The studio Athens will explore the mutual relationship between urban densification, the public buildings and the public realm as space of (ex)change. Today, the contemporary demands for mixed-use programs make synchronization between the planning and the architectural design within urban transformations a highly important matter. As a consequence, architectural interventions are becoming increasingly complex.

Public Buildings can be perceived as a catalyst for developing culture, in which new building typologies emerge. The construction of an architectural identity and a position vis-à-vis the everyday life, the formal and the informal are part of the investigations and the design brief.

Students are invited to develop an explicit architectural position within this complex context. They will develop strategies and scenarios for the design, composition and materiality of a public building.

The possibility of a public realm within the interior of condensed, hybrid urban blocks is explored by studying specific building typologies and precedents. This enhances searching for new identities, while responding to the heterogeneous characteristics of the urban context.

Today, the crisis of the public space offers the possibility to revitalize the long-lasting tradition of the Greek urban block in search of a New Stoa. A specific site and program will serve as means to define the architectural project with a specific focus on the changing typologies and spatial boundaries at different scale levels.