

## ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-2023

Semester 1 & 2, Campus Sint-Lucas Ghent  
Language: English

**Engagement:** (contested) LEGACY

**MAIG42 Master Dissertation Studio:** arCsus Lab (architecture – Culture – sustainability)

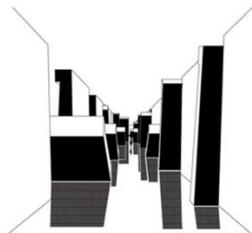
**Academic supervisor:** prof.dr.arch. Marc Dujardin

### 1. The arCsus Lab research theme: in close cooperation with RAAAF

**DESIGNING FROM MUSEUMIZATION TO HARDCORE HERITAGE:** ‘Towards spatio-cultural strategies that provide handles to rethink hopeful and seemingly hopeless vacancies from the perspective of ‘contested LEGACY’.

#### Statement:

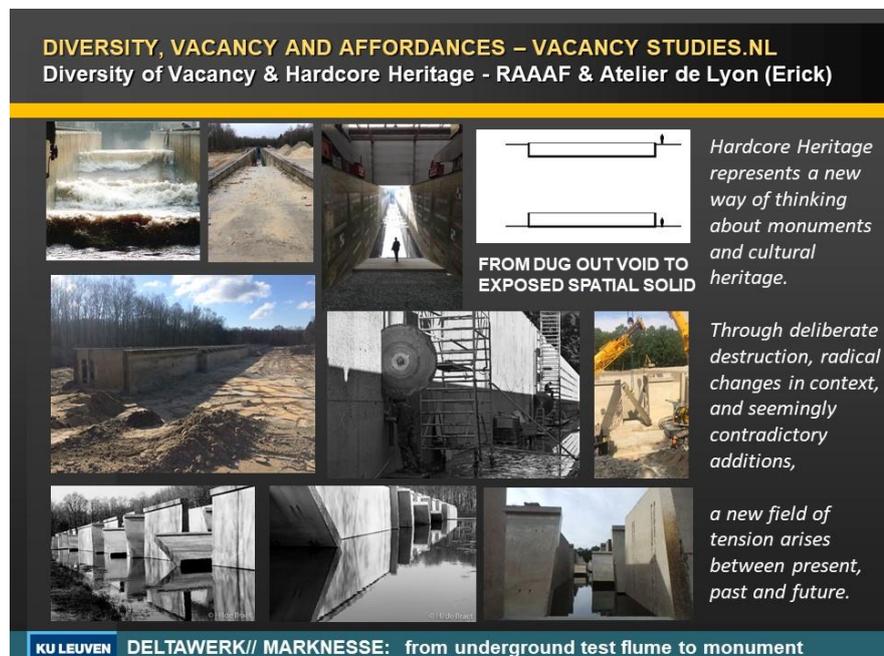
“Hardcore Heritage represents a new way of thinking about monuments and cultural heritage. Through deliberate destruction, radical changes in context, and seemingly contradictory additions, a new field of tension arises between present, past and future.”  
([www.RAAAF.nl](http://www.RAAAF.nl))



Deltawerk //  
Nederlands waterloopkundig laboratorium

Crucial concept sketch for

Deltawerk// (by RAAAF)



Making of Deltawerk// movie: [https://www.raaaf.nl/nl/projects/1005\\_deltawerk/1261](https://www.raaaf.nl/nl/projects/1005_deltawerk/1261)

## 2. The arCsus Lab research modus: our design teaching strategy

The master dissertation tracks, supervised by Marc Dujardin stem from the tutor's approach of architecture and design strategy as 'culture praxis' (Architectural Anthropology & Spatio-Cultural Sustainability) as developed within his 'arCsus Lab' (architecture-CULTURE-sustainability), and complemented by the 'out-of-the-box' thinking and acting of the innovative Amsterdam based RAAAF architects (RIETVELD Architecture-Art-AFfordances).

To shape what is envisaged by the faculty's ADO approach (Academic Design Office), arCsus Lab closely works together with studio since 2016. The synergy and chemistry between the supervisor's academic teaching (MAIG14 and MAIG42) and research from the perspective of Architectural Anthropology, and RAAAF's innovative art based research, centres around the shared theme entitled: "Diversity, Vacancy, Affordances and Hardcore Heritage".

Whenever the 'potential' dimension of architecture as medium of (spatial) communication and mediation is at stake, the role and meaning of culture as key dimension of sustainable development is commonly referred to as 'Cultural Sustainability', the fourth pillar of the sustainability concept (social – economic – environmental). Within this research framework, Architecture is approached as a 'cultural praxis' and draws on the young research field of 'Architectural Anthropology' (Dujardin 2000) and 'Design Anthropology' (Dujardin, Devlieger, 2021). By exploring the interface of space, culture (material and immaterial) and environment (built and natural) emphasizing the mediating role of the designer, one may well refer to as 'Designing for Spatio-Cultural Sustainability' (Spatio-Cultural in Dutch means 'Cultuurruimtelijk').

But above all, arCsus Lab aims at triggering, challenging and inspiring young designers to develop their micro-scale design strategies, interventions and statements from different entry points, conceptual frameworks, perspectives and modes of communication, representation and media. As such, the designer will develop his/her personalized skills to approach architecture in the broadest sense of the word and scale of intervention as a 'cultural praxis'.

As such, within this studio, we will never start with a prefixed program that seeks a place and/or a form. On the contrary, the site of the former factory, within reach and limits of its various intertwining perimeters (relational, contextual, situational, design-based) seeks new narratives and affordances. No (architectural) design proposal (strategy and output) at the end of the design studio can emerge without a profound understanding of the place as an intersection of typical features that made and make up the spatio-cultural identity, content and imagery of this very rich but complex built landscape and fabric.

One, or a combination of international renown theory and practice-based design strategies, initiated by the academic supervisor in close co-operation with RAAAF, may well appeal to and inspire the student to upscale his/her design strategies, tools and frames of reference in relation to architecture, approached as a cultural practice.

They will facilitate the supervisor to understand what kind of designer you are, aims to be, and how you one can develop your personal 'design signature', empowering you with more confidence to play your role as engaged designers of the future: theoretical inputs include Bow-Wow's 'BEHAVIOROLOGY', Wang Shu's 'POETICS & TEACHING INSIDE RUINS', Zumthor's 'LIGHT ARCHITECTURE & ATMOSPHERES', Marcel Smets' 'LANDSCAPE URBANISM', Alan Berger's 'DROSSCAPE', Stefano Boeri's 'MULTIPLICITY LAB', Marc Dujardin's 'CULTURE MATRIX DESIGN', etc..

Taking the student's personal interest and affinities into account, none of the above listed design strategies are compulsory, dogmatic or conventional. **None of the design strategies, mentioned above, will be enforced as a methodology to follow or adopt.** Intensive design-based consults and peer reviews will enable the student to evolve as well informed, deeply moved creative 'scenographers' in the field of architecture and spatio-cultural sustainability.

However, from the vision and skills of the designer, **-the master dissertation in architecture is pre-eminently a DESIGN studio after all-**, the arCsus Lab team will focus on selective project sites in Belgium, The Netherlands and abroad.

For those students taking up an internship or exchange program abroad (European or Trans-European) in semester one, and willing to finalize their locally initiated master dissertation within the arCsusLab research modus, we welcome 'personalized' project topics and case studies, derived from local debates on vacancies and heritage issues.

In the past years we have also welcomed proposals stemming from a student's home country (e.g. Tripoli, Alexandria, Istanbul, Janjeva, Rio, ....).

Essential to and shared by arCsusLab and RAAAF is the possibility and approval to conduct 'fieldwork' at the project sites selected. In these unreal times of Covid-19, rapidly changing measures and restrictions of national and international mobility, socializing and bubbling impact both the final choice of site location and the operational framework of our design studio.

### 3. arCsus Lab design studio sub-theme: MAIG42 MD – 2022-2023

*"From unintentional monument to spatio-cultural crossover: re-designing a seemingly hopeful or hopeless vacancy from the perspective of hardcore heritage."*

From our side, we propose the "DAMEN" Ship repair site, located West of the 'Kraanspoor' building and marina, and the former NDSM shipyard, object of previous arCsus Lab-RAAAF honoured master dissertations (see copyright free picture CC 4.0 creative commons below).



The future of this particular shipyard uncertain because of an old law dating back to 1896.

Buying land in Amsterdam is almost impossible, because land in Amsterdam is owned by the municipality. The municipality of Amsterdam rents out this land to homeowners. This is called leasehold. the price for the ground lease differs per location in Amsterdam. (source: <https://milanium.nl/grond-kopen-amsterdam/>).

Despite various design-gearred strategies to counterposing the vision of the City of Amsterdam to terminate the leasehold of DAMEN SHIPREPAIR, and merely reconvert the shipyard area into a predominant residential waterfront area, the DAMEN management came up with a detailed urban and architectural plan proposal (Droogburo Architects) opting for co-habitation of industrial and residential programs.

If not, the entire Shipyard will have to be vacated the and move to another location, outside Amsterdam.

However, this peculiar and famous shipyard, as indivisible part of Amsterdam's DNA, might have a crucial role to play to address climate change issues (rising of the water level in the decennia to come) that will severely affect life in Amsterdam.

In his outstanding master dissertation *"From Sixhaven to Safe haven Flood risk imageries: Designing strategic and multimodal flood resilient architectures for impending departures from Amsterdam's flood plains in and around the port of Sixhaven"* (2018-2019), Maxim Lefebvre may well be inspirational to read, map, prioritize and position the entirety of DAMEN SHIPYARD (material and immaterial, expertise and dynamics,..) from this perspective. We may come to the conclusion (?) that unexpectedly, DAMEN becomes an important stakeholder and (world)player in rethinking, facilitating and construction 'architectural explorations' that go much further than the conventional 'place-making' strategies that 'segregate' rather than 'connect' seemingly incompatible activities.

From our perspective of 'contested legacy' and 'hardcore heritage', - at mentioned earlier-, the challenge is to evolve towards spatio-cultural strategies that may reconnect the Shipyard's past, present and future development as thinking and testing ground to create synergies and interdependencies between all stakeholders involved.

The DAMEN SHIPREPAIR site is active and gated. This means a ISPS location for which registration is required to visit.

A first exploration of the wider context of the shipyard complex will be done on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022. We will reach the site from the NDSM site and KRAANSPOOR building and view the shipyard from HELLING 7, the only part of the DAMEN site that is made accessible for visitors.

A guided visit is scheduled on Friday November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 as part of an intensive study trip from Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> through Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (atelierweek).

Timing visit: from 10h00 to 12h00:

1. Presentation of 30 to 45 minutes.
2. Guided tour of 45 minutes to an hour.
3. This visit will be guided by mr. Harco GROEN, HSEQ Manager, DAMEN SHIPREPAIR, and the academic supervisor.

Hereunder a few interesting links.

1. Future vision on DAMEN SHIPYARD by DROOGBURO architects  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ao9NOyisPuY>
2. Intro video DAMEN SHIPYARD (in Dutch)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4V9rl5YBq3o>
3. Website DROOGBURO architects.  
<https://www.droogburo.nl/>

<b>4. The arCsus Lab deliverables and evaluation format:</b>
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### **Evaluation format & timing:**

The evaluation will assess the aspects as formulated above, i.e. the process and the final production.

Criteria: see ECTS file and competence matrix.

The output will be presented on a weekly basis by the student, and in intermediary reviews in the presence of the whole group (reviews) and evaluated. The teaching and coaching of design studio will be a combination of campus related and online teaching.

The reviews will be peer review, up-liner review by guest critics and academic review by the professors and experts.

Midterm review (online or on campus): week 8

Deliverables for external jury (online or on campus): June 2023

### **Deliverables:**

Research-based posters & scale models.

Reflection paper

Video production of max. 15 minutes.

Two A1 research posters

One A4 Crucial image and abstract

Mixed media outputs for online and or on campus presentations.