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Peru was a really unique experience. We visited museums, attended lectures at an architecture university, visited sacred sites known as huacas, we saw some modern architecture as well as went on other tourist excursions such as Machu Picchu.

Museums included art, archaeology, textiles, a pre-hispanic art and ceramics museum, and the memorial museum. The LUM, (Lugar de la Memoria = "Place of Memory, Tolerance, and Social Inclusion") done by architects Barclay and Crousse, is a museum along the coast that explores the conflict that began in the 80's between terrorist groups and the government. Many of the archaeological sites had very modern site museums attached to them as well such as the Pachacamac Site Museum by Llosa and Cortegana. Lectures we attended were from architects, archaeologists and historians. We even got a tour of an architecture school (where Alan Rosenblum went to school) and saw the student work there which was very impressive. We got a chance to see some modern architecture such as San Felipe residence, a radiant city housing project by the architect Enrique Ciriani that was done during the time of their Architect President Fernando Belaunde. Some of us also went to see PREVI, an experimental housing project also done during this time designed by 13 different architects. Some other highlights were going to the Sacred Valley, Cusco, and Machu Picchu. In the Sacred Valley we went to the Salt Mines, Saqsayhuman, Pisac, Ollantaytambo, Tipon, and Piqullakta. We also visited Coricancha, where the Spanish built a cathedral directly on top of the most important temple in the Inca Empire. The focus of the studio portion of the trip lied in the sacred site visits or huacas, which we saw a lot of. Some of the huacas included the archaeological site of Pachacamac and the Sacred City of Caral. In the Moche Valley we saw Huaca de la Luna and Huaca del Sol, Sipan, Tucume, Huaca de Arco Iris and the archaeological site of Chan Chan. Each one is immersed in symbolism and history. Observations made at these huacas and other sites were later used back in San Diego for our studio project.

After I graduate, my end goal is to travel and design for those in need so taking my first trip this summer with a year of architecture school under my belt was essential. In Peru, I gained more awareness of cultural evolutions as they relate to architecture and began to understand how civilizations were able to withstand and overcome natural disasters such as El Niño. Disasters in the world today are occurring with more frequency and intensity, and an architects' responsibility lies in protecting the health, safety and welfare of the public. Architects can take on beneficial roles following natural disasters. Climate changes and the exacerbation of natural disasters are a worldwide problem, which is why an emphasis on travel is so important. As the disasters continue

to impact the built environment, the unique skill sets that architects possess are more significant than ever.

I think it's crucial for architects to constantly explore, learn and try new things and nothing accomplishes this more than traveling. Architects are visual beings and our brains are wired to constantly learn. Every design we produce is building off the last thing we learned, the last design we produced, the last experience we had or the last building we saw. So taking these experiences and incorporating them in future designs was another major influence of the trip. All of the historical sites we saw were immersed in meaning and history and were designed with such care and intention, which was something I brought back with me. Much of what we saw was completely timeless architecture that has stood through the unpredictabilities of time and they were conceived back in the day when technology was minimal or non-existent. So, another goal was to observe how a sense of rhythm and balance was achieved despite the lack of equipment. Most of the structures display intricate reliefs, which highlight skill and patience that are very lost today. Putting the art back into the field of architecture is something I want to contribute to both the profession and to NewSchool. My thesis next year will be focused in another country where design is needed and taking the experiences and knowledge I gained both on this trip and future trips will be invaluable.

NewSchool is unique in that it is educating the next generation of architects in the city of San Diego, which is still a very up and coming city trying to identify its architectural style. As the future generation we have the ability to change the identity of the city and should be influenced from some of the great cities around the world.