

# Methods & Analysis

## MSc\_2 Transdisciplinary Encounters: Architecture, Material Culture and Craft



Spring semester 2020

### Tutors

Klaske Havik  
Jorge Mejia Hernandez  
Lorin Niculae (IMUAI, Bucarest)

Code	AR2MET011
Credits	15 ECTS
Location	Romania
Excursion	Yes
Costs	+/- €500,-

Project type	Multidisciplinary + Practice based
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Approved MSc 2 Architecture design project	Yes
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The MSc2 design studio “Transdisciplinary Encounters” offers a laboratory for students interested in examining the productive relations that can be established between architecture and other disciplines.

These may be artistic disciplines, providing instruments such as literary description, narrative, montage and scenario writing, or disciplines from social sciences, providing fieldwork techniques related to social spatial practices and user behaviour.

The studio encourages students to develop experimental methods of architectural analysis and design from the study of these disciplines in order to obtain innovative instruments and methods for the development of their work, and for the responsible engagement of that work with(in) concrete situations and their inhabitants.

In Spring the studio will take place in the village of Chiojdu, Romania, a place where traditional architecture emerged during centuries of living in harmony with nature.

Still alive, what Christopher Alexander described as the “timeless way of building” is an opportunity to reflect on the richness of “poor” architecture, done with local materials

and age-old building techniques. The use given by anonymous architects to clay, stone and wood has allowed them to achieve powerful architectures based on myth, characterized by respect, and with strong bonds with their landscape.

Students are invited to explore, examine and discover the material culture that supports these architectures in contact with local scholars and craftsmen, and in relation to:

- the rationales that link local architecture with its natural setting
- the forms and configurations employed in their development, and
- the pertinence of elements of this material culture in contemporary architecture, and beyond this particular situation.

The study of these topics will be sparked by an encounter between the disciplines of architecture and anthropology, with a special emphasis on material culture and craft.

Students will have at their disposal local research on the Romanian rural habitat, and will benefit from the expertise of Lorin Niculae, associate professor at IMUAI.