MSc 1 Landmarks Studio will perform a thorough urban research in order to understand the area’s history and context of a European City, and to identify the Landmarks that are the subject for intervention. The research zooms in from the large scale of the city itself, to the medium scale of the site, to the small scale of the building. The resulting data has to be organized into a comprehensive research book. This serves as basis for argumenting the design brief that, on its turn is a lead for the individual proposals.

What determines a Landmark, is that it exists by virtue of the environment it’s located in and its unique representation, otherwise it would be merely a building. So to understand the true meaning of a specific Landmark, it is important to first identify the contexts to which that Landmark relates. Since Landmarks often are buildings of certain importance or impact, their ‘raison d’etre’ should always be comprehended before analyzing the building itself. Only then the meaning of the building’s intrinsic elements can be understood to the fullest, just as the engine of a car can be understood when taken into account that the car is a means of transportation. All the engine’s components, their movements, dimensions, materials and relations, have that one function.

In the design studio we will dissect existing Landmarks via anatomy, exposing the basic elements that define a building or an ensemble. Through their specific location, function and distinct architecture, Landmarks have become meaningful and recognizable. The city around has changed, but the building has remained and solidified its meaning.

An excursion to Vienna will be part of the programme.

Related courses
AR1CP040 - Complex Projects - Anatomy of a Landmark Seminar

Tutors
Albert Takashi Richters
Stefanos Filippas
Alessandro Arcangeli
Alexander Pols

Code AR1CP010
Credits 12 ECTS
Location Vienna
Excursion Yes
Costs 300 to 500
MSc2 In Cities exposes students to the versatile layers of the city. It promotes speculation, independent thinking and collective work with the aim to position architecture into a broader social, cultural, political and economic context. In this studio, we focus on Shanghai which has grown to become one of the economic centres of the world. This, thanks to the old status as international trading harbour and China’s economic reform in the 90’s. With its growth came political, cultural and technological influence on the country and abroad.

Urban density, an increasingly hostile climate, wealth and modern consumerism have pushed public life into indoor spaces dominated by commercial activity. Privately and state-owned shopping malls and stations have become the new ‘public’ spaces. To understand this phenomenon, we will investigate how this system works and its physical relation to urban landmarks, infrastructure and public transport.

As future architects and urban planners we could question ourselves: ‘what our position in this process can be?’ Can a new generation of public space rise out of what we might consider as ‘junk space’? On the other hand, with the increase of online shopping and a slowing down economy, is there any perspective for the huge amount of declining shopping areas that are an echo of the economic boom?

The MSc 2 studio is a research project on the city, collaborating with CAUP, Tongji University. A 10-days field trip to Shanghai is included. During the trip, there will be lectures and roundtable discussions with local municipality, urban planners, researchers and influential local architects. Back in the studio, students must work both collectively and individually. Studio deliverables contain a collective research and individual presentations. These can include a short movie, installation, collages, models, book, online publications etc. Final projects will be exhibited together with work from CAUP, Tongji University.

Tutors
Yang Zhang

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In AMS MID-City graduation studio Complex Projects will investigate how technological development and big data will affect the City of Amsterdam. Cities need to modernize and evolve to stay relevant in the increasingly competitive landscape. In the near future cities will assume a different physical shape as a result of fast and smart innovations and this shape has to be defined and designed.

For planners/architects/designers, the challenge is to translate the impact of these rapid changes into architectural research and design questions, to bring the topics of Smart to the domain of urban planning and design.

Amsterdam is in a great position to absorb this opportunity (Airport, Harbour, Train, Logistics). It is located in a prime logistical position in Europe there are tremendous opportunities for improving how the cities will develop in the coming decade.

The pivotal research questions are ‘How to deal with the growth of inhabitants and tourists, the extra demand for new housing, infrastructure, data and energy networks, climate change in a time horizon up to 2050?’ and ‘What kind of City do we want?’

In MSc 3/4 Graduation studio all elements of the building and design will be seamlessly integrated into a clear compelling project and based on a clear narrative. The students’ projects will be part of the project URBAN MAKEOVER: AMSTERDAM 2050.

Excursions and workshops Amsterdam and abroad will be part of the programme.

Related courses AR3CP040 - Complex Projects - City of Innovations Seminar