-tech tools currently in their arsenal. Further, we will operate on a regimented cycle that oscillates between open spatial exploration and precise analytical documentation. Design exploration is the basis for the studio's trajectory, with the primary goal being refined levels of projective spatial articulation. Hundreds of digital and physical constructs will be produced in this studio, in conjunction with a multitude of drawings, models, diagrams, maps, schedules, catalogs, images and other propaganda. Of course, all forms of exploration and communication are expected to be executed at the highest levels of resolution possible and / or appropriate for any particular task at hand. Each participant's produced body of evidence will range from super-loose to ultra-tight along the way, ideally culminating in a highly refined spatial projections and projected at multiple scales of resolution.

## WORKING SCHEDULE

Rio das Pedras Intro Session:	January 24, 2-4pm, GSAPP location TBD
Rio Travel:	March 17-21*
Mid-review MIXER:	March 20, 2013 (Rio das Pedras)
FINAL REVIEW:	May 2, 2013 (NY)

\*Please note that our week of travel will concur with the official Columbia University Spring Break week – not the standard Kinne Travel week.