

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

Building tectonics



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.

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

Individual work aiming for the requirements below, roughly described at the mid crit, more elaborate at the time of the hand in.

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.

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 emphasized,

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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.

- 6th 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
- 13th of October 09.00-16.00, Individual work
- 20st of October, 09.00-16.00, Individual work
- 10th of November, deadline 09.00. hand-in for mid-critic on Canvas
- 10th of November, mid-critic
 - The students present their project plan and receives feedback based on the presentation
- 17th of November, 09.00-16.00, Individual work
- 17th of November, deadline 17.00, Hand in project plan
- 24th of November 09.00-16.00, Final presentation and feedback
 - The examiners have read the project plan and gives feedback
- 8th of December, deadline 12.00, final hand-in for the course on Canvas
- 8th 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 3rd floor
- 12th 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 3rd 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.

Specific requirements to be included in the Project Plan at Building tectonics

- A research question, reference projects, texts and studies (optional) relating to theme of the master thesis direction Building tectonics - the art of handling construction, material and building components as profound means of creating space.
- A site and a site analysis.
- A space program.

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

Literature

- Deplazes, A. (2013) Constructing architecture, Birkhäuser Verlag
- Sergison, J; Bates, S (2016) Sergison Bates Architects: Papers 3, Quart Verlag
- Leupen, B. (2006) Frame and generic space. 010 Publishers, Rotterdam.
- Diener, R; Abram, J; Steinmann, M (20xx) Diener und Diener, Phaidon
- Frampton, K (1995) Studies in Tectonic Culture, MIT Press
- a+u 2016:11, Hermann Czech and the Disappearance of Architecture, Christian Kühn
- a+u 2003:04, Continuity, Interview with David Chipperfield, Ken Tadashi Oshima
- Studio Krucker Bates Building Register, Technische Universität München
- Jallon, J; Napolitano, U (2018) Paris Haussmann, Pavillon de l'Arsenal
- Professur Hans Kollhoff ETH Zürich ed. (2004) Architekturlehre Hans Kollhoff, Niggli Verlag
- Gion A. Caminada, Cul Zuffel d L'aura Dado (2016), Gion A Caminada, Jurg Conzett, Bettina Schlorhauser, Peter Schmid, Martin Tschanz, Quart Verlag

Faculty

Mikael Ekegren is supervisor/examiner.
Björn Gross is supervisor/examiner.

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.

