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# Re-Thinking Tourism 02: The Last Resort

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253.862 ● 10 ECTS ● Master Entwerfen  
● Johannes Paar & Javier Haddad ●  
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Excursion & Workshop (4.-12.11.2015):  
Gran Canaria

Collaboration: Chair of Juan Manuel  
Palerm Salazar, ETSA (Escuela Técnica  
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Since centuries, even millenniums, the Canary Islands have always been producing a certain allure: From Plato's Atlantis and Homer's Elysium, both allegedly describing the Canaries, to the tourism craze of the late 20th century until today: The image of the untouched paradise not too far away still persists.

By today, what once was contemplative desert, nature paradise and clean shoreline has turned into a scene of high density, mass entertainment, mass recreation and a rapid spread of hotel complexes. To inverse the status quo and return to a tourism with few, respectful travellers is illusory and ignores the immense touristic infrastructures that are already existing. Instead, we have to accept the high touristic density and the hotel complex as a questionable, but in the current situation somehow sustainable approach: At least the craze happens within a limited, controllable perimeter and does not spill to relatively untouched areas. Nonetheless, there is a lot to improve.

To see for ourselves and research the local conditions as a starting point of our project, we will travel to Gran Canaria and start re-thinking and modifying the typology of a hotel complex and its context: How can we shape it from a closed introvert system, a touristic enclave to an open part of the urban and public realm? How can we change its permeability to introduce social interaction and public programme? How can we encourage street life beyond fake-traditional sceneries?