

## Seminar Week

### Trip Dates

22 - 30 October 2016



Photo: Tanveer Badal

# UNIVERSITY OF ZÜRICH

### Urban-Think Tank, D-ARCH

Prof. Alfredo Brillembourg  
Prof. Hubert Klumpner  
Danny Wills  
Hans-Christian Rufer

### Chair of Sociology, D-ARCH

Prof. Christian Schmid

### Faculty of Architecture, CUJAE, La Habana

Prof. Jorge Peña Díaz

### Organization

ECTS Credits - 2

Kostenrahmen: F

Includes: Flights, accomodation, group transportation, entrance fees and guides

Visas: Each student will be responsible for obtaining all necessary travel documents. Please plan ahead.

Open to all students. Priority given to those in the U-TT Design Studio.

This trip will serve as a critical study of the architecture, urbanism, culture, and social exchange in Havana with a specific focus on the recent and projected transformations of the city. The trip will aim to investigate how a city can be upgraded and modernized while maintaining its rich layers of history. It will observe, first hand, creative solutions from residents while engaging in larger debates about development in the face of urban change. City and architectural tours, museum visits, lectures and talks from local experts in architecture, urban planning and history will constitute the majority of the trip. The trip will be conducted in partnership with the Chair of Sociology (D-ARCH, ETH), and the Faculty of Architecture (CUJAE, La Habana), from which local Cuban students will also join.

Starting with the UNESCO World Heritage site, La Habana Vieja, in the East and moving West through neighborhoods like Centro Habana and Vedado, it is possible to understand Havana's urban evolutions from a colonial trading port to a paradise of early Latin American modernism. However, Havana's size and population have not considerably grown since 1959, while massive urban development can be observed in other Latin and Central American cities. The Cuban decentralization policy, resolutely applied after the revolution in 1959, favored medium-sized to small towns and rural regions, effectively leaving the urban development of Havana at a standstill. With the collapse of the Soviet bloc in 1989, Havana's urban fabric began to decay as the state lacked the necessary resources to carry out even the most basic maintenance work. Today, with the possibility of the U.S. blockade being lifted at any moment, Havana is faced with the challenge of upgrading its city to meet contemporary challenges while remaining true to its revolutionary ideals.