

INTBAU Mexico Summer School 2026

“Weaving the City: Traditional Urbanism and Architecture in Mexico City”

Dates: May 29 – June 13, 2026

Main Venue: Postal Palace, Historic Center, Mexico City

Official Language: English

Participant Profile: Students, architects, urban planners, artists, heritage researchers, and professionals interested in traditional architecture and urbanism.

Contact Hours: 120 hours

Certification: INTBAU, INTBAU Mexico, ASINEA, Universidad La Salle

Institutional Contact: intbaumexico.org

Program Overview

The INTBAU Mexico Summer School is a two-week intensive program focused on traditional urbanism and architecture, which will take place from May 29 to June 13, 2026, in the historic heart of Mexico City, with the support of INAH, ASINEA, and the Ministry of Culture. With the Postal Palace, one of the country's most emblematic buildings, serving as the main venue, the program combines field research, studio work, and hands-on practice, integrating urban analysis, architectural design, and traditional representation techniques.

The program will bring together a distinguished national and international academic faculty, composed of specialists in archaeology, heritage, urbanism, and traditional design. It will be structured in two phases: a first phase, from May 29 to 31, as part of the Latin American Conference on Traditional Architecture and Urbanism (including other INTBAU Chapters), and a second phase, from June 1 to 13, corresponding to the Summer School, with theoretical classes, practical workshops, and studio work focused on historic buildings and spaces within the Historic Center, with special attention to pre-Hispanic, Baroque, and Neoclassical architectural traditions.

Participants will develop an urban and architectural proposal for two highly relevant and sensitive areas of the Historic Center, integrating housing, mixed-use spaces, public space, and archaeological sites. The project will be worked on using manual representation tools such as sketches, architectural drawings, and watercolor as fundamental instruments of design thinking, culminating in a public exhibition at the Postal Palace, evaluated by a specialized jury. Mexico City has been chosen as the venue due to its condition as one of the most complex and stratified historic centers in Latin America, where the coexistence of pre-Hispanic, colonial, and contemporary

heritage offers an exceptional laboratory for reflection and practice of traditional urbanism and architecture.

Note on Contact Hours:

The total 120 hours will be completed through a combination of lectures, site visits, workshops, and team work at the end of each day, ensuring practical application of theoretical content and development of final projects.

Non-local Students: Recommended arrival May 28 – June 14

Hotels, breakfasts, transportation to scheduled visits, materials, and basic medical insurance are included.

Local Students: In addition to classes and workshops, transportation to scheduled visits and materials are included.

The program fee covers the cost of instructors, visits, museum entries, materials, lodging, breakfast, and basic medical insurance. More information at intbaumexico@gmail.com or at intbaumexico.org.

Phase 1: Latin American Conference on Traditional Architecture and Urbanism

Day 1 (Friday, May 29) — Fundamentals of Classical Architecture

Venue: Postal Palace, Mexico City

8:00 – 8:30 a.m. | Welcome Coffee Break

Reception of participants and first meeting between speakers, students, and organizers.

8:30 a.m. | Homero Hernández – Classical Architecture in Contemporary Times

Reflection on teaching the canon, proportion, and classical language as relevant tools in architectural training.

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Bruno Perenha – Classical Orders: Structure, Proportion, and Meaning

Analysis of the orders as a compositional and constructive foundation, articulating hierarchy and architectural meaning.

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Isaac Tame – Mexican Neoclassicism as Urban and Architectural Heritage

Review of neoclassical precedents in Mexico, their architectural language, and their impact on the city.

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. | Francisco Fabian Torres – Tradition and Continuity: Classical Architecture in the Contemporary World
Exploration of classical thinking applied to current practice without losing its essential principles.

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. | TBD – Traditional Architecture and Sustainability
Promotes human scale, integration of uses, and permanence of the urban fabric, offering architectural solutions adapted to context and time.

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Flavio Díaz Mirón – The Spirit of Place
Analysis of the unique character of historic spaces, their memory, atmosphere, and how architectural and urban elements reflect cultural identity.

3:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Paco Martos – Artesonado Workshop (with registration)
Fundamental principles of classical architecture today. Collective reflection on teaching, practice, and future projection of the classical language through practice.

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Urban Drawing Workshop (with registration)
Practical workshop on urban drawing to understand proportion, scale, public space, and traditional typologies.

7:00 p.m. | Café de Tacuba Optional (Dinner on own)

Day 2 (Saturday, May 30) — Principles of Traditional Urbanism and Typologies
Venue: Postal Palace / Aula Magna

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. | Coffee Break & Networking

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Linda Manzanilla – Origins of the City and Pre-Hispanic Urban Structure

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Richard De Pirro – History of Mexico City Urbanism

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. | Rohan Shrivkumar – Traditional Urbanism and Sustainability

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. | John Onyango – Principles of Traditional Urban Planning

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Edward McGrath – Traditional Urbanism in the Contemporary Context

3:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Paco Martos – Artesonado Workshop (with registration)

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Urban Drawing Workshop (with registration)

7:00 p.m. | Dinner at the Opera Optional (on own)

Day 3 (Sunday, May 31) — Walking Tour of Mexico City Historic Center

Venue: Historic Center

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. | Coffee Break & Meeting

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Isis Juarez – Plaza de la Constitución (Zócalo) and Metropolitan Cathedral

9:30 – 11:30 a.m. | Irina Yushmanova – Watercolor Workshop

11:30 – 12:00 p.m. | Isis Juarez – National Palace and Templo Mayor

12:00 – 1:30 p.m. | Lunch

1:30 – 6:00 p.m. | Irina Yushmanova – Watercolor Workshop

7:00 p.m. | Closing toast TBD

Phase 2: Summer School of Traditional Architecture and Urbanism

Day 4 (Monday, June 1) — Project Introduction and Urban Analysis

Venue: Postal Palace / Templo Mayor

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Isaac Tame – Project Explanation

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Isaac Tame – The Axis of Power: Civic Architecture and Urban Representation

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. | Ettore Mazzola – Key Concepts of Traditional Urbanism

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | J. Onyango and R. Shivkumar – Site Analysis (Templo Mayor)

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Bellas Artes and Urban Environment

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Dinner

Day 5 (Tuesday, June 2) — Introduction to Classical Orders and Workshops

Venue: Postal Palace / Workshops

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Isaac Tame – Classical Architecture Timeline

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Ettore Mazzola – Introduction to Classical Orders

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Classical Workshop

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 5:30 p.m. | John Onyango – First Architectural Scheme

7:00 – 11:00 p.m. | Edward McGrath and R. Shivkumar – Team Studio Work (Recommended)

Day 6 (Wednesday, June 3) — Xochimilco and Coyoacán Tour

Venue: Xochimilco / Coyoacán

5:00 a.m. | Departure to Xochimilco

6:00 – 8:00 a.m. | Isis Juarez – Xochimilco Antiquity

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. | Breakfast (TBD)

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Rohan Shivkumar – Site Analysis

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 3:30 p.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Typology and Character

3:30 – 5:30 p.m. | Irina Yushmanova – Urban Drawing in Coyoacán

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Dinner

7:00 – 11:00 p.m. | John Onyango – Team Studio Work (Recommended)

Day 7 (Thursday, June 4) — Traditional Construction Techniques Workshop

Venue: Postal Palace / Studio

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Maria Di Castro – Urbanism and the Natural Environment

Urban analysis, main elements of urbanism and landscape

10:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Ettore Mazzola – Project Application

Practical application of studied principles in a real urban context: site analysis, relationship with nature, and organization of public spaces

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Typology and Character

Study of classical urban and architectural typologies: characters, proportions, and distinctive elements

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Isis Juarez – Traditional Construction Techniques Workshop

Practical exercises in traditional construction techniques and analysis of historic buildings

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Dinner

7:00 – 11:00 p.m. | John Onyango – Team Studio Work (Recommended)

Integration of workshop observations into projects, refinement of schemes and diagrams

Day 8 (Friday, June 5) — Traditional Construction Techniques Workshop

Venue: Postal Palace / Studio

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Ettore Mazzola – Master Plan Proposal

Practical application of studied principles in a real urban context: site analysis, relationship with nature, and organization of public spaces

10:00 – 12:00 p.m. | Isis Juarez – Traditional Construction Techniques Workshop

Practical workshop on traditional construction techniques, conservation of historic materials, and intervention strategies in heritage buildings

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Isis Juarez – Traditional Construction Techniques Workshop

Practical exercises in traditional construction techniques and analysis of historic buildings

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Dinner

7:00 – 11:00 p.m. | Esteban Martinez – Team Studio Work (Recommended)

Integration of workshop observations into projects, refinement of schemes and diagrams

Day 9 (Saturday, June 6) — Construction Techniques Workshop

Venue: Postal Palace / Studio

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. | John Onyango – Architectural Scheme Session

Project scheme, consolidation of ideas, and preparation for Pin Up activity

11:00 – 12:00 p.m. | Ettore Mazzola – Project Review

Faculty invitation to review projects in an exhibition format

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Paco Martos – Artesonado Workshop

Introduction to the artesonado workshop and proportion exercises in project schemes, refinement of diagrams, and preparation for presentations

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Dinner

**Day 10 (Sunday, June 7) — Optional Visit to Teotihuacan (On Own) –
Pre-registration Required**

Venue: Teotihuacan

5:00 a.m. | Departure to Teotihuacan

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. | Isis Juarez – Teotihuacan Antiquity

Analysis of landscape, ecology, morphology, economic structures, and urban and landscape sustainability

10:00 – 12:00 a.m. | Ettore Mazzola – Team Work – Site Analysis

Urban diagrams, morphology schemes, and spatial organization

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 3:30 p.m. | Irina Yushmanova – Teotihuacan Abacus Drawing

Study of classical urban and architectural typologies: characters, proportions, and distinctive elements

3:30 – 5:00 p.m. | Optional Dinner at La Gruta (On Own)

Urban drawing applied to proportion, scale, and spatial relationships

5:30 – 9:00 p.m. | Return to Mexico City

Day 11 (Monday, June 8) — Architecture Workshop: Urban Drawing

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Drawing Workshop

Techniques of drawing for representation focused on projects in development

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. | Irina Yushmanova – Abacus Sketching

Urban and architectural drawing applied to direct observation, transfer to studio for diagram integration

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Order and Proportion Workshop

Application of proportion, symmetry, and classical orders in architectural and urban projects

3:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Ettore Mazzola – Architecture Workshop

Integration of learning from the artesonado workshop and proportion exercises into project schemes, refinement of diagrams, and preparation for presentations

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Dinner

7:00 – 11:00 p.m. | Esteban Martinez – Team Studio Work (Recommended)
Integration of workshop observations into projects, refinement of schemes and diagrams

Day 12 (Tuesday, June 9) — Architecture Workshop: Perspective

Venue: Postal Palace / Studio

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Perspective Workshop
Representation techniques focused on projects in development

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Irina Yushmanova – Abacus Sketching
Urban drawing applied to direct observation, transfer to studio for diagram integration

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Drawing Session
Practical perspective drawing session applying proportion, depth, and composition in architectural and urban proposals

3:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Ettore Mazzola – Project Review
Project presentation in collective critique format, progress review, and feedback from faculty

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Dinner

7:00 – 11:00 p.m. | Esteban Martinez – Team Studio Work (Recommended)
Integration of workshop observations into projects, refinement of schemes and diagrams

Day 13 (Wednesday, June 10) — Architecture Workshop: Architectural Project

Venue: Postal Palace / Studio

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Ettore Mazzola – Architecture Workshop
Consolidation of diagrams, schemes, and final partis

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Isaac Tame – Continuation of Architecture Workshop
Refinement of ideas and preparation of final presentations

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. | John Onyango – Preparation for Presentation
Integration of all learning: urbanism, classical architecture, artesonado, watercolor, and perspective

3:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Ettore Mazzola – Project Review
Project presentation for review and feedback from academic team

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Dinner

7:00 – 11:00 p.m. | Esteban Martinez – Team Studio Work (Recommended)
Integration of workshop observations into projects, refinement of schemes and diagrams

Day 14 (Thursday, June 11) — Architecture Workshop: Master Plan

Venue: Postal Palace / Studio

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Ettore Mazzola – Architecture Workshop
Final practical session consolidating artesonado techniques and ornamental elements applied to the project

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | John Onyango – Architecture Workshop
Preparation for final presentations, integration of analysis, schemes, and urban and architectural proposals

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 5:30 p.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Preparation for Presentation
Application of workshop and watercolor session observations to projects, refinement of schemes, and preparation for final presentations

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Dinner

7:00 – 11:00 p.m. | Esteban Martinez – Team Studio Work (Recommended)
Integration of workshop observations into projects, refinement of schemes and diagrams

Day 15 (Friday, June 12) — Architecture Workshop: Preparation for Final Presentation

Venue: Postal Palace / Studio

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Isaac Tame – Architecture Workshop
Final practical session consolidating techniques and ornamental elements applied to the project

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | John Onyango – Architecture Workshop
Preparation for final presentations, integration of analysis, schemes, and urban and architectural proposals

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. | Mayolo Ramirez – Preparation for Presentation
Application of workshop and watercolor session observations to projects, refinement of schemes, and preparation for final presentations

7:00 – 11:00 p.m. | Esteban Martinez – Team Studio Work (Recommended)
Integration of workshop observations into projects, refinement of schemes and diagrams

Day 16 (Saturday, June 13) — Final Presentations and Closing

Venue: Postal Palace / Studio

9:00 – 11:00 a.m. | Ali Lebrija – Preparation for Presentation
Collection of materials

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Nadia Samir – Project Exhibition
Arrangement of projects

12:00 – 1:00 p.m. | Lunch

1:00 – 4:00 p.m. | Isaac Tame – Start of Presentations

4:30 – 5:30 p.m. | Round Table and Event Closing

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. | Closing Dinner at Azul Histórico (On Own)

Day 17 (Saturday, June 14) — End of the Mexico City Summer School 2026

Projects

Project 1 · Classical Regeneration of the Bellas Artes Surroundings

A classical-traditional architectural complex behind the Palacio de Bellas Artes, conceived as a mediator between civic monuments and everyday urban life. By integrating the historic fabric, building heights, and traditional typologies (continuous facades, courtyards, arcades, and public plazas), it seeks to restore the human scale and reactivate local residential, cultural, and commercial uses. The architecture is based on proportion, order, and material permanence, reinforcing local identity and promoting a Historic Center that is lived in, not just visited.

Project 2 · Architectural and Museographic Integration at the Templo Mayor

The project is developed in a highly sensitive heritage area as an architectural ensemble that articulates city, archaeology, and public space, establishing a mediating relationship between traditional architecture and the pre-Hispanic site through courtyards and galleries that allow a clear and respectful reading of the Templo Mayor. The complex incorporates cultural, academic, and service programs that reinforce urban continuity and the scale of the historic block, demonstrating how traditional architecture, expressed through a classical language, can integrate sensitively into a heritage context, acting as a frame and support for the archaeological site rather than as its protagonist.

Academic Outcomes / Final Deliverables

Each student will deliver:

- Urban and architectural analysis sheets
- Sketchbook and watercolor notebook
- Diagrams and project schemes
- Final urban and architectural intervention proposal
- Participation in a public exhibition and discussion panel

Conclusion and Objectives of the Summer School

The INTBAU Mexico 2026 Summer School aims to train professionals and students capable of intervening in heritage contexts with sensitivity and deep knowledge of traditional architecture and urbanism.

Through site analysis, drawing, watercolor, modeling, and practical workshops, participants develop tools to understand the historic city, value its cultural layers, and propose respectful, sustainable, and integrative solutions.

It is expected that students will:

- Apply classical and traditional principles in their contemporary projects
- Integrate the cultural and urban identity of the Historic Center into their proposals
- Work collaboratively in multidisciplinary teams, combining theory, practice, and creativity
- Produce concrete deliverables: sheets, sketchbooks, urban projects, watercolors, and architectural proposals ready for exhibition
- Reflect on the relationship between public and private space, history and contemporaneity, and urban sustainability

This approach seeks to cultivate critical, aesthetic, and ethical awareness in each participant, fostering a commitment to the conservation, regeneration, and activation of the historic city as a living and culturally significant space.