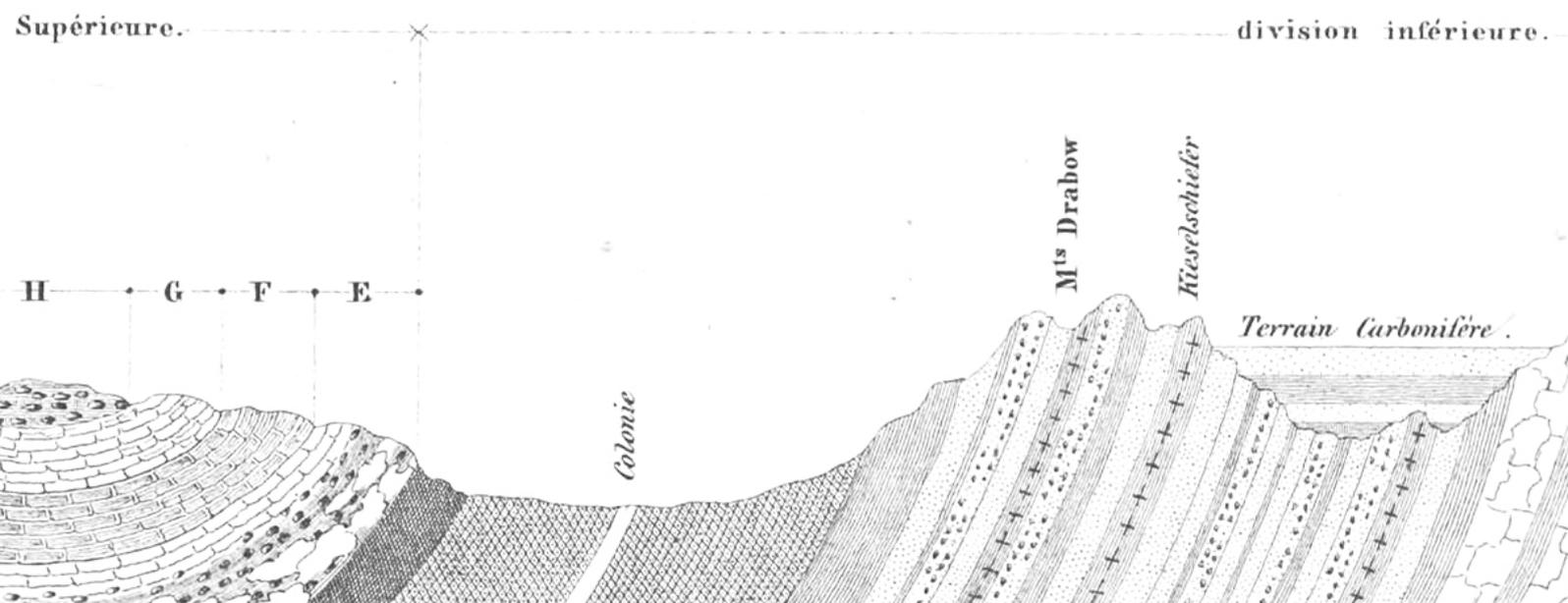
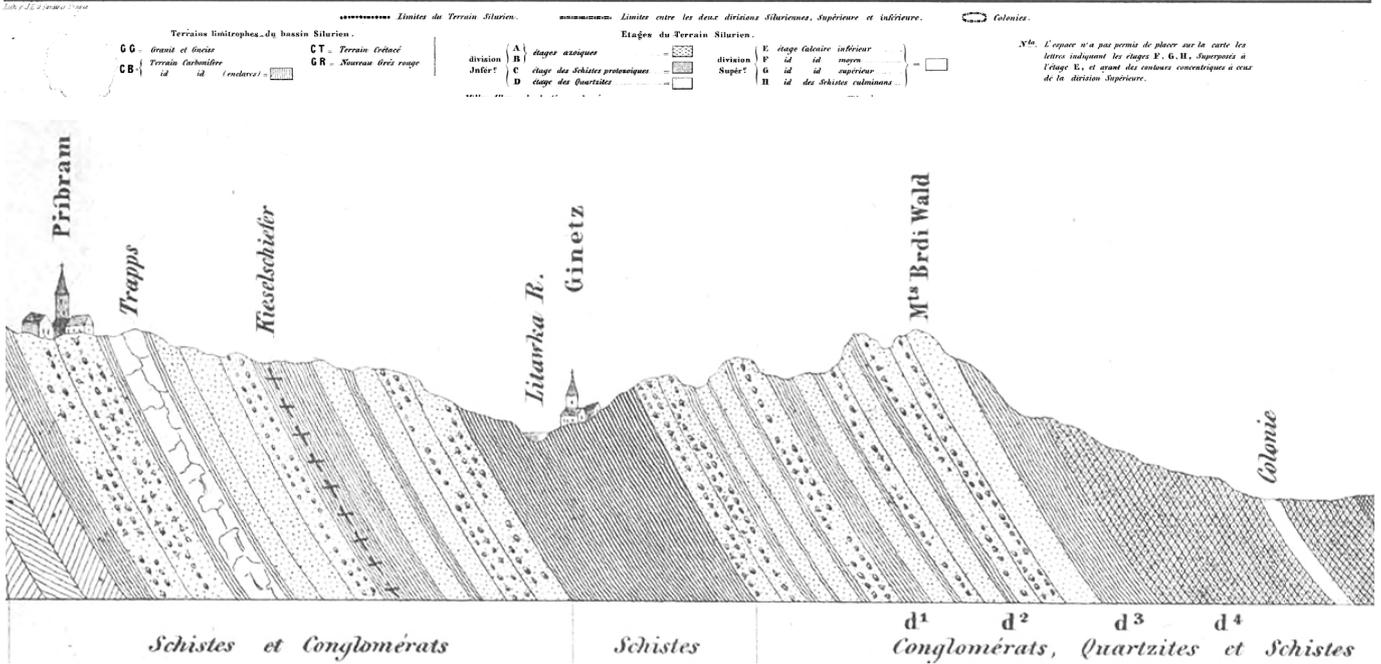
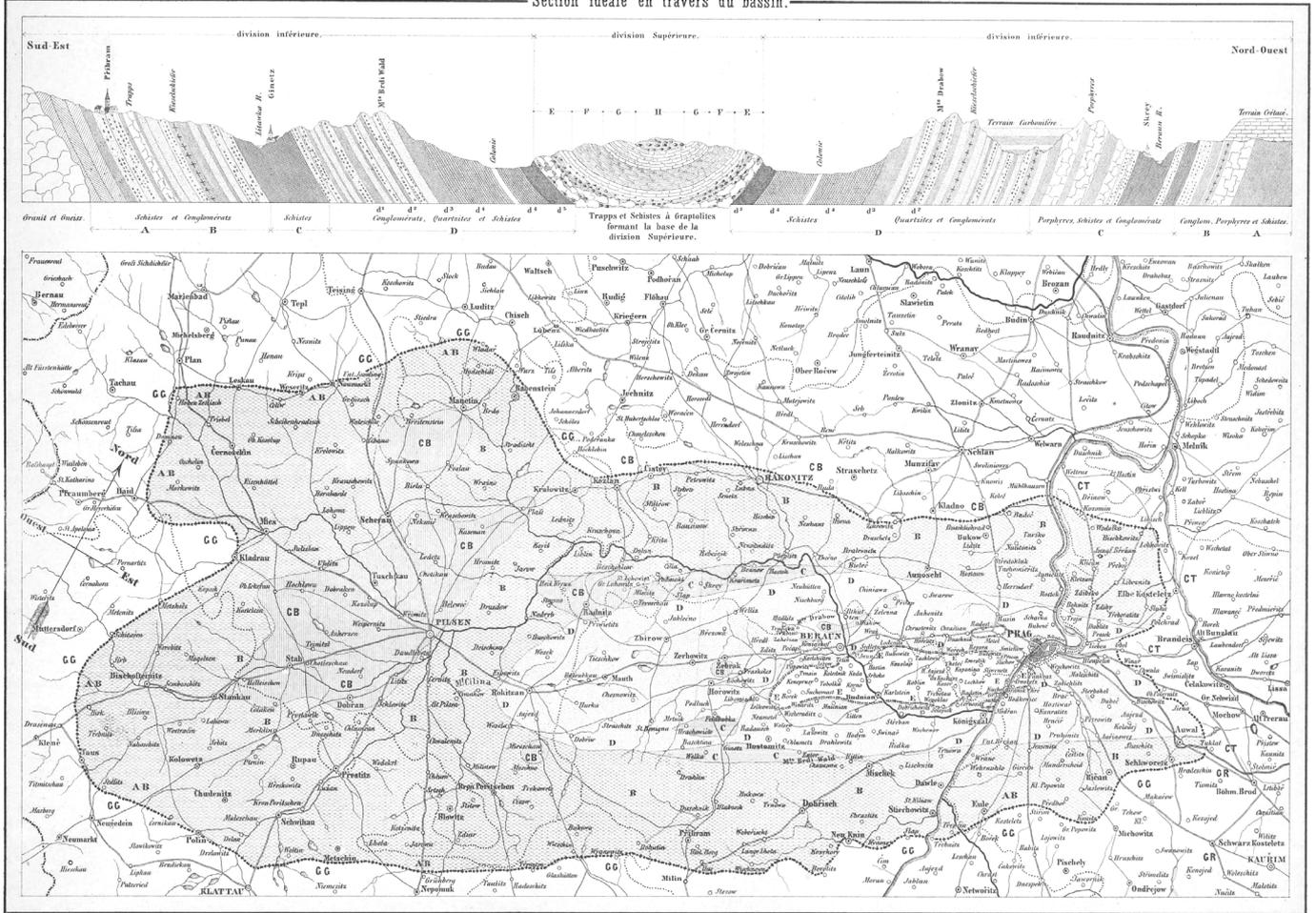


Barrandien



Système Silurien du centre de la Bohême.

Section idéale en travers du bassin.



Système Silurien de la Bohême, Prague basin cross section, Joachim Barrande, 1852

AA Visiting School Prague Overview

Introduction

Welcome to the inaugural AA Visiting School programme in Prague. In this summer course we invite participants to trace the journey of the 19th century naturalist Joachim Barrande through the area now called Barrandov, where sedimentary cliffs and prehistoric remnants intermingle with romantic parks, modernist housing estates, film studios and infrastructure. We will engage with Barrande's meticulously preserved minerals and fossils, studying both the collection and the methods of its curation. In on-site surveys, we will explore and document the dramatic cliffs, the plateaus of the housing estates, and the contemporary landscape of Barrandov's film industry. Finally, we will gather our own 'collections' of drawings, objects and contemporary topographic scans, capturing the valley's geological, palaeontological and historic cultural layers.

Joachim Barrande, a renowned scientist, will serve as our guide—a spatial thinker, engineer, careful observer and masterful drawing artist. Integrating knowledge from a multitude of disciplines, we will build on his approach to develop our own architecture of palaeontology, learning the craft of field mapping, drawing, visual storytelling and the nuanced representation of landscapes and things once living.

Process

The Visiting School will be located in the former house of Joachim Barrande at Vitezna St. 419/15, 15000, Prague, which will provide the base for the course as well as our main workspace, following on a distinct Prague tradition of The Apartment as a site of cultural practice. During the course, we will visit a number of institutions and places to learn, study, and document, including the National Museum Archive, Charles University Geological Library, Barrandov Film Studios, and we will organise a palaeontological walk through Barrande's Prokop Valley.

The programme unfolds across three parallel scales—artefact, valley, and territory—each explored by a dedicated outcome, building on, and redrawing a specific original drawing of Joachim Barrande.

'The Artefact' group will operate at the scale of the object. At the National Museum Depository, we will assist, for the first time, with the scanning of one of Barrande's original specimens. We will gather our own everyday artefacts, rendering them through section drawings and, following Barrande's methods.

'The Valley' group will approach the site as a spatial entity. Through detailed measurement—handheld and drone-based—we will create a new survey of the landscape, speculating on its sectional anatomy. Our reference: a previously unpublished drawing by Barrande, still preserved in his personal diary.

'The Territory' group begins with Barrande's regional lithographic cross-section. From this fragment, we expand outward—mapping the strata, movements, and tectonic flows that link the valley to Prague's broader geological and palaeontological substrate.

Working along these three vectors, we will assemble a composite reading of the area. The variety of techniques—each with its own precision and scope—will allow us to move fluidly between the scales of objects, valley, and territory.

An interdisciplinary group of tutors, scientists, technical partners, and guests will provide participants with guidance in archival research, 3D scanning techniques, and different representational practices. As a final outcome of the programme, we will compile our response to Barrande's collection. At the end of our workshop, Barrande's former house, our base, will be transformed into a site of public exhibition, documenting our collective reading of Barrande's valley and his collection.

Redrawing Barrande's reading of the present and past morphologies, we will survey the common grounds of architecture, geology and palaeontology. As actors in this architectural experiment, we will also become actors in a film. In line with the filmic landscapes of Barrandov and the film-making histories of Barrandov Studios, we have also commissioned the architect and film-maker Juan Benavides to produce a film capturing the inputs, process and results of our shared collective work.



Barrandov Film Studios, Studio 5

Preparation & Planning

There are no software knowledge requirements, however, participants will need a laptop to carry out online research and edit drawings. For this, it is recommended that participants will have Adobe/CAD software installed but this is not essential.

Furthermore, while some tools will also be provided during the programme, participants are also recommended to bring their own drawing tools, such as graphite or charcoal pencils, pens, sketchbooks, etc., as we will be using both digital and analogue methods for surveying and representation.

As the Visiting School does not offer any accommodation. Participants are expected to make their arrangements independently. The area offers an array of accommodation across budgets; from short-term rental services to affordable seasonal student accommodations.

Schedule

Monday, 28 July

Visiting School Kick-off

9:00–12:00

Meeting in the former apartment of Joachim Barrande at Vitezna 419/15, 15000, Prague

Introduction of Assignment and precedents, followed presentation of detailed schedule.

13:00–16:00

Excursion to the Charles University Faculty of Geology Library

Geological walk in Prague with commentary.

17:00

Public lecture by palaeontologist Jan Sklenar at Joachim Barrande's apartment.

Tuesday, 29 July

Step 1: Documenting the Prokop valley

10:00–13:00

Walk through the Prokop valley with a commentary from geologist Jakub Vodicka.

14:00–18:00

On-site introduction and training with 3d scanning tools led by Ondrej Gresla, 3GON

All Participants will partake in documentation of the selected area of the Prokop Valley using static and mobile scanners under the guidance of Ondrej Gresla.

In the meantime, all day, the participants will gather artifacts and elements in the area of the valley and document them using analogue and modern methods.

Wednesday, 30 July

Step 2: Work across scales in groups

9:00–12:00

Students divided into three groups will follow intensive workshops in their respective scales.

15:00–18:00

Visit to the Barrandien Terraces combined with lecture by filmmaker Juan Benavides

Thursday, 31 July

Step 3: Developing drawing sets

9:00–12:00

Introductory presentation by 3GON and collective workshop with Ondrej Gresla on processing point cloud data, editing, and generating different outputs.

Participants will scan their previously collected artefacts and print their drafted outputs on A3 formats.

14:00–19:00

Hand drawing lecture by Miroslav Pazdera at the Academy of Fine Arts.

Participants will transform, add onto, next to and into digital drawing prints.

Friday, 1 August

Interim presentation with guests

9:00–17:00

Collective work in Joachim Barrande's apartment.
Participants will be transforming data into drawings.

Participants will prepare and print their work in progress for afternoon presentation and discussion.

17:00–18:00

Intermediate presentation with Sandra Bartoli.
(ten-minute presentation and ten-minute discussion per group)

18:00–20:00

Public lecture by Sandra Bartoli in Barrande's apartment, followed by dinner

Saturday, 2 August

Individual work in the field or in the apartment of Joachim Barrande / Library / Prokop valley.

Sunday, 3 August

10:00–12:00

We will have an internal pin-up of the work in progress. Participants will have prepared a clear draft of their collective and individual drawing sets.

13:00–18:00

Collective work in Joachim Barrande's apartment with individual tutorials.

Monday, 4 August

9:00–18:00

Collective work in Joachim Barrande's apartment with individual tutorials

Tuesday, 5 August

9:00–18:00

Exhibition design and build. Participants will begin transforming Joachim Barrande's apartment.

Wednesday, 6 August

9:00–16:00

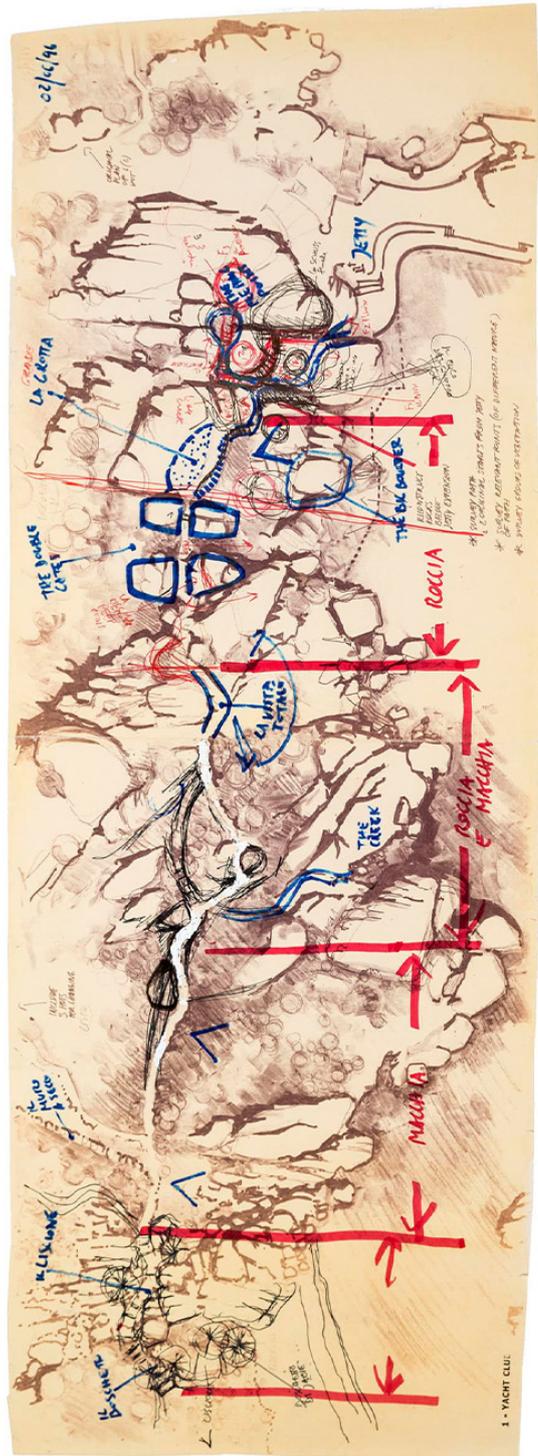
Preparation and installation of the exhibition at the apartment of Joachim Barrande.

17:00–19:00

Final exhibition opening and presentation with invited guests from the Faculty of Architecture, CTU and the Academy of Fine Arts (AVU). (fifteen-minute pre-

sentation and fifteen-minute discussion per group)

Followed by the 'Collection' party in the apartment.



Alberto Ponis, Yacht Club Path, 1965