

Assignment file

MARB42 REAL LIFE



Semester	1+2
Campus	brussels
ECTS Study Points	30
Titular	Harold Fallon
Teachers	Sophie Laenen + Harold Fallon

learning outcomes

The learning outcomes illustrate the goals of the course of the assignment. They can be found in the ECTS course description.

contents and approach

“The heritage of many social housing in Brussels has reached a turning point: the life cycle of various materials is coming to an end, the integration of housing in the urban fabric needs reviewing, the habitability and functionality of buildings deserve broader reflection, ...”
BMA Bouwmeester Maître Architecte, 2021

This studio is based upon real life tenders launched by the team of the Bouwmeester Maître Architecte (BMA) regarding the future of existing social housing buildings and sites, framing in a broader reflection about the future of “recent heritage” in the city, the should I stay or should I go debates and the contemporary topics of circularity and reuse. Social housing implies a series of additional topics, such as the possible continued presence of inhabitants, social and or programmatic diversity, public space and urbanity, analyzing and challenging the typologies, spatial and social interaction, etc.

The studies on these recent tenders are currently ongoing, which means that the studios can contribute to ongoing reflections and that interaction with real stakeholders are possible. Beyond the possibility of one-to-one contacts, this studio is an opportunity for debate and exchange. You will be invited to support and take part. During the semester, a couple of debate evening could be organized. After the studio, there may be the opportunity of a publication or exhibition.

the Master Dissertation studio is Brussels-based (MARB) and the Master 1 studio is Ghent-based (MARG). Students of both studios will join forces on

the same sites. The studios will be run between both locations. MARG and MARB will work as a team. In the first semester, MARB will prepare the work. In the second semester MARG will fuel the process by parallel explorations following the ongoing projects of MARB. Towards the end, MARB and MARG will work together for the final output. MARG is welcome to MARB juries and vice-versa.

necessary materials

proposals to fill up:

Sergison Bates architects: On and Around Architecture – Ten Conversations

Gerold Kunz, Hilar Stadler, Jonathan Sergison, Stephen Bates, Mark Tuff

Biennale architettura Venezia 2021: How Will We Live Together (+ Catalogue Participating Countries)

Lacaton & Vassal 1991-2021 (Arquitectura Viva)

The Bones of Architecture, Structure and Design Practices
Mario Rinke, 2019

timing

During semester 1, MARB will prepare the work and establish a position for the project. This period is crucial for the project. It includes thorough documentation, close observation of the reality and projection towards an attitude for a project.

MARB SEM 1 - Manifesto, Theory, Observation

Three short texts, three times 1000 words about the context, architecture, society, the world. At the same time universal and specific. Manifesto : the project as an opportunity to commit to a meaningful attitude towards society, inhabitants, neighborhood, economy, environment.

Theory : the existing as an opportunity to a renewed understanding of architecture as a discipline and theoretical field.

Observation : understanding the reality of construction as the necessary base of future action. About limitations and potentials.

MARB SEM 1 : Sketch book

One sketch book, one four color ballpoint. Or maybe it is a set of color pencils. Or is it an ink pen? At the end of the semester, the sketch book is full. Details, plans, sections, fragments, structure, scenes from the everyday life, the context. It is a subjective look on things as they are, or as you perceive them. It is informative and inspiring. Maybe there are already some Maybe it is 1/50. It is incredibly detailed, every flower pot, every plank, every brick is drawn. It is informative and inspiring.

MARB SEM 2 – This semester is a regular design studio with the characteristic of the interaction with the Master Studio in Ghent (details see below)

MARB SEM 2 - Sudden Change

As things happen in real life, a Sudden Change will occur somewhere at the end of the beginning of the second semester. This change is likely to be programmatic. It could be the integration of specific types of housing, of collective facilities such as a kindergarten or a library or an augmentation of the density. And maybe there is no Sudden Change at all. This is not meant to question the first project, it is rather an opportunity to give it a turn. In this sense, adaptability should be anticipated from the beginning.

MARB MARG SEM 2 (provisional)

W1 Joint Studio in Brussels (presentation and pairing)

W2 separate studios in Brussels and Ghent

W3 Joint Studio in Brussels

W4 separate studios in Brussels and Ghent

W5 Joint Studio in Brussels (REVIEW - Sudden Change)

W6 separate studios in Brussels and Ghent

W7 Joint Studio in Ghent

W8 separate studios in Brussels and Ghent

W9 Joint Studio in Brussels (REVIEW)

W10 separate studios in Brussels and Ghent

W11 Joint Studio in Brussels

W12 separate studios in Brussels and Ghent

W13 Joint Studio in Brussels (final REVIEW before jury)

ideas for interventions. A good start for a project.

MARB SEM 1 - Photographic Survey

A photographic survey conceived as a work on its own. There is a subtle balance between the documentary value of the pictures to which you can refer, and the expressive value which can inspire you. This is about careful choice, precise framing and delicate edition. At the end of the semester, about 12 pictures are selected.

MARB SEM 1 : Perspective section

One large scale perspective section. Maybe CAD, maybe drawn by hand. This is about the detailed constructive reality and about the life in the building as is it today. Or as you imagine them. We could define a scale.

procedure of evaluation

Partly by an external and independent jury based on the OUTPUT;

Partly for the studio work by teaching team, this is a unique quotation based on the work of both semesters, not the result of the addition of partial results.

The evaluation is achieved in consultation with the relevant teachers on the whole of the assignments/sub-tasks: Reviews and final presentation.

evaluation criteria

Quality of the design proposal in regard of the sense of realism and ambition on all aspects covered (theory, commitment, architecture);

Quality of the representation (scale model, drawings, sketches, collages)

Quality of the engagement in a multidisciplinary context

output, deadlines and formal criteria

The output of Semester 1 is described above.

The output of semester 2 will be defined in common agreement depending on the nature of the work. It will include : a written and illustrated document and design proposals including scale models, plans, sections, drawings, collages, etc.