

## Course PM, ARK641, Master's thesis preparation course 3p Autumn semester, 2021 Housing

*"...in an infinite universe, anything that could be imagined might somewhere exist."*

*Dean Koontz*

*"Hello, Rabbit,' he said, 'is that you?'  
'Let's pretend it isn't,' said Rabbit, 'and see what happens.'"*

*Winnie the Pooh*

*"all you need is a garden and a room"*

*Louis Kahn*



### Description and aim

The purpose of the course is for the students to develop and finalize **a critically and methodologically informed master's thesis project plan** that allows an examiner to assess the potential and feasibility of the project.

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.

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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.**

## **Method & Process**

Within the direction of Housing, we investigate the built environment from a dwelling perspective. This includes an understanding of the historical development, familiarity with the current field of practice and research, combined with the ambition to address the social, functional and technical challenges we are facing in a changing society. We understand Housing in a wide perspective, and welcome projects with different approaches: design projects and/or research projects.

All projects within the Housing direction should address relevant aspects of sustainability. This could include materials, planning and design principles, construction methods, or new ways of living.

How does your project contribute to making the world a better place?

## **Learning outcomes** *(after completion of the course the student should be able to)*

### Knowledge and understanding

- Define a particular trajectory of design and research in architecture and urban design.
- Define the design media (i.e. specific types of drawings, models, diagrams, software, etc.) and writing style associated with a particular trajectory of design and research in architecture and urban design.
- Discuss their own work in relation to a particular trajectory of design and research in architecture and urban design.

### Abilities and skills

- Plan and structure their own work during the course of the master's thesis.
- Develop a critically and methodologically informed master's thesis project plan that fulfils academic standards.
- Formulate a design problem and/or research query based on design studies, precedent studies, context studies, and / or theoretical texts.
- Demonstrate the ability to move from the personal discourse of a design process to a more formal discourse appropriate for a master's thesis.

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Ability of assessment and attitude

- Understand and promote the importance of drawing from the work of others in order to innovate.

## Content and structure

Students are divided in groups based on assigned master's thesis examiner(s) and supervisor(s). Based on the course plan, each team of examiner(s) and supervisor(s) present their own course description and set of specific deliverables.

The brief and its context is introduced in an introductory presentation. Learning is structured around assignments and/or feedback provided in desk crit sessions. Students work individually or in pairs, depending on how they are planning on pursuing their thesis.

The course consists of an introductory lecture, text and/or precedent studies seminars, and individual feedback. The lecture gives an introduction to the field in which a given thesis direction operates and prepares students for planned learning activities such as seminars. Seminars aid students in mapping and critically reading precedents and/or source texts, and aid students in defining the context for their thesis. Interplay between design studies, precedent studies, context studies and the formulation of text is emphasised, and studies may precede text or the other way around. With the aid of these activities, and in dialogue with the examiner and supervisor, students develop a final draft of their project plan for the master's thesis. The project plan should contain a thesis title, an abstract, a bibliography and a schedule of the master's thesis semester. It should in addition contain design studies, precedent studies, context studies, material studies and/or arguments laid out in writing, as outlined in a course description.

- 6<sup>th</sup> of October, 09.00-17.00, lecture and presentation
  - The teacher gives a short lecture
  - The students present and get feedback
    - Ideas, background and relevance to direction and get feedback
- 13<sup>th</sup> of October 09.00-16.00, Individual work
- 20<sup>st</sup> of October, 09.00-16.00, Individual work
- 10<sup>th</sup> of November , deadline 09.00. hand-in for mid-critic on Canvas
- 10<sup>th</sup> of November , mid-critic
  - The students present their project plan and receives feedback based on the presentation
- 17<sup>th</sup> of November, 09.00-16.00, Individual work
- 17<sup>th</sup> of November, deadline 17.00, Hand in project plan
- 24<sup>th</sup> of November 09.00-16.00, Final presentation and feedback
  - The examiners have read the project plan and gives feedback
- 8<sup>th</sup> of December, deadline 12.00, final hand-in for the course on Canvas
- 8<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
- 12<sup>th</sup> of January, deadline 12.00, Deliver a final project plan for the exhibition
  - Starting the master's thesis term

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## 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.

## Specific requirements to be included in Project Plan at Housing

An abstract, a title, purpose and aim, main questions, theoretical, practice base and inspirational references, methods and process, delimitations, and statement regarding competence and relevance to studio.

All authors are expected to include at least three updated (=published within the last 5 years) and relevant scientific references, and at least one relevant project.

Scientific reference: peer reviewed papers, conference proceedings or similar

All relevant references should be listed at the end of the project plan.

All listed references should be used in the text.

The terms “relevant” and “project” are open to definition by the authors.

## Evaluation criteria's

Grading: Approved / not approved.

Students are required to participate actively in a minimum of 80% of all scheduled activities. The project plan is reviewed and graded after submission at the end of the semester

Successful projects should address a relevant topic, and combine professional architectural and engineering skills with updated knowledge of relevant scientific work within the field of interest, and the current development within the field of practice.

Approved projects should meet at least “acceptable” standard in all aspects

	n/a	Weak	Acceptable	Good
Purpose and aim				
Relevance				
Research question/s				
Scientific references				
Practice based/inspirational references				
Method and process including time plan				
Student competence				

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## **Literature**

Example of previous thesis projects within Housing:

Gustav Jönsson: c/o Masthuggskajen – modern cohousing with focus on sharing and social interaction

Johanna Glán Brinkenberg & Sonja Miettinen: Home free home – a polyvalent approach to housing

Sofia Nordin: Durable temporality – design and temporality in modular architecture

Xiaohui Shi: Post-Pandemic Living – Housing design for possible new residence mode

Victor Ågren & Hans Ola Sjöberg: Wooden it be nice – Challenges and opportunities in modern wooden construction

## **Faculty**

Ola Nylander, professor, examiner

Kaj Granath, architect, PhD, visiting researcher, supervisor

## **Course specific prerequisites**

Minimum 30,0 credits from courses (in principal the first semester of the MPARC or MPDSD master's programme) with architectural design focus or corresponding qualifications. Masters thesis preparation course 1.

Please note limitations for combining Masters thesis preparation course 1 and Masters thesis preparation course 2 with other courses.

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