

Methods & Analysis

MSc1 Ways of Doing / MH4_Rotterdam, NL



Photo by Chris Woltjes

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Tutors

Willemijn Wilms Floet
Angeliki Sioli
Pierre Jennen

Code	AR1MET011
Credits	10 ECTS
Location	Rotterdam, NL
Excursion	Yes
Costs	No

The MSc1 design studio 'Ways of Doing' invites students to familiarize themselves with different instruments and methods for the analysis and design of the built environment in post-industrial areas of the Low Countries. These areas often are dominated by large installations, factories, warehouses and offices in different conditions and use, and present architects with challenging social and political questions. In such contexts, the studio aims to explore architectural analysis and design as a means to confront those questions.

Through specific assignments, students will assemble a toolbox with architectural instruments and methods, such as soft-mapping, orthographic sections, urban narratives or spatial 'poems.' This toolbox will be used to analyse the spatial, social and political layers of the context, its atmosphere, infrastructure, and public space; as well as to define sites, programmes, purposes and design strategies for the development of full-fledged architectural interventions.

Analysis will be carried out in groups through a succession of thematic workshops, each focused on particular layers of the context, and on the use of particular instruments and methods. Design will be carried out individually or in groups, through conventional design studio tutorials.

During the 2020 Autumn semester, the design studio Ways of Doing will focus on the industrial MH4 area (Merwe Vierhavens gebied / Merwe Four harbours area) in Rotterdam. The area is facing radical transformation: old factories are now in use by small scale creative industries and many vacant plots and former fruit terminals are being redeveloped. The studio aims to investigate methods of analysis and design for the MH4 in close relationship with people who are working in or on-site.

The Architecture design studio works closely together with the Building Engineering Studios.