



Shillim Institute

18th September 2018

To the Board of the Shillim Institute,

The Architectural Association School of Architecture places great value and importance on a wide range of issues facing the planet's cities and rural environments. An awareness, understanding and environmental education through immersive experience is something we are proud to support as part of our student's activities here. In pursuit of this goal the AA School regularly seeks partnerships to facilitate workshops and field trips to often far-flung places.

The Shillim Institute came to us with a proposal that aligned well with one of our design agendas in the Diploma School under the supervision of tutor and architect, Enric Ruiz Geli: a visionary platform for an off-grid field trip that would engage art, science and societal interaction. The exchange would utilize the Shillim Institute's extensive knowledge, resources and exemplary facilities to provide a basis for students to experience new territory within a protected and finely balanced natural environment. In return our students developed proposals that sought to benefit the Shillim Institute's goal of an environmentally sustainable future.

During the exchange between our students and the Shillim Institute the students witnessed and experienced unique conditions that lead many to re-evaluate preconceived notions about diverse and challenging rural environments. Specific design projects emerged during the trip that were later developed throughout the school year in London: Immersion and the Acknowledgement Of Elements, A Critique and Repositioning of Tourism, Experimentation on Edible and Fermented Architecture, Use of Humour to Educate Children, Healing through Physical and Virtual Landscape, An Awakening of Presence, The Unveiling of Pollution, An Architecture of Darkness, A Re-evaluation of Plastics Through Activism and A Network of Man and Nature.

The success of these students' projects through to completion of the Diploma course, as well as the student feedback to the school, is a clear demonstration of the success of the exchange.

I would like to thank the Shillim Institute for providing our students with this very positive opportunity, and for your kind hospitality during their visit. We were also pleased to be able to welcome you here in London. We wish you every success with any and all future collaborations in the field of design education.

Yours sincerely,

Samantha Hardingham
Interim Director (2017-18)
Architectural Association School of Architecture