The Public Building MSc1 studio will explore the exceptional urban and cultural transformations within Athens. Today, the contemporary demands for mixed-use programs make synchronisation between planning and design within urban transformations a highly important matter. As a consequence, architectural interventions are becoming increasingly complex. The studio explores the mutual relationship between urban densification, public buildings and the public realm as space of (ex)change, to construct a future-proof environment. The interaction between scales and solutions is crucial. Such conditions justify our explicit reference to New York. In both cases, the ‘delirious’ attitude refers to the never-ending struggle between the grid and the urban block.

Contemporary 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 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.

Multiplicity in architecture aims to introduce properties to make the architectural interventions less singular in function, more productive, more transformative and resilient. The studio will investigate the transformations of building properties with the aim to construct a future-proof solution that contributes to the development of the public realm.

A specific site and programme will serve to define the architectural project with a specific focus on multiplicity and the changing spatial boundaries at different scale levels.

The Architectural Design Studio and the Building Engineering Studio [AR1A080] are integrated and taught during the first and second quarter to form a coherent whole.