On Translation: Web
A project by Ricardo Iglesias

“The metaphor of the knots is a personal vision of the work method involved in the On Translation series. There is no centre or hierarchy in the production; everything is part of a single idea, a single concern, a single string which crosses and intertwines and where each installation, each intervention, each knot takes on a particular, unique form, with its own time, space and context parameters, while still taking part in a subjective dialogue with the author. In the very nature of the knot we can find a number of important aspects to highlight: union, subjection, the formalisation and specification of different elements on the one hand; on the other, tension, generation, the movement produced when that union takes place.”

Assembly 2014.

Language:
The usual language used in the classroom will be English. We are going to use the English language as a way to internationalize the School of Architecture of Alicante; it will be a pilot experience but it is the first step to create an open international future school. We will try to focus on the expression tools of Architecture as an abstract language to make our work understood. It is not a question of using words to explain projects; it is a question of architectural language; drawings, diagrams, graphics, physical models, actions and media-lab procedures…
Place:
The space of the classroom will be a “round table”, everybody seated around a table as a political representation of democracy. The role of the teacher, researchers and students will be the same, everybody is allowed to present, discuss and defend their ideas. The proposal consists of the physical construction of a structure of discussion to find the real items of contemporary architecture knowledge. The classroom and all its furniture will be transformed to create a new space for spreading ideas and work day by day.

Every morning we will create a round table formed by students, the teacher, some invited architects or people involved in the contemporary construction of the culture of the project in order to discuss architectural programmes, social networks, contexts, materials, citizens, structures, construction, economy, history, city shape...and architecture.

Every week new items to be discussed appear and, if possible, a new expert voice to improve our conscience about the new understanding of our reality as students and as architects.

We start the first week with one question on the table; what kind of architect do we want to become? Every student has to take a position and construct a discourse on the item discussed during the week.

We work with architectural expression tools and instruments of the cultural architectural project: drawings, models, performances, videos, actions, etc., in order to present one approach to the intelligent reality of the city.

The first day, after the individual presentation, we will start working in groups of five students to construct and defend our arguments. Working in groups is a way to implement our knowledge; we do not have to reach a consensus, we have to create a new object with all the ideas and drawings of the students in the group.

Objectives:
The objective of this course is that students will be capable to stimulate theirs conscience and take a position in the architectural world of the contemporary projects. Also, they have to generate their skills and thoughts about the new situation and to learn how to express it in an architectural way.

To open the discussion, a group of eight students from the Final Project Subject are invited and they will work and discuss with us in the first semester.

Timing:
The first semester (Project 2) consists of an approach to the cultural world of the project. We are going to talk, think and construct many items that constantly appear in the recreation of new reality. It will be a task developed week by week. The round table is going to focus on experiences and these experiences will probably take us to some places in the city or abroad (the possibility of an architectural travel to the Enric Miralles’building, the Parliament of Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom, will be discussed during the sessions).

The second semester (Project 3) consists of an approach to the technical world of the project. We are going to talk about many items that constantly appear in the recreation of the new reality. It will be a unique project developed individually during the whole semester.
Presentation:
The whole course will be developed on the social networks and we will create a webpage for the video presentations. Facebook and Twitter will be used for the communication between students.

Here, you can see an example of the webpage we usually create every year (Javier Gironella and Joaquín Alvado) to implement the information between students. The Wordpress page is also accurate for the presentations in order not to print the work and spend money every week. We usually present students work on the computer and the projector through the web.

http://alvado-gironella.blogspot.com.es/

We will start the year with the web page TED. TED is a nonprofit webpage devoted to ideas worth spreading. It started out in 1984 as a conference by bringing people together from three worlds: technology, entertainment and design.

http://www.ted.com

We will see the following lecturers starting with a vision of what is happening in contemporary architecture

Magnus Larsson

"Architecture student Magnus Larsson details his bold plan to transform the harsh Sahara desert using bacteria and a surprising construction material: the sand itself. Magnus Larsson hopes to build new structures in the desert -- by using bacteria to turn shifting sand into a solid mass."

Rachel Armstrong

"Venice is sinking. To save it, Rachel Armstrong says we need to outgrow architecture made of inert materials and, well, make architecture that grows itself. She proposes a not-quite-alive material that does its own repairs and sequesters carbon, too. TED Fellow Rachel Armstrong is a sustainability innovator who creates new materials that possess some of the properties of living systems, and can be manipulated to "grow" architecture."

Liz Diller

"In this engrossing EG talk, architect Liz Diller shares her firm DS+R's most unusual work, including the Blur Building, whose walls are made of fog, and the revamped Alice Tully Hall, which is wrapped in glowing wooden skin. Liz Diller and her maverick firm DS+R bring a groundbreaking approach to big and small projects in architecture, urban design and art -- playing with new materials, tampering with space and spectacle in ways that make you look twice."

Alastair Parvin

"Designer Alastair Parvin presents a simple but provocative idea: what if, instead of architects creating buildings for those who can afford to commission them, regular citizens could design and build their own houses? The concept is at the heart of
WikiHouse, an open source construction kit that means just about anyone can build a house, anywhere.
Alastair Parvin believes in making architecture accessible to 100 percent of the population."

Norman Foster
“Architect Norman Foster discusses his own work to show how computers can help architects design buildings that are green, beautiful and "basically pollution-free." From the 2007 DLD Conference, Munich; www.dld-conference.com
Sir Norman Foster, winner of the 1999 Pritzker Prize, is perhaps the leading urban stylist of our age. His elegant, efficient buildings grace cities around the globe."

Cameron Sinclair
“Accepting his 2006 TED Prize, Cameron Sinclair demonstrates how passionate designers and architects can respond to world housing crises. He unveils his TED Prize wish for a network to improve global living standards through collaborative design.
2006 TED Prize winner Cameron Sinclair is co-founder of Architecture for Humanity, a nonprofit that seeks architecture solutions to global crises -- and acts as a conduit between the design community and the world's humanitarian needs."

Thomas Heatherwick
"Building the Seed Cathedral. A more beautiful future? Architect Thomas Heatherwick shows five recent projects featuring ingenious bio-inspired designs. Some are remakes of ordinary things: a bus, a bridge, a power station ... And one is an extraordinary pavilion, the Seed Cathedral, a celebration of growth and light."

After the presentation we will start with the worth spreading ideas of all the students, teacher and researchers.