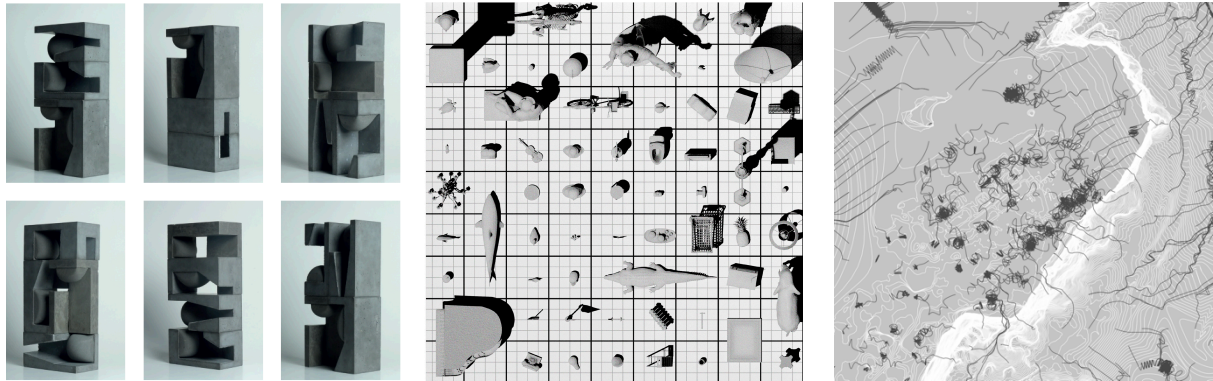


**ARK641, Master's thesis preparation course 3p**  
**Autumn semester, 2020**  
***Matter Space Structure***



*Thesis design studies by Olof Duus, Sara V Olsson, and Maria Lagging.*

This course will be an online course.

**Description and aim**

The purpose of the course is for the students to develop and finalize their project plan. The course prepares the students for their master's thesis under the guidance of assigned examiner(s) and supervisor(s). It explores specific theories and/or design methods associated with a particular niche of architecture and urban design. It trains the students' ability to use design studies, precedent studies, context studies, material studies and/or theoretical texts as a basis for formulating a design problem and/or research query.

Matter Space Structure (MSS) understands architecture as a cultural practice – see the MSS direction description. Moving beyond conceptual and diagrammatic approaches, we are interested in mining spaces, objects, and materials for their aesthetics and phenomenal qualities. Students are encouraged to develop thesis work that engages architectural design and theory in relation to a larger cultural field. References to design work, theory and discourse are mixed and aligned with references to popular culture and current events.

MSS places a special emphasis on architectural representation. Ideas are developed through iterative means of drawing, modeling, prototyping, mapping, etc. This includes but is not limited to transfers between object or material and representation; appropriation of new technologies for representation; uncovering new qualities or aspects of a situation or object through representation; representation as a way to instigate alternative forms of architectural practice.

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## **Method & Process**

The course starts off with an MSS faculty lecture and introduction, and student presentations of first ideas for thesis projects. Feedback on proposals will focus on outlining and delimiting a thesis proposal through references and current issues.

If wanted, we may organize a seminar for discussion of common reference texts with student led presentations. This should happen before the mid review.

Students are encouraged to develop studies of texts in parallel with design studies. Students submit a draft project plan in the mid review and incorporate feedback given in this review. A second draft is presented in the final review, and feedback from this review is dealt with before final hand-in.

Student peer-review will be practiced. For each review, each student is asked to read and comment on another student's thesis proposal.

## **Content and structure**

7 October, 09.00-17.00, lecture and presentation

- The direction faculty give a short lecture
- Students present and get feedback: Ideas, background and relevance to direction.

14th of October 09.00-16.00, Individual work

21<sup>st</sup> of October, 09.00-16.00, Individual work

11<sup>th</sup> of November, deadline 09.00. hand-in for mid-critic on Canvas

11<sup>th</sup> of November, mid-critic

- Students present their draft project plan and receive feedback based on the presentation.

18<sup>th</sup> of November, 09.00-16.00, Individual work

18<sup>th</sup> of November, deadline 17.00, Hand in project plan

25<sup>th</sup> of November 09.00-16.00, Final presentation and feedback

- The examiner has read the project plan and gives feedback

9<sup>th</sup> of December, deadline 12.00, final hand-in for the course on Canvas

9<sup>th</sup> of December, deadline 12.00, final hand-in for initiating the MT term

- Deliver final project plan and registration form
- There will be a folder in the reception on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

13<sup>th</sup> of January, deadline 12.00, Deliver a final project plan for the exhibition

- Starting the master's thesis term
- There will be a folder in the reception on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

## **Submission requirements**

We use Canvas course page for all our deliverances. As the course only has one Canvas page, please make sure you are uploading to the right thesis direction.

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**Specific items to be included in Project Plan at Matter Space Structure:**

Title and subtitle.

200-word abstract / statement.

Background and context.

Optionally alternative forms of writing, such as manifestoes or narratives.

Thesis question(s).

Design studies – drawings, models, materials, etc.

Method and process, including techniques that will be used to develop the thesis.

Optionally a site.

Bibliography with references to texts that support the thesis.

Visual references to relevant architectural projects (built or unbuilt), with images, drawings, etc.

Optionally visual references to relevant work from other disciplines such as art, design, engineering, etc.

Process and timetable for the thesis semester.

Student background, including images of relevant previous works.

**Evaluation criteria**

Grading: Approved / not approved.

In order to pass the course, students must:

Attend all scheduled sessions with faculty.

Submit a project plan for all scheduled hand-ins.

Comply with guidelines given below.

**Abstract and statement**

Gives a succinct overview of the proposed thesis project, including short background and context, process or method, and expected outcome. The abstract should preferably not repeat formulations from the rest of the project plan.

**Background and context**

Defines the field in which the thesis operates. Should relate the thesis proposal to relevant and current design and research, with links made to texts and projects. "Current" means up to ten years old.

**Thesis question(s)**

One or several questions that the thesis will address. Should evidence a good understanding of the background and context as well as proposed process and method. Questions are refined as the thesis progresses.

**Design and material studies**

Early studies of techniques that will be used during the thesis semester. Should be linked to proposed theme and scope of thesis. A study can often be articulated in a series of steps, as a score or recipe. Studies done within the scope of ARK641 will have to be quick

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studies due to the limited time spent in the course. Students that in addition follow ARK258 may include more substantial studies.

**Method and process**

Should name and describe modes of working that will be used in the production of the thesis, such as techniques for representation, studies of form or materials, surveys of sites, mapping, mock-ups, text-based inquiry, consultations with external expertise, etc.

**Bibliography**

Should make the thesis proposal credible. Should contain current references and may in addition contain older or canonical references.

**Visual references**

These references establish precedents for the project for the proposed thesis. A few well-chosen references are usually preferred over an extensive list.

**Literature**

See the MSS thesis direction description.

**Direction faculty**

Daniel Norell, examiner and supervisor  
Naima Callenberg, supervisor  
Jonas Carlson, supervisor  
Peter Christensen, supervisor  
Jens Olsson, supervisor

