

A unique pre-college program for sustainability-focused design...

ciao is a 3-week summer program in Italy for pre-college students interested in studying the built environment from a sustainability perspective. It is a STEAM program covering Art, Architecture, Landscape, Planning, Engineering and Construction. Founded and run by Harvard-educated Architects, Robert M. Karn and Gail Whitney Karn bring to the program over 60 years of professional and academic experience.

ciao participants learn to design using Google Sketchup and develop their model-making and presentation skills.

Each ciao, summer program is limited to 12 students, providing a cohesive bond between students and faculty.

Students spend Week 1 in the outdoor classroom of Rome.

Weeks 2 & 3 are spent living and learning in an atelier setting at the picturesque hilltop town of Sant'Angelo in Pontano, applying lessons learned in Rome to real-life community











ciao students are a diverse community representing North & South America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

Each student receives 1-on-1 faculty support. bringing each student to a personal best. No prior experience is required to participate.

A student experiences a breakthrough moment during a desk crit under the watchful eye of Studio Leader Robert Karn & a ciao/teaching assistant.







Tempietto di San Pietro Montorio Students master freehand sketching while in Rome and Sant'Angelo in Pontano.

At the end of the program students present their project design to members of the local community that includes elected officials, business leaders, Italian visiting faculty, and other local dignitaries.

Here, a ciao student presents his design for a 3-phase sports facility to a well-attended forum.





ciao / alumni are accepted into top-tier colleges and universities in the USA and abroad including:

ASU, Cal Poly, Carnegie Mellon, Columbia, Cooper Union, Cornell, IIE (ES), IIT, IPN (MX), Leiden University (NL), London College of Art (UK), Miami University of Ohio, NYU, Politecnico di Milano (IT), Pratt, Rice, RISD, RPI, SCI-ARC, Syracuse, TUE (NL), University of Arizona, University of Bremen (DE), UC Berkeley, UCLA, Cincinnati, University of Colorado, University of Glasgow (UK), University of Illinois, University of Michigan, USC, UTCN (RO), Virginia Tech, Washington University, Yale

