Coming Spring Semester, the Public Building MSc2 studio explores the topic of multiplicity. In collaboration with the Central Government Real Estate Agency, the studio investigates collective spaces that can be publicly shared with urban residents, in order to develop typologies for a new corporate identity for the Dutch State. Different aspects of material and immaterial qualities need to be elaborated, where architecture can both denote and bear cultural significance beyond its spatial limits. Focusing on the urban phenomena of The Hague as ambiguous territory, students will center their attention on the everyday life: the formal and the informal; the notion of constructing identity; and the development of various architectural models and strategies.

Over time, The Hague has always kept a hybrid position. Formalized as a city only in early 19th century, it housed governmental institutions for over centuries. The city’s transformative capacity pays off when reflecting on new types of mixed-use government buildings. The studio brief consists of a multifunctional public building and will focus on the implementation of several experimental ways of exploring, researching and designing with the purpose of reconstructing public identity.