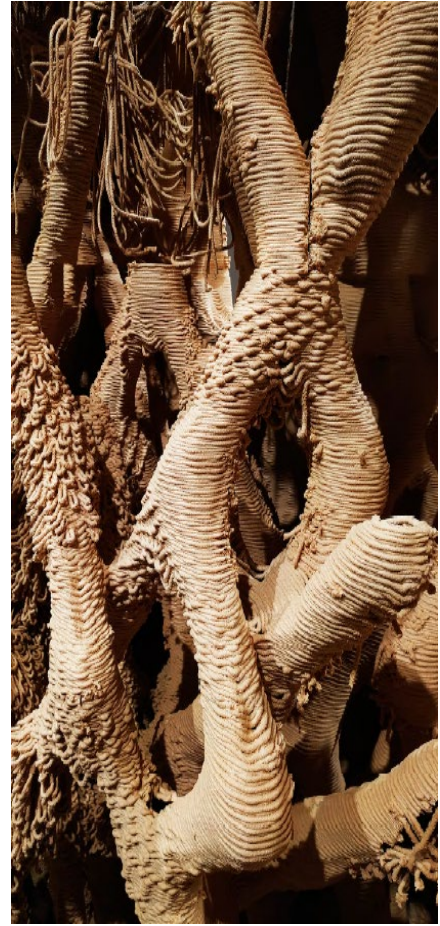
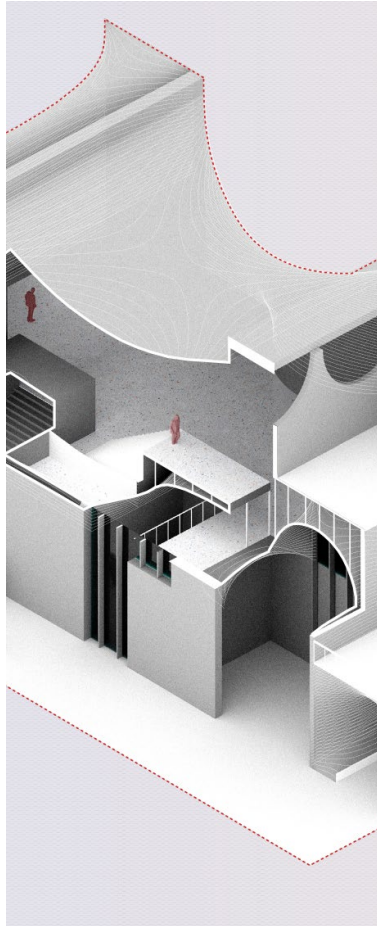


## Course PM - ARK641 Master's thesis preparation course 3p Material Turn - Fall 2020



Material Turn thesis work: Karolina Bloch 2019 (left), Joel Hilmersson (middle) 2019, Material & Detail Studio Compound Cellulose 2019 (right)

### 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. It also prepares the student for the written part of the forthcoming thesis work - the thesis booklet - which is given special care in Material Turn.





Material Turn thesis work: Nuance, Angelina Kjellen & Kalle Hellmark 2020

Material Turn thesis prep students develops a comprehensive project plan that spans from design and/or material studies to writing. Material Turn encourages everyone to define a thesis in relation to a current issue in architecture and to support that thesis with design and/or material studies, references to theory, discourse and projects, as well as references to popular culture and the world at large. Particular emphasis is placed on how *technique* – the way in which architects appropriate and use technology as a design medium in order to draw, model and mock-up – can spur new ideas, methods, and approaches to architectural design.



## Content and structure

The course starts off with a Material Turn faculty presentation and lecture, and students presenting their material and thoughts from the first phase of the master's thesis preparation course. A text and precedent seminar with student led presentations introduces a few common themes and approaches. Students develop text and design and/or material studies in parallel and discuss a first draft of their project plan in desk crit. format in small groups. After incorporating comments on the first draft, students submit a second draft project plan. Comments on second draft are given in a final review presentation, including student peer review, as well as via email / pdf.

- 07 October, 09.00-11.45, Course intro, staff and student presentations
- 07 October, 13.15-17.00, Individual work
- 14 October 09.00-16.00, Individual work
- 21 October 09.00-16.00, Individual work
- 11 November 09.00-11.45, Mid review presentation (hand-in at 9 am)
- 11 November 13.15-17.00, Individual work and text seminar
- 18 November 09.00-17.00, Individual work (hand-in at 5 pm)
- 20 November 13.15-17.00, work on project plan, design and material studies
- 25 November 09.00-16.00, final review project plans w. student peer review
- 09 December, 12 noon submission deadline 12.00, deliverance of registration to the master's thesis term in the Spring, up-load project plan to ping-pong and deliver a paper version of project plan and a registration form. Leave the project plan and the form in a paper-folder in the reception on the 3rd floor.
- 13 January, deadline 12.00 noon, leave a final paper version of the project plan in the reception on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor for archiving and the exhibition (if any).

## Submission requirements

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

Project plan including:

Title and subtitle

200-word abstract/statement

Background and context

Thesis questions

Design and/or material studies

Bibliography/references to texts and work that support the thesis

Method, incl. techniques that will be used in developing design and research

Process and timetable for the thesis semester

Student background

Exhibition

**Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering**

Chalmers University of Technology

412 96 Gothenburg

[www.chalmers.se/arch](http://www.chalmers.se/arch)



The balance between the items in the project plan above is dependent on the nature of the proposed thesis project. A design and technique-oriented project may keep text brief and focus on presenting annotated design and/or material studies.

### **Evaluation criteria's**

Grading: Pass / Fail

Abstract and statement:

Is the abstract/statement giving a succinct overview of the proposed thesis?

Background and context:

Are the background and context relating to relevant and current design and research issues in architecture?

Does it define the field/discourse in which the thesis operates?

Thesis question(s):

Is the thesis question clearly articulated, current and relevant?

Is the thesis question anchored in critical and creative thinking as well as depth of knowledge in the field of architecture?

Design and/or material studies:

Are the design studies relying on a technique that is relevant in relation to the theme and scope of the thesis?

Do they evidence a critical and informed understanding of recent developments in the field?

Bibliography/references:

Is the bibliography and references (compiled in lists) making the thesis credible?

Method:

The method should be described so that it moves beyond a mere wish list of what the project wants to study and achieve. This means describing technology, modes of representation, media, material experiments, site surveys, mock-ups, text-based studies, external expertise, etc. that will be used in developing the thesis.



## Literature and media

Borden, Gail Peter and Michael Meredith. 2012. "Introduction: Foreign Matter." In *Matter: Material Processes in Architectural Production*, 1-6. Oxon: Routledge.

Carpo, Mario. 2017. *The Second Digital Turn: Design Beyond Intelligence*. Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Gross, Matthias. 2010. "Introduction: Brave the Unknown." In *Ignorance and Surprise: Science, Society, and Ecological Design*, 1-10. Cambridge: The MIT Press.

Lavin, Sylvia. 2012. "Vanishing Point: Sylvia Lavin on the Contemporary Pavilion," in *Artforum*, October, 2012: online access.

Reiser, Jesse and Nanako Umemoto. 2006. *Atlas of Novel Tectonics*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press.

Aalto University. 2014. "*Peter Senge: 'Systems Thinking for a Better World' - Aalto Systems Forum 2014*." YouTube video, 1:00:14. December 15, 2014.  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QtQqZ6Q5-o>.

Kaijima, M., Kuroda, J., & Tsukamoto, Y. (2012). *Made in Tokyo*. Tokyo: Kajima Inst. Publ.

Meadows, Donella H. 2010. *Thinking in Systems: a Primer*. London: Earthscan.  
Moussavi, Farshid, and Michael Kubo. 2008. *The Function of Ornament*. Barcelona: Actar

Meadows, Donella. 2017. "*A Philosophical Look at System Dynamics*." YouTube video, 53:18. August 11, 2017. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XL\\_I0oomRTA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XL_I0oomRTA).  
Rendgen, Sandra, and Julius Wiedemann. 2014. *Understanding the World: The Atlas of Infographics*. Cologne (Allemagne): Taschen.

Eisenman, Peter. 1993 (1988). "Architecture and the Crisis of Reality." In *Re:working Eisenman*, 37-39. London: Academy Editions.

Steyerl, Hito. 2016. "A Sea of Data: Apophenia and Pattern (Mis-)Recognition." *E-flux Journal* 72 (April 2016).

## Faculty

Jonas Lundberg, Lecturer – examiner and supervisor  
Kengo Skorick, Artistic senior lecturer – examiner and supervisor  
Jonas Runberger, Artistic professor – supervisor



## TEXT SEMINAR

Due Wednesday, 11 November 13.15-16.00

### Aim

Brief orientation on current takes on representation, matter, materiality, methodology and other issues relevant to Material Turn.

### Assignment

Everyone reads three required texts. Three groups of 2-3 students are responsible for presenting one required text below. All required texts should be read.

Required readings: Borden and Meredith 2012, Gross, Reiser and Umemoto, Carpo (selected chapters – see box folder).

Optional readings: See brief.

Each text is presented verbally by one group for 20 mins. Followed by discussion moderated by Material Turn faculty.

The presentation should focus on making the text understandable. Firstly, what is the most important argument that is being made in the text? Secondly, what are some of the theories, design works, or phenomena used in the text to support that main argument? Each presentation should start with a brief introduction of the author of the text.

Presentations should be accompanied by a slide presentation. This presentation should contain at least one image for every single reference made in the text. For the Gross text, there is no need include all references – select a few of the ones you consider important for the overall argument and focus on those.

### The slide presentation should also contain:

1. A maximum 100-word summary of the text written in the group's own words (no quotes). Imagine that the reader of the summary is not familiar with the text. What is the group's interpretation of and interest in the text? Discuss and write summary.
2. A citation / quote from the text that, in your opinion, best captures the argument being made by the author. Limit citation to 1-3 sentences.
3. A list of 3-5 keywords / important terms being used in the text, with a brief explanation of each.

