

MAIB14 design studio

Semester	1
Start week	Wednesday sept 25, 2019
Reviews	Permanent evaluation, mid-review and final review
Credits	15
Studio tutors	Laurens Bekemans, Catherine Mengé

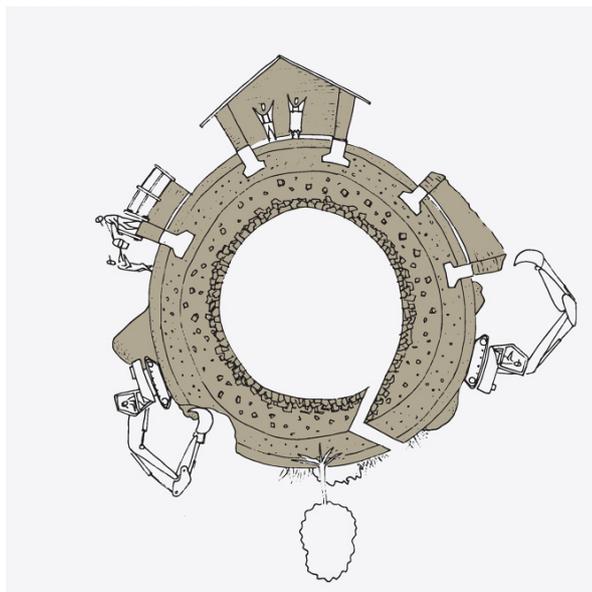
CIRCULARITY AND CRAFTSMANSHIP

CONTENT

The earth is a closed system and our stay here is only temporary. That’s why we need to behave responsibly and consciously deal with everything that makes our stay possible on this planet. However, we have created a system that focuses on continuous, exponential growth, which means that products have to be produced in a more and more increasing amount. That is why many people already argue to organize our economy in a fundamentally different way: where it is no longer about 'take, make and waste' but about a circular economy where we re-use products and where waste becomes a 'new' raw material...

Within this context the pre-industrialized concept of a master-builder might just come back: a professional who goes back to the essence and creatively reuses material in smart spatial solutions. It reflects the idea of an integral approach to architecture, embedded in local context, local materials and local craftsmanship.

The intention of the design studio is to develop a vision on circularity and architecture and to design spatial solutions taking this into account. Furthermore, a workshop will be organized in the laboratory of BC materials¹ where students learn to develop new types of construction materials made with soil from construction sites.



Circular economy is necessary and promising. Due to the energy, materials and climate transition, our environmental laws will soon become stricter. Long transport chains will push up the price of products. Residuals and waste will need to become the resources for tomorrow's economy. This offers opportunities for shorter and closed production chains. These circular chains are most promising in places where many people live: in and around the city³.

¹ <https://www.bcmaterials.org/nl.html>

² Image from BC architects and studies

³ From A Good City Has Industry booklet for the exposition in Bozar in the winter of 2017, written by

DESIGN APPROACH

The studio works with 2 key principles that are connected to sustainable research and design: 'sense of place' and 'materiality'.

On one hand we focus on the sense of a place. We'll try to understand and work with the specificity of the context. With this knowledge students develop a personal but site-anchored (spatial + socio-cultural) architectural project for the chosen site. Both in terms of functionality and materialization the project is celebrating the place.

On the other hand, we'll look into the materiality and craftsmanship of architecture. Everything is embedded. The student is challenged to understand in a holistic way the site and develop affinities with local resources, construction techniques, bioclimatic principles and architectural typologies. These explorations will bring students closer to materials and their constructive features. Bridging the existing gap between architectural education and the craftsmanship of architecture.

AIM

The aim of the design studio is to develop a vision on circular building and the responsibility of architects towards a durable economy and building system. The students will develop their designs as architectural strategies, giving the possibility to adapt their proposals easily to different contexts, programmes and technical necessities.

PROGRAM

An important exercise is the critical definition of the program :

... in relation to the function to accommodate (to learn to simplify and search for the essence)

... in relation to the contextual characteristics (to see the difference between the relevant and the redundant) (to understand how an area can give content to a program) (to learn how to seek for more value for the environment)

... in relation to the reality of sustainability and circularity (to learn to assess the impact of any intervention)

ORGANIZATION

Working method design studio:

1. development of a vision through exploring themes (groupwork)
2. critical understanding of the context and the program (groupwork)
3. research by design: architectural project (individual work)

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Permanent evaluation and reviews

Evaluations are a combination of permanent Design-Studio assessments of students' performance during group- and individual work and close follow-up on development of group-work as well as individual projects. One or more reviews are organized followed by a final and conclusive evaluation on the 29th of May, requiring students to present their work concisely along pre-set common guidelines and minimum output along the entire development of their design project.

Part of the permanent evaluation criteria, students must attend at least 80% of this course's designated 'contact-hours' and engage actively during all sessions. Students found to be regularly absent, or who fail to contribute to the group project and / or to develop their individual project and/or skirt team-based output may be declined participation to the final review.

For the final evaluation, partner institution professors may be invited. Reviews can be presented using various formats such as power-point presentations, desk-crit sessions, exhibitions, peer-reviews, digital delivery, presentation on paper format, discussions, ... Submission procedures and detailed output requirements per review will be communicated at least two weeks prior to presentations and/or final submission dates.

All deliveries are to be handed-in strictly on time and must be in line with requested output criteria to pass this course.

Failure to deliver any requested materials or output of any kind for any sub-task within the given deadlines is without exception considered as 'non-delivered' and will result in a NA mark or Not Participated (Niet Afgelegd).

Students who cannot attain deadlines or attend evaluations / presentations must deliver their task 'as its stands' within the given deadline, either in person, or delivery by a third-party in exchange for an acceptance-receipt.

COMPETENCES

See: https://onderwijsaanbod.kuleuven.be/syllabi/e/A34218E.htm#activetab=doelstellingen_idm2124928

REFERENCES

- The Act of Building, BC architects & studies, Exhibitions International, isbn 978-94-92-567-09-3
- Material Matters, Thomas Rau and Sabine Oberhuber, isbn 978-946-156-22-58
- Fuck concepts! context! San Rocco summer 2012
- Cradle to cradle, Michael Braungart, isbn 978-0-099-535-47-8
- Massive Change, Bruce Mau, Phaidon Press, isbn 978-0714844015
- Towards a phenomenology of architecture, Norberg-Schulz Christian, Genius Loci, Academy editions, 1980
- A good city has industry: http://www.architectureworkroom.eu/documents/ABXL_Bozar_GUIDE_ENG_DEF_webres.pdf
- Missing link iabr: https://www.iabr.nl/en/editie/iabr2018_2020
- How Buildings Learn, Stewart Brand, isbn: 978-0140139969