

# **The Radicant II: Solitude**

**European Quarter, Brussels**

**Studio Cecilia Chiappini**

Preliminary Brief - 22<sup>th</sup> January 2021

maib24 2020-2021, Semester 2

Urban Cultures Engagement

International Master of Science in Architecture

**Faculty of Architecture, Campus Sint-Lucas Brussels, KU Leuven**

## Studio

This design studio lead by Cecilia Chiappini proposes a three-folded inquire. On the one hand, it starts by the concept of the radican (1), continuing the previous experience of the maib24 2019-2020 (led with Caroline Sohie around the topic of migration)<sup>1</sup>. Then, it accentuates the experiential level by crossing it with solitude (2), and proposing a tool to explore the links with urban spaces (in collaboration with Maurizio Scarciglia). Finally, it explores the way such concepts can relate to large urban transformations<sup>2</sup> (3), in this sense, as part of a series of design studios focused on the capability of infrastructural transformations to unlock urban developments of high density (in remote contexts under hyper-transformation in the frame of maib34).

Usually, the design studio addresses the question of how infrastructure can potentially generate spaces of social interactions in which urban complexity and conflicts can be celebrated (referred as spaces of collectivities). This is broadly associated with “lively” urban spaces.<sup>3</sup> In contrast, now, the proposal is to rethink the meaning of high-density and new ways of living, in combination with a new understanding of urban qualities, relations between private-public and collective spaces. The focus is on the new articulations of domestic and everyday life experiences triggered by the lock-downs and the pandemic. In this case, starting by the *lack of interactions* and by the variety of implications in recalibrating the space of residence as starting spatial frame for (social, virtual, restrictive) interactions.

Based on this, the students will produce an architectural-urban design-case proposal based on their inquiries on a specific location, starting by the provocation of a project under development.<sup>4</sup> This semester’s location is the transformations of the European Quarter of Brussels.

Here, the *Projet Urbain Loi (PUL)*, aims at providing 880.000 m<sup>2</sup> of new built space in this area. Further, the *Loi 130 Project* makes this ambitions concrete, with the construction of towers of 190,000 m<sup>2</sup> that have just been assigned by competition.

*How can such ambitious projects for urban transformation be put under question when most of the activities are done remotely, leading to empty offices and apartments? How does such a contrast help us re-imagine ways of building living and working spaces with an accent of new ways of interacting?*

Evidently, the background of the inquiries is the worldwide situation triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic, making it more urgent to rethink the way we live together in high density contexts, and how we transform them and keep them open to new, unexpected, circumstances.

During an intensive research-design studio, students will discuss conceptual issues, develop and test explorative tools to address the issues at stake, especially looking at “film narratives” to explore the link between solitude and urban and domestic spaces; in combination with site research based on “expectations, materialisations and appropriations,” around infrastructures and collectivities. The “learning from...” approach is tested transversally.<sup>5</sup>

The modality of the design studio is partially remote, partially presential, and the main objective is to generate urban design and architecture devices, and strategic plans, that particularly look at (inter)cultural dimension of urban spaces. In this, each student is to put in place a coherent research and design process, to define and prove a critical point of view, translated into design understood in broad sense.

---

1 See: The Radican, maib24 2019-2020

2 As developed in close relation with the tutor’s PhD-research on Infrastructures under Transformation as Spaces of Collectivities”

3 The concept of livability is related to rankings to measure certain parameters that will be developed further and addressed during the semester.

4 Previously, the design studios have addressed Buenos Aires, Barcelona and Brussels. For references, see particularly Brussels: Soojeong Kwon: <https://app.box.com/s/v3lho5we753j9ca3yu6md4kh5to6b9hi> (maib14 2017-2018), Saeki Tatsuya: <https://app.box.com/s/eyeun2psbcsm-9wfar55ci3modc9ho8ph> (maib14 2016-2017). Toni Popovski (maib24 2016-17)

5 Inspired by Learning from Las Vegas and Made in Tokyo. See References.

## 1. The Radicant

*“To be radicant means setting one’s roots in motion, staging them in heterogeneous contexts and formats, denying them the power to completely define one’s identity, translating ideas, transcoding images, transplanting behaviours, exchanging rather than imposing”*<sup>6</sup>

The studio responds to our society in flux and explores how migration influences stories, objects, cultures and the ecosystems of cities. Migration is also interrogated as a function of the mind as migratory history is inscribed in our consciousness and informs how we perceive, reason and act within social settings.

The studio will look through the prism of radicant<sup>7</sup> cultural production, a concept Bourriaud (2009) introduced to frame the emergence of a global modernity. He views twentieth century modernism largely founded on the idea of radicality and purification, in which society attempts to return to the origin with the aim of rediscovering their essence and rewriting their manifesto.

Countering this radicalism, Bourriaud advocates the emergence of an alter-modernity, an epoch defined by a worldwide culture which is radicant, born of differences and singularities, instead of re-enrooting in purist identities or the standardisation of imaginations decreed by capitalist globalisation.

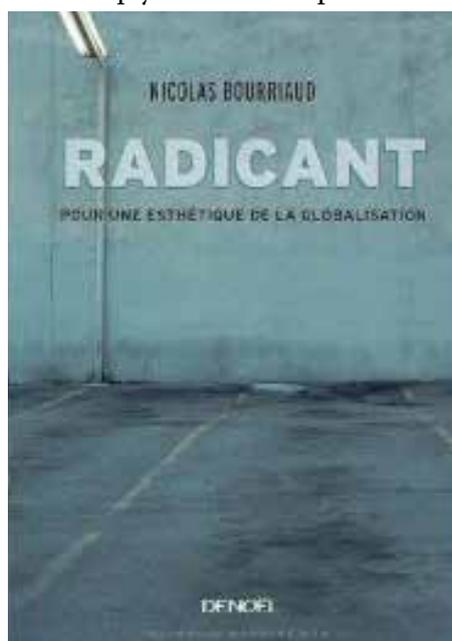
The studio investigates the position of architecture in an era of multi-culturalism, in an age of hybridization, of cross-fertilization between traditions and modus operandi, of transient existence and global networks.

Architecture is not only a product but acts to various extents as a mediator in the dynamic relations between consciousness and context. To understand the opportunities and needs as architects, we must fully explore this distinction.

The studio will interrogate and dissect the complex dynamics that underpin a Brussels neighbourhood with a large migrant component; the scientific, the poetic and the imaginary.

The process of design is set out as trajectory of interrogating, translating and transcoding. We strive towards producing a public architectural proposition which is fully networked into its urban ecosystem; a meaningful public construct which allows for a multitude of subjectivities.<sup>8</sup>

The **Radicant II** design studio (maib 24 2020-2021) steps on the explorations of previous year’s design studio conducted by Cecilia Chiappini and Caroline Sohie (maib24 2019-2020) and expands this further by crossing the concept with an other strong concept that deeply affects the experience of domestic and urban spaces: **solitude**.



6 BOURRIAUD, N. *The Radicant*, Sternberg Press, 2009. ISBN 978-1-933128-42-9. Translated by James Gussen and Lili Porten.

7 'Radicant' is a botanical term for organisms whose roots form new roots while growing, such as Ivy.

8 Extracts from the maib24 2019-2020 brief produced in collaboration with Caroline Sohie (KU Leuven)

## 2. Solitude

“Solitude is the *quality or state of being alone or remote from society.*”<sup>1</sup> Eventually, this state may lead to loneliness, the *feeling* of isolation.” The studio takes the concepts of solitude and loneliness as the second entry door to explore the city.

These concepts are investigated by using story telling in films. The starting point is a series of proposed films, such as *Her* by Spike Jonze (USA, 2013) and *Party Time* by Jaque Tati (France, 1967).

These films illustrate different ways of bridging domestic and urban spaces, with everyday life experiences by presenting dystopic, futuristic or exaggerated circumstances. For example, in “*Her*”, “*the film tells the story of a man who develops a relationship with an artificially intelligent virtual assistant personified through a female voice.*” (...) “*Similarly, in Playtime (Jaque Tati, 1958), Monsieur Hulot has been offered a new job as an office clerk at a large company located in a skyscraper. Hulot gets lost in a labyrinth of modern architecture. He goes to the office building for the job interview; however, the business owner is so busy that he completely ignores Hulot and walks away. Hulot loses himself in the hustle and bustle of the office. He decides to visit the city on his own.*”<sup>2</sup>

The studio proposes to look at these movies, together with *Taxi Driver* by Martin Scorsese (USA, 1976) and *Aquarius* by Kleber Mendonça Filho (Brazil–France, 2016) to investigate the issues of solitude and loneliness in different ways and techniques.

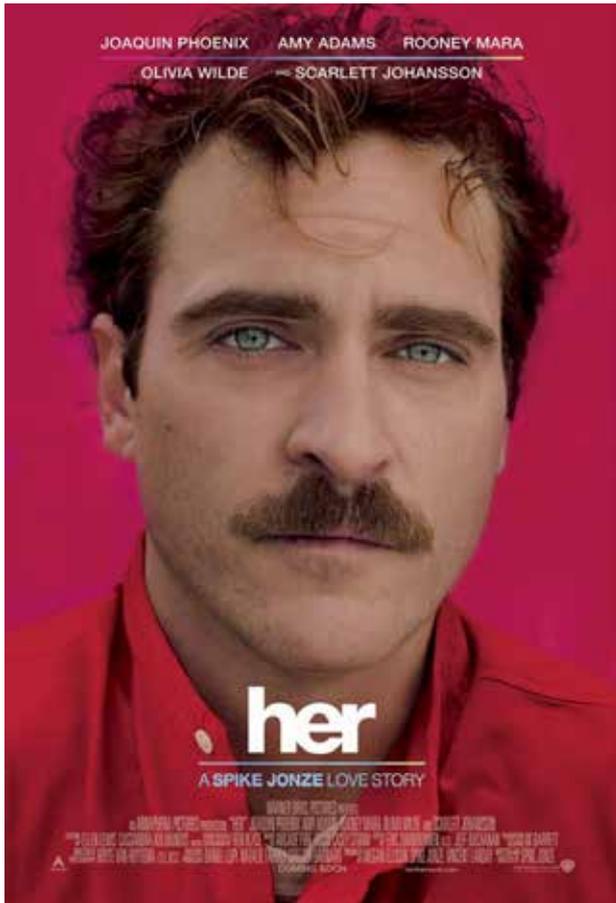
While the students are encouraged to proposed further films, Arch. Maurizio Scarciglia<sup>3</sup> will assist us in developing this exploration tool. Further, in relation with the concept of radican, the studio will best and explore the implications for a concrete area of Brussels, the European Quarter.

---

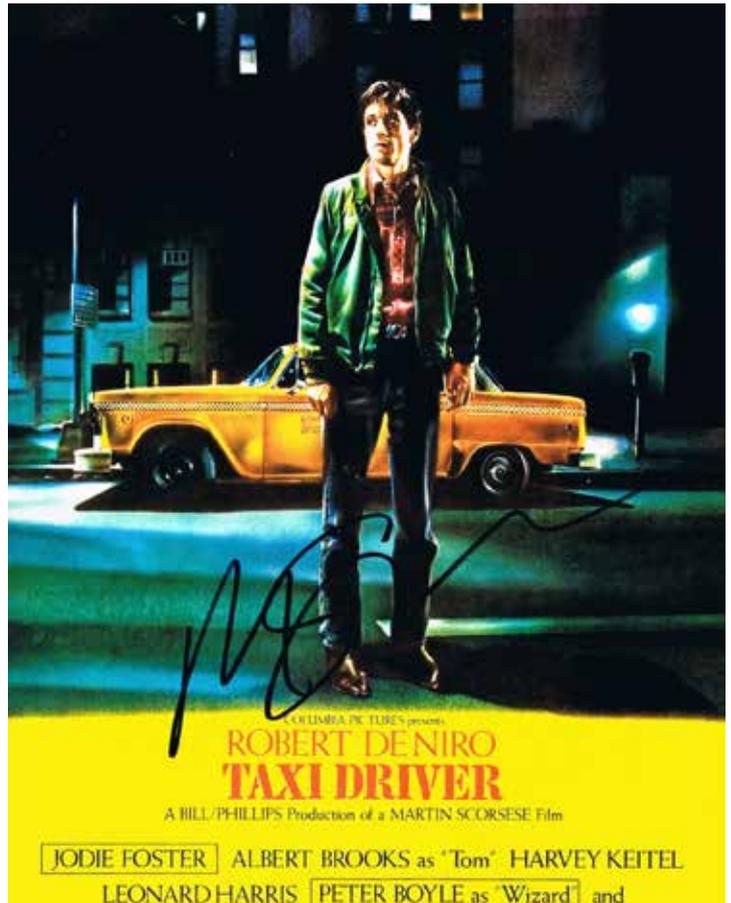
1 Merriam Webster Dictionary. Available: <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/solitude>, (accessed 24/01/2021).

2 Extract from “Loneliness in the city: a new epidemic. A view on how the future city will take care of the mental health of its inhabitants.” By Maurizio Scarciglia

3 From the Breda University and the private practice NAUTA (The Netherlands): [www.nauta17.com](http://www.nauta17.com) and <https://www.buas.nl/over-breda-university-of-applied-sciences>



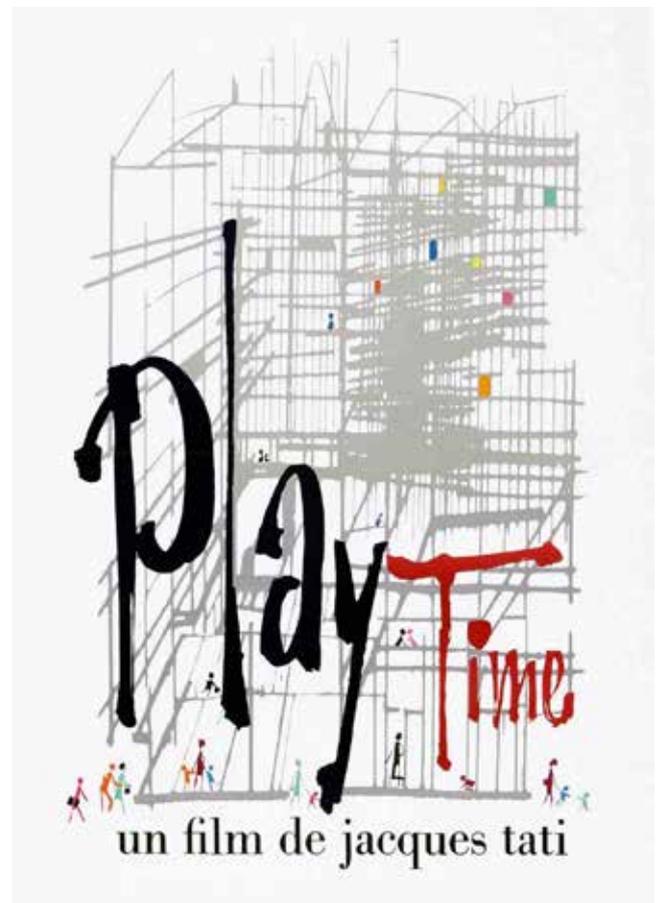
Her by Spike Jonze (USA, 2013)



Taxi Driver by Martin Scorsese (USA, 1976)



Aquarius by Kleber Mendonça Filho (Brazil-France, 2016)



Party Time by Jaque Tati (France, 1967)

### 3. European Quarter, Brussels

*“In 1958, following the Treaty of Rome, Brussels became the temporary seat of the European Commission. (...) In 1992, during the Edinburgh European Council, it was decided that most Commission departments would remain in Brussels. Today, one of the most important actors in the European quarter is the European Commission, which has a significant portion of its offices located there.” (...)*

*“(...) In 2008, the Brussels-Capital Region adopted a development plan (Schéma directeur pour le Quartier européen) designed to re-energise the European quarter. The *Projet Urbain Loi (PUL)* is the result of a town planning competition organised by the region’s authorities. The project intended to improve the urban quality of the rue de la Loi area by creating a neighbourhood where offices, housing, retail and public spaces coexist harmoniously. (...) Through the *Loi 130 project*, the Commission is supporting the efforts of the Brussels-Capital Region to make the European quarter a more attractive neighbourhood for all citizens.”<sup>1</sup>*

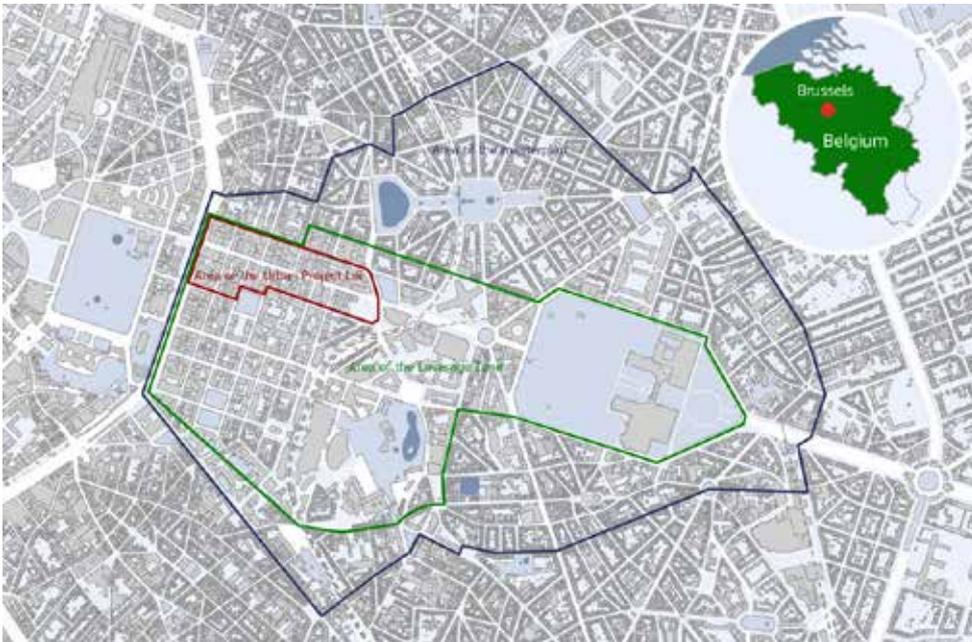
How contrasting are these words of optimism and future developments with the situation of lock-down and isolation we have been experiencing for about a year already, with no clear signs of resolution.

This design studio wants to address precisely the correlation between the big expectations on the city, incarnated in large development projects, and the altered everyday life of each of us in which solitude, the feelings of isolation and loneliness seem to be growing.

*How are the repetitive lock-dows affecting the way we understand our domestic spaces and those of the city?*

As part of 12 urban and architectonic projects, the *Projet Urbain Loi (PUL)* aims at providing a total surface of 880.000 m<sup>2</sup>, of which 110.000m<sup>2</sup> constitute new housing, 60.000m<sup>2</sup> are shops and public facilities and 240.000 m<sup>2</sup> are new offices. As part of it, and recently assigned by an architectural competition, the *Loi 130 Project* makes this ambitions concrete, with the construction of towers where 175,000 to 190,000 m<sup>2</sup> of Gross floor area are to be built by 2030, expected to host about 5,250 people, 2 childcare centres and a visitor centre for an estimated amount of 345,000 people a year, next to 3,000 m<sup>2</sup> of restaurants and shops and public spaces with green areas. The promotion material puts an accent on the new entrance to Maelbeek metro station, and to the “*highest possible level of security*” that the complex is to acquire.

*Can can some of the perverse logics of urban re-development be questioned by new insights on domestic and urban spaces?*

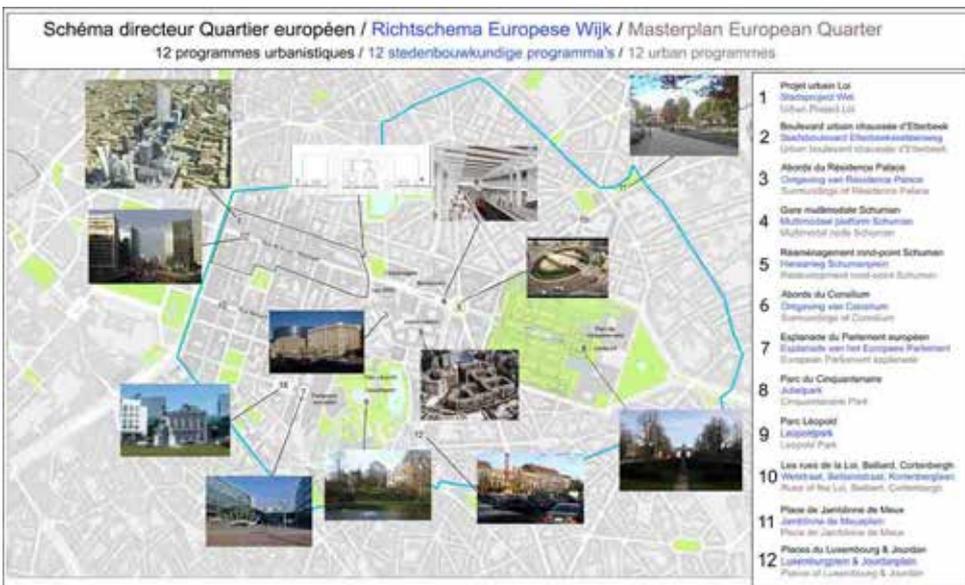


Source: <https://perspective.brussels/fr/projets/poles-strategiques/quartier-europeen>

## 5 PRINCIPLES

“Sustainable development  
Improved mobility  
Strengthening functional  
diversity  
Urban quality  
Cultural and relaxation poten-  
tial”

Extracts Perspective. Brussels <https://perspective.brussels/fr/projets/poles-strategiques/quartier-europeen>

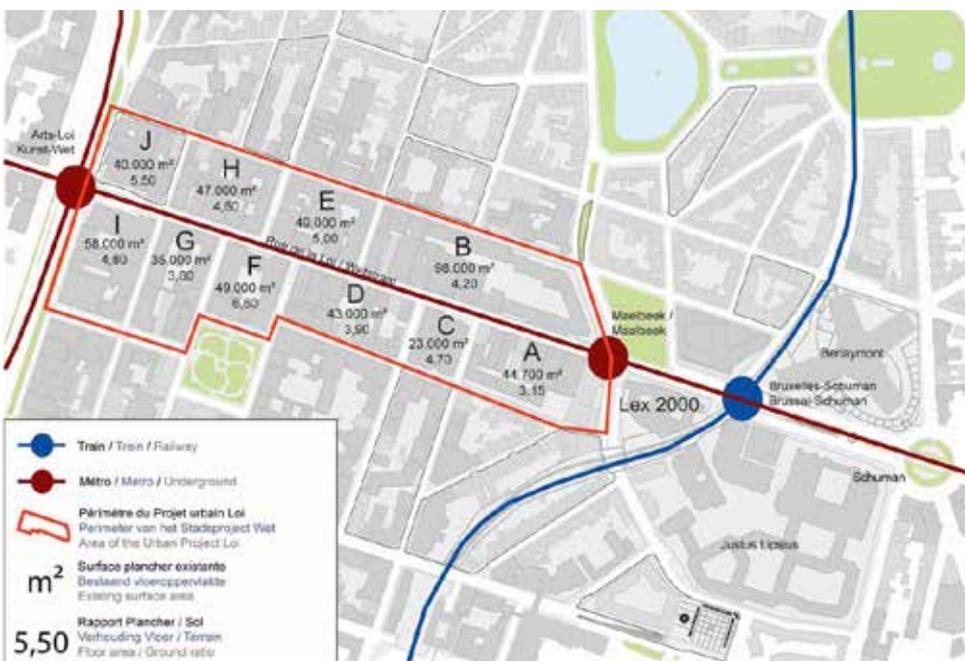


Source: <https://perspective.brussels/fr/projets/poles-strategiques/quartier-europeen>

## 12 PROJECTS

“Transformation of rue de la Loi: Urban Project Loi (PuL); Transformation of the Chaussée d’Etterbeek into an urban boulevard; Renovation of the surroundings of the Residence Palace; Development of the Schuman multimodal hub; Redevelopment of the Schuman roundabout and its surroundings; Improvement of the surroundings of the headquarters of the Council of the European Union; Management of the European Parliament esplanade; Renovation and embellishment of the Parc du Cinquantenaire and its surroundings; Renovation and embellishment of Leopold Park and its surroundings; Redevelopment of rue de la Loi, rue Belliard and avenue de Cortenberg; Development of Place Jambline in Meux; Redevelopment of the Luxembourg and Jourdan squares.”

Extracts Perspective. Brussels <https://perspective.brussels/fr/projets/poles-strategiques/quartier-europeen>



Source: <https://perspective.brussels/fr/projets/poles-strategiques/quartier-europeen>

PuL



Source: <https://perspective.brussels/fr/projets/poles-strategiques/quartier-europeen>

Loi 130



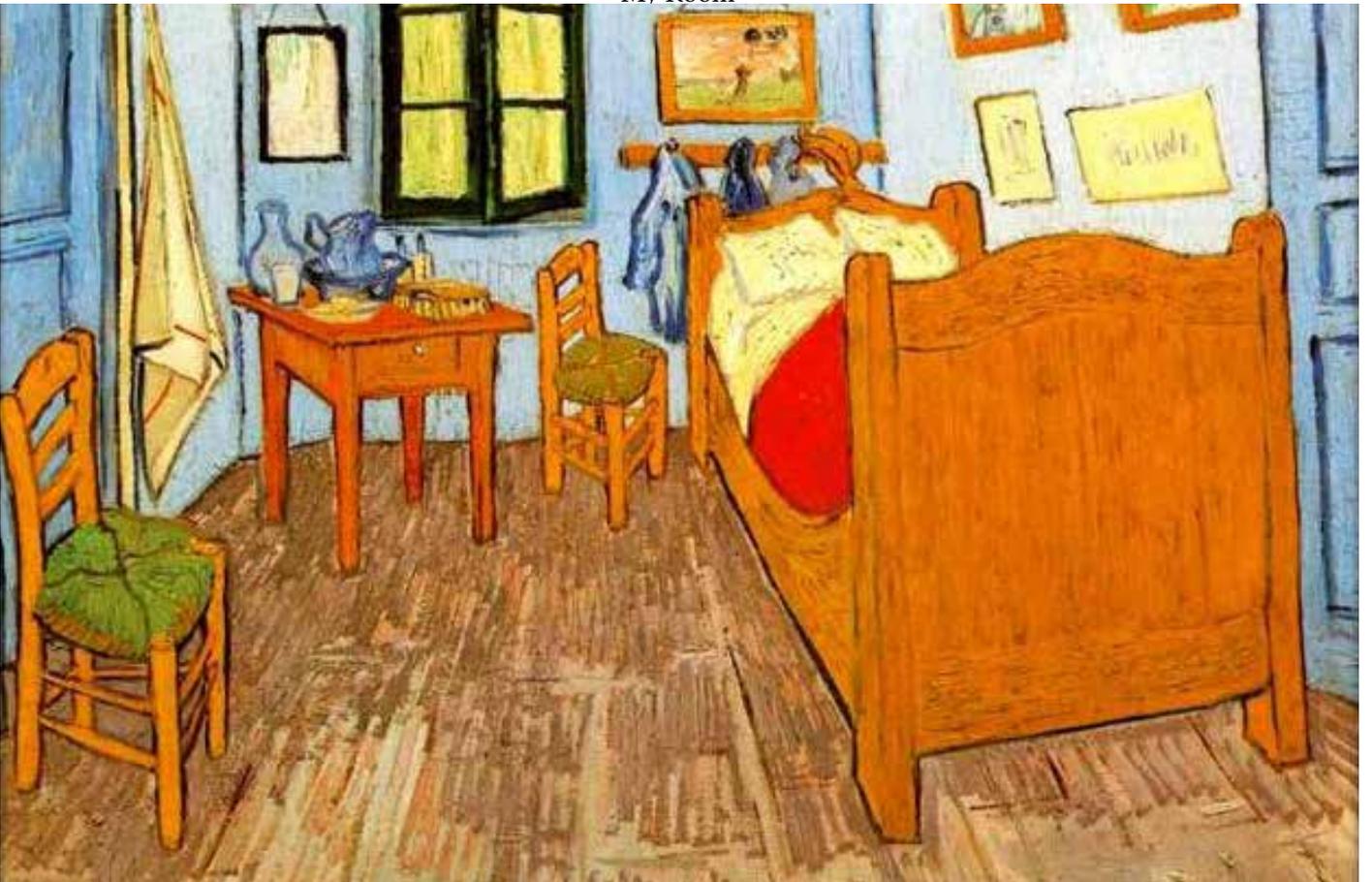
[https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/results\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/results_en.htm), [https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/competition\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/competition_en.htm)

## Lock-down



<https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/144891/belgium-needs-short-strict-lockdown-right-now-says-expert-dirk-devroey-vub-coronavirus-figures-hospitals-germany-geert-molenberghs-measures-infections-third-wave-consultative-committee/eu/article/brussels-lockdown-live-blog/>

## My Room



The bedroom, Vincent Van Gogh, 1888



Square Ambiorix  
[https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/project\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/project_en.htm)



[https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/project\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/project_en.htm)



Rue de la Loi in 1960



[https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/project\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/project_en.htm)



[https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/project\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/project_en.htm)



n



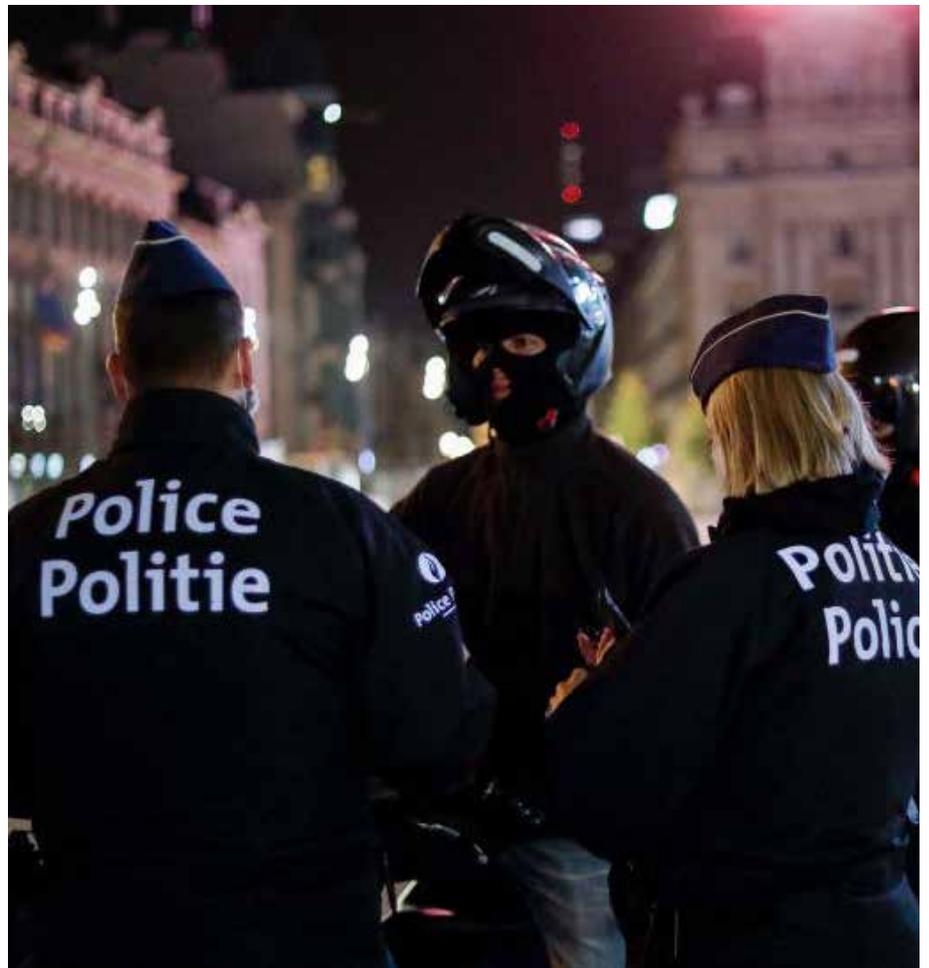
.htm



.htm



<https://www.politico.eu/article/brussels-lockdown-live-blog/>



<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-54602999>

## 4. Context and Design Challenge

### Pandemic

*“11 March 2020. Deeply concerned both by the alarming levels of spread and severity, and by the alarming levels of inaction, WHO made the assessment that COVID-19 can be characterized as a pandemic.”<sup>1</sup>*

Since end of December 2019, when a cluster of cases of pneumonia were reported in Wuhan, Hubei, Province, China; an unprecedented worldwide crisis started. With this, the way live and think our cities is changing for ever. In a matter of weeks, even days after this call, countries around the world started activating protocols for dealing with the new phenomena. In some cases, radically opposite approaches were confronted. Some governments advocated for different levels of lock-downs, either relaying on personal responsibility or deploying the military on the streets. Other refused to implement any measures.

The levels of spread have ever since found different curves and we all learn to read them in relation to other critical aspects such as the capacities of health sectors, levels of freedom. With the passing of time, different areas of the world have been experiencing waves and this triggers multiple reactions and perceptions on the status of pandemic.

Since the situation (and the perception of it) is changing so rapidly, it is important to say that at time of writing this brief (beginning 2021), the situation is the following: In Europe, countries governments have progressively started vaccination programs, but still imposing strict lock-downs are necessary in order to prevent the further spreading in second and third waves. With different approaches and dealing with generally tired civil societies and damaged economies, leaders are hoping the vaccination programs will work in combination with the imposed measures, while they face complicated distribution and implementation challenges.

The consequences of both pandemic and measures are being now addressed. They are of all nature, and the first debates start from the (immediate) economics and social implications at local and national levels. Yet, the global scale of the virus phenomena means that the scale of the discussions is also (to be) global. This is all embedded in political tensions and ultimately, reaches the environmental level.

Ultimately, the pandemic triggers many questions on how we relate to each other, and therefore on how we use space, and live together, in relation or in isolation. This touches all levels and scales, from the domestic to the public, in the end, the way we understand urban life and cities is put under question.

### High-Density and Life in Cities

This design studio address directly a situation that is strongly impacted by pandemic in urban spaces: re-assessing high density in consolidated urban scenarios (like Brussels). While this can be done in a variety of manners (from more general and conceptual, to more problem-solving), the position of this design studio is at the intermediate spatial scale. It starts by inquiring spatial configurations around high-density modes, as ways to rethink and inform new models and design strategies. These are then explored via architecture and urban design proposals of different scales. The departure points are two-folded. On the one hand, the urban scale (development projects) and on the other the personal experience (during the lockdowns).

Normally, high density is associated to high-rise buildings in strategic locations, hands-in-hands with consolidated infrastructure (from highways and stations for accessibility to the high demands of electricity and water consumption, for example). In Western context, this is executed in different ways. From city-centre concentrations, like in the USA downtowns (Houston as an example that can also be associated to a natural catastrophe), to (peri)central renovations, as in the European reconversion of harbors and industrial plots (from Hamburg-HafenCity as paradigm of the first; to the areas around train stations under transformation in the Netherlands, including Amsterdam, Utrecht, Breda, 's-Hertogenbosch, as nearby example of the second one).

---

1 WHO, <https://www.who.int/>

High-rises are normally associated to enclaves, and to the dominance of the tertiary sector (offices, hotels and services), being both integrated and detached from the urban tissues (Canary Wharf in London and La Defence in Paris are probably the main references). Still, the need of spaces for living in strategic urban locations has historically put pressure on this lucrative restriction. In recent years (let's say since the turn of the Century), an acceleration in the changes of technological resources and their effects on the expectations and ways of living and working increase the pressure to reassess high-rise developments. On top, what is considered high-quality high-density is also to be inquired. Normally linked to a variety of urban processes and conflicts, the effects of high-density developments include social fragmentation and exclusion, thematisation, real estate inflation and gentrification, vacancy and rapid obsolescence (Brussels North Neighbourhood as the closest example of some of these issues).

Currently, in a context of general housing shortage and social pressures, demographics reconfigurations (rapid urbanisation, transnational flows and aging populations) and economic-environmental crisis, pandemic comes to accentuate the need to re imagine high density and life in cities. The design studio will undertake this task by using the special case of the developments in the European Quarter of Brussels. Here the relation between high-density models and (reassessed) urban life can be tested *at extremis*, with the addition of thousand of square meters to consolidated urban situations at the edge of historical urban centres.

#### Intermediate Scale

The European Quarter, Brussels possess several questions at the architecture and urban levels to be addressed in the course of the design studio. The inquire on one or more of these is intended to become central to the argument lines for the development of position, research strategy and design proposal by the students. Addressing the implications of the kind of operations gathered around them is to become central to the design process in broader sense. Some of the issues at stake may include:

- *How are the reconsideration and re-valorisation of personal experiences and feelings of loneliness growing during the pandemic can re-inform the way we understand high-density?*
  - *What are the means to explore what this feelings mean for domestic and urban spaces?*
- *Questioning “what kind of”, “for whom”, “under what conditions” is high density intended in this kind of new development. What kind of models and buildings does this generate or reinforce? (accent on built spaces)*
- Inquiring the conditions under which urban land is rendered available in relation to infrastructural processes, the operations around them, and the imaginaries projected by different stakeholders; the capacity of urban space to generate certain and processes in relation to the development of urban spaces. What kind of urban spaces are thought in association with high-density proposals? (accent on open spaces)
- The relation between new interventions and consolidated and sensitive urban areas, the relations and processes condensed at urban edges (relations to existing fabric and natural environment), and the connections with other transformation processes. What kind of relations are generated? (accent on contacts and interfaces)

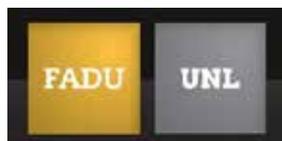
Ultimately, the combination of these dimensions are to inform the design processes and in consequence to broaden up the set of options for dealing with such urban developments in such critical areas. This means concretely that student may go for urban arrangements and models that question the originally proposed operations (in this case the arrival of several towers to the development plots or the winning design competition proposal), and include creative ways of combining densities, target users, lobbies-imaginaries, combinations of public-private operations, etc. Ultimately, the studio wants to explore how extreme situations, like pandemic, and the feelings regenerated by it in relation to spatial relations, can be used to twist conditions and ultimately proposed more inclusive, fairly distributed resources, including urban livability.

## 5. Strategic Partnership

In order to assist students, the design studio will include remote consultation and lectures. Here, different interests are of brought in. These are part of an on-going collaboration with international universities that gets extended to a practice-academic experiment.

The members of this network area: First, KUL-Cecilia Chiappini's ongoing research on infrastructures as spaces of collectivities (Belgium, The Netherlands).<sup>1</sup> This will be proposed also within her private practice ARQ-CHIA, in association with Eng. Prof. Enrique Chiappini who has experience in major engineering projects in Latin American.<sup>2</sup> This is put in relation to the collaboration that was put in place for the design studios maib34 Buenos Aires Unlocked I and II in 2019 and 2020. This is composed by UNL-Prof. Julio Arroyo's work on public architecture and urban space (Argentina) who will contribute with his expertise in assessing public spaces under pressure and his deep knowledge of urban transformation and public and domestic spaces.<sup>3</sup> Then, IAU-USP-Prof. Manoel Rodrigues Alves will participate from his expertise and interest on verticalisation and urban quality of life under the impact of global-financial capitalism in cities.<sup>4</sup> Finally, Maurizio Scarciglia, from NAUTA architecture & research and the Breda University (The Netherlands),<sup>5</sup> will join us to share his ongoing investigation on the concept of loneliness in architecture based on his practice experience in Asia, and his engagement with cinema.

Cecilia Chiappini, as leader of the design studio will assess the needs along the process to find proper and complete know-how for managing all the systems integrated in the assignment, in the shifting modalities (remote-presidential) that the semester may acquire. Comparisons and cross-references and collaborations with other faculty colleagues will be extended.



architecture & research



1 KUL-Cecilia Chiappini's teaching and research focus on unveiling the capacities of infrastructures and collectivities to condensate urban processes and to put in evidence relations and contradictions of expectations-realization-appropriations, central and marginal actors and their spatial outputs at different scales, with a peculiar focus on temporality, intermediate and micro-processes. See: [www.collectivespaces-kuleuven.be](http://www.collectivespaces-kuleuven.be)

2 See [www.arq-chia.com.ar](http://www.arq-chia.com.ar)

3 UNL-Prof. Julio Arroyo's research project focuses on the complex production of the public domain in the urban space of Argentinean cities. This is reflected in the contemporary debate about perception, understanding and appreciation of public space (more stable, normative, physically determinable socio-spatial processes) and the public (more eventual, contingent, indefinable socio-cultural processes). There is an enervated relationship between these terms which is observable in the conflicts of everyday life. The hypothesis states that recent public domain works of architecture in Argentine cities exhibit inconsistencies between the concept of public space and public practices. The historical context is the contemporaneity as defined by the interweaving of global scale processes (economic globalization, computerization, media influence, supra-national facts, migrations, environmental risk, etc.) and next scales ones (urban split, socio-physical segregation, environmental vulnerability, etc.). Her expertise extends to general processes of transformation and in this case the accent will be put on extensions in heritage protected areas.

4 IAU-USP Prof. Manoel Rodrigues Alves' research project focuses on processes of production of the contemporary city, particularly in the (re)signification of the notion of public space. This is reflected in his ongoing project "Highrise Living and the Inclusive City", a research about verticalization processes jointly developed with colleagues from Université Lyon 2, that recognizes the investment of private capital for the maintenance of urban space has become a usual practice - mostly with the counterpart of temporary or permanent branding and the partnership of municipalities -, stimulating uses and practices conditioned by consumption and privatization of the urban space, posing questions such as: are we witnessing a new form of build-in gentrification, of all-enclosed buildings as a sign of the growing exclusion in the so-called 'neoliberal' entrepreneurial city? . See: [bv.fapesp.br/pt/pesquisador/88882/manoel-antonio-lobes-rodrigues-alves](http://bv.fapesp.br/pt/pesquisador/88882/manoel-antonio-lobes-rodrigues-alves)

5 [www.nauta17.com](http://www.nauta17.com) and <https://www.buas.nl/over-breda-university-of-applied-sciences>

## 6. Modality and Inputs

The exact modality of the semester has not yet be defined. As a strategy, it implies blocks in which coherent measure will be implemented. The expectations is to have a first 4 weeks block of remote work, followed by further definitions towards the easter break. After that, the program is still open. To address this issues, high levels of interaction will be encouraged via diverse digital media, such as MIRO, SKYPE, ZOOM, etc. To the aim of having an agile communication, all students are kindly requested to become a member of the Facebook Group maib24 THE RADICANT (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/586609792141650>) AND to send an email to the tutor: [mariacecilia.chiappini@kuleuven.be](mailto:mariacecilia.chiappini@kuleuven.be). Also, they are asked to on the International Master 's blog and check the previous studio work, particularly the COLLECTIVE PRODUCTION pdfs. Particularly those available in at: <http://www.blog-archkuleuven.be/masterofarchitecture/2020/09/22/studio-work-2016-2017-2/> (see: maib14 + maib24 2016-2017) <http://www.blog-archkuleuven.be/masterofarchitecture/2020/09/22/studio-work-2017-2018/> (see: maib14 2017-2018) and most importantly, at <http://www.blog-archkuleuven.be/?s=radicant> (maib24 2019-2020, The Radicant)

### Links of References for Preliminary Research

**Brussels Information:** See Facebook Group: maib24 THE RADICANT (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/586609792141650>). Project Urbain Loi - Loi 130: [https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/project\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/project_en.htm), [https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/competition\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/competition_en.htm), <https://perspective.brussels/fr/projets/poles-strategiques/quartier-europeen>, [https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/competition\\_en.htm#-jury](https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/competition_en.htm#-jury)

### References

EASTERLING, K. [2014]. *Extrastatecraf. The power of infrastructure space*. Verso, New York, London. 2016. Available at: <http://kellereasterling.com>. *TO READ IN ADVANCED: Chapters: 1, 2, 3, 6*.  
ZUKIN, S, "The Innovation Complex. Cities, Tech, and the New Economy", Oxford University Press Inc, 2020. *To READ IN ADVANCE: INTRO*

### Extras

1. CHIAPPINI, María Cecilia; HEHL, Rainer; THOMIDOU, Alkistis, "Cidade de Deus +20 Projecting alternative futures" publisher: Ruby Press Cidade de Deus – City of God. Working with Informalized Mass Housing in Brazil, pag.: 152 - 165. 2. ANGÉLIL M. (Ed.) (2016). *Infrastructure Space*. Berlin: Ruby Press. (chose one article). 3. SCOTT BROWN, Denise. "On Formal Analysis as Research" In: JAE, Vol. 32, No. 4, Search/Research, 1979 2. LEVITT, William. "Levittown 1947-1951" in Venturi, Schott, Brown and Associates Learning from Levittown. 1972. 4. NANGO, Yoshikazu. "The Behaviour that Atelier Bow Wow Call Research. Made in Tokyo: a research prototype". ([www.bow-wow.jp](http://www.bow-wow.jp), [archinect.com/features/article/56468/atelier-bow-wow-tokyo-anatomy](http://archinect.com/features/article/56468/atelier-bow-wow-tokyo-anatomy), [urban-sprouts.blogspot.com](http://urban-sprouts.blogspot.com), ar/2010\_09\_01\_archive.html)

Methodological references: 1. ANGÉLIL M. and HEHL R. (Eds.) (2012). *Cidade de Deus – City of God. Working with Informalized Mass Housing in Brazil*. Berlin: Ruby Press. 2. JUNZO Kuroda and MO-MOYO Kaijima. (2001) *Made in Tokyo: Guide Book*, Kajima Institute Publishing, Japan. 3. VENTURI, Scott Brown and IZENOUR (1972) *Learning from Las Vegas*. MIT Press.

Thematic references: 1. LLOYD, S. & STOLL, K. (2010) *Infrastructure as Architecture*. Berlin: Jovis Verlag. 2. SHANNON, K & SMETS, M. (2009). *The Landscape of Contemporary Infrastructure*. Rotterdam: NAI Uitgevers. 3. SMETS, M. (2001). *The contemporary landscape of Europe's infrastructures*. In: *Lotus international* (110), 116-125.

Background conceptual references: 1. ARROYO, J. (2011). *Espacio público, Entre afirmaciones y desplazamientos*. Santa Fe: UNL. 2. DE LANDA, M. (2000). *1000 of non linear history*. New York: Swerve Editions. 3. DELEUZE, G. & GUATTARI, F. (1987). *1000 Plateau*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. 4. DE SOLA-MORALES, M. (2008). *A Matter of Things*. Rotterdam: Nai Publishers. 5. HABRAKEN, N.J. (1998). *The structure of the Ordinary*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 6. HILLIER, B & HANSON, J. (1984). *The Social Logic of Space*. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press. 7. LATOUR, B. (2005). *Reassembling the Social. An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 8. MCFARLANE, C. (2011) *Assemblage and critical urbanism*, *City*, 15:2, 204-224, 9. SCHEERLINCK, K. (2012-2015). *Street Scape Territories Notebook*. Brussels: Dag Boutsen, LUCA, Sint-Lucas School of Architecture, Ghent/Brussels, KU Leuven, Faculty of Architecture.

## 7. Pedagogical Strategy - Methodological Stages

### Stage 1: Position

Conceptual references and identification of examples. URBAN LEVEL: Definition of the main terms and focus spatial elements. (Group discussions) / Case-Studies: Study of international cases. The multicultural backgrounds of students will broaden the spectrum of cases. The cases will be restricted to infrastructural constructions with links to the site (mainly railways, stations, canals, waterfronts, extensions of heritage protected urban areas, study of decadent commercial areas with commercial potential). EXPERIENTIAL LEVEL: The notion of solitude in its spatial translations. Film Narratives+Free modality. (Individual)

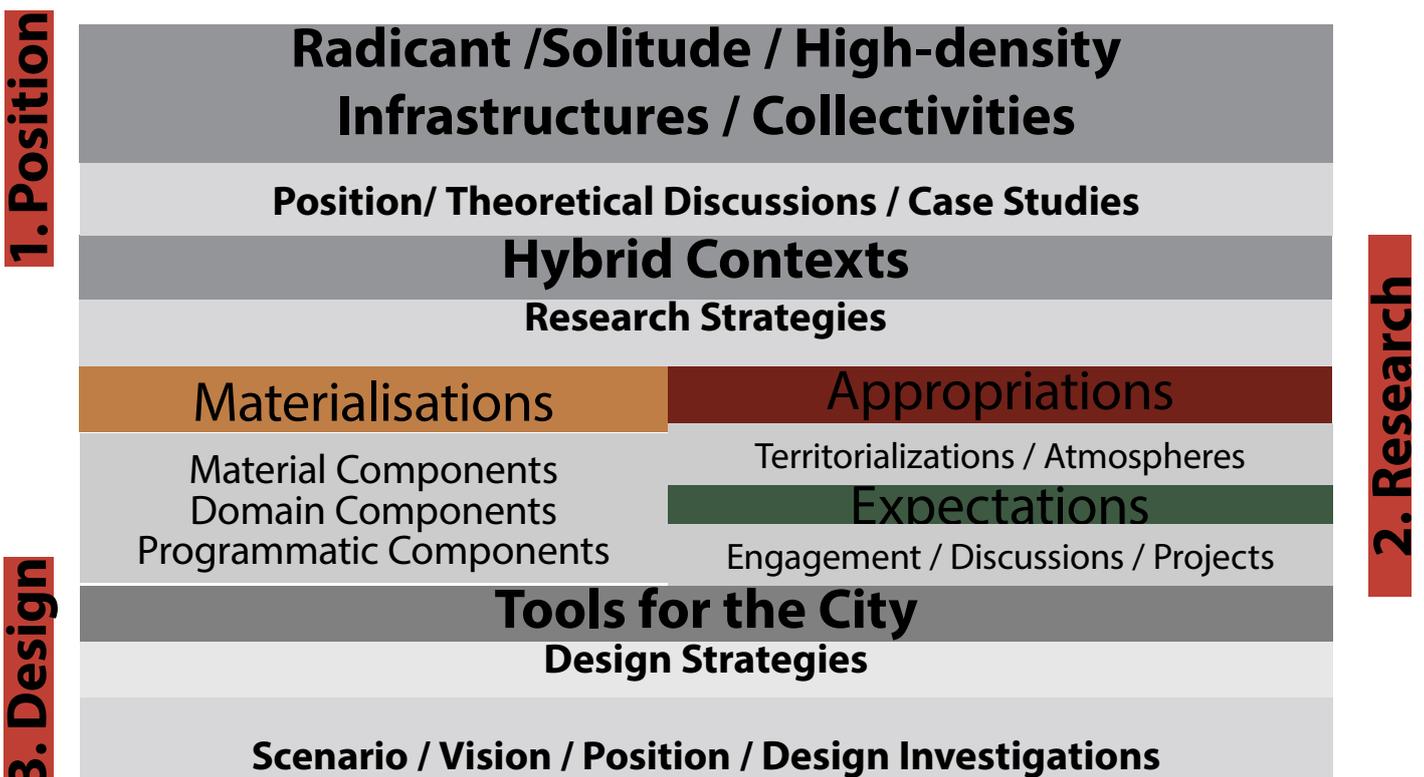
### Stage 2: Research Strategies

For this stage a specific methodology will be tested. The aim is to explore and unveil the multilayered spatial implications of the previous two-folded approach in a specific case. The proposed dimensions of inquiry are: “Materialisations”, that explores the physical-material, domain and programmatic components of spaces; “Appropriations” that explores ways of use and appropriation of these spaces, and the atmospheres created, focusing on their spatial outcomes; “Expectations” that brings in the immaterial forces linked to engagement, discussions, projects and imaginaries with a spatial impact; aiming to understand the physical impact of these elements and how (micro) negotiations couple material and immaterial realms. (4 Students Group)

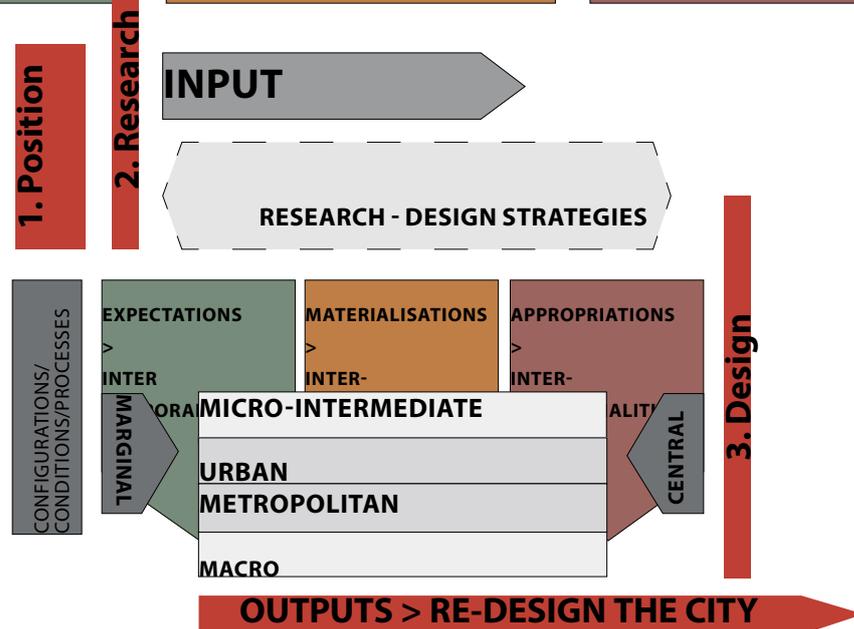
### Stage 3: Design Explorations

1. **Scenario / Vision / Design Position:** Learning from... and identification of triggering elements for the definitions of a personal design position. The study of the area is focused on the actual users and processes, in relation with more personal understandings and approaches on the notion of loneliness. This will lead to the identification of a design-case including program and location. Infrastructures as collective spaces are the key aspects. (2 Students group)
2. **Design Investigations:** Design of an urban-architectural proposal within or around the site. (2 Students group)

The following graphs illustrate the Pedagogical Strategy and Methodological Stages that are developed in depth at the launch of the semester.



EXPECTATIONS	MATERIALISATIONS	APPROPRIATIONS
<b>Symbolic Dimension</b> (Scientific Knowledge - critical valorization/ paradigms/ideas/theories) URBIS CIVITAS POLIS + (Interpretations) STATE, SOCIETY CULTURE	<b>Material Dimension</b> (Disciplinary Knowledge Design Process-Impact) ARCHITECTURE: FORMS-USES-MEANINGS	<b>Social Dimension</b> (Phenomenological-Existential) URBAN SPACE: TOPOGRAPHY TERRITORY TEMPORALITY
<b>Engagements / Imaginaries</b> Stakeholders / Projects / Previsions + <b>Media / Discussions</b> Update / Negotiations and Conflicts / Events and Emergent Processes (Micro) <b>Unspoken</b>	<b>Material Components</b> Morphology + Spaces + Transitions Permeability/Materiality + <b>Programmatic Components</b> Programmes, Proximity + <b>Domain Components</b> Property + Accessibility/ Spatiality + Territory	<b>Triggers</b> + <b>Uses</b> Relations, Networks + <b>Territorial Configurations</b> (Micro)processes
INTER TEMPORALITIES	INTER-SPATIALITIES	INTER-TERRITORIALITIES



**8. Calendar Preliminary 24/1/2021**  
(dates indicated in red are critical to confirm)

**Week 0: Feb. 10, 2021 ASSEMBLEA. Urban Cultures Launch 10-13 hs.**

**Week 1: Feb. 17, 2021 (Remote)**

Morning and Afternoon Sessions

- Start-up design-studio
  - Further explanation of Methodological and Theoretical Frame
- Launch Stage 1. Position
- Launch Stage 2: Research Strategies

Introduction and assignment of research-design site in Brussels and research methodology, group conformation,

**Week 2; Feb. 24 (Remote)**

Morning Session

Development of work under Tutor supervision:

- Stages 1 (Position) and 2 (Research Strategies)

Afternoon Session

- **14hs: Input Lecture (Digital, to confirm)**

**Maurizio Scarciglia (NAUTA, Breda University)**

- Workshop session with Prof. Scarciglia:
- Stage 2: Research Strategies
- Launch Stage 3.1: Design Strategies: Scenario+Vision+Design Position

**Week 3; March 3 (Remote)**

Morning Session

Development of work under Tutor supervision:

- Stage 2: Research Strategies

Afternoon Session

- Stage 3.1: Design Strategies, Scenario+Vision+Design Position

**Week 4; March 10 (Remote)**

Morning Session

- Stage 2: Research Strategies

- Stage 3.1: Design Strategies, Scenario+Vision+Design Position

Afternoon Session

- **14hs: Input Lecture (Video Conference)**

***“Contemporary urban processes in the context of global investments and emerging tensions: domestic and urban spaces”* by Prof. Julio Arroyo (FADU-UNL)**

- Workshop session with Prof. Julio Arroyo:
- Stage 2: Research Strategies

**Week 5; March 17 (Modality to define)**

**INTERNAL MID-TERM REVIEW**

Morning & Afternoon Sessions

Internal Mid-Term Review:

- Stage 1: Position

- Stage 2: Research Strategies

- Launch Stage 3.2: Design Strategies: Design Investigations: Identification of programs and sites for emergent design cases.

**Week 6; March 24**

Morning & Afternoon Sessions

Development of work under Tutor supervision:

- Stage 2: Research Strategies

- Stage 3.1: Design Strategies, Scenario+Vision+Design Position

**Week 7; March 31 - SPECIAL DESIGN STUDIO (to confirm)**

Programme to confirm

**Week 8; April 7 - NO DESIGN STUDIO - EASTER BREAK (to confirm)**

**Week 9; April 14 NO DESIGN STUDIO - EASTER BREAK (to confirm)**

**Week 10; April 21 (Modality to define)**

**MID-TERM REVIEW - With strategic partners**

Morning & Afternoon Sessions

- Stage 1: Position
- Stage 2: Research Strategies
- Stage 3.1: Design Strategies: Scenario+Vision+Design Position

**Week 11; April 28 (Modality to define)**

Morning and Afternoon Sessions

- Stage 3.2: Design Strategies: Design Investigations

**Week 12; May 5 (Modality to define)**

Morning & Afternoon Sessions

Development of work under Tutor supervision:

- Stage 3.2: Design Strategies: Design Investigations

**Week 13; May 12 (Modality to define)**

**INTERNAL FINAL REVIEW**

Morning Session

- All Stages

Afternoon Sessions

Exchange moment - more information to be provided towards the final review.

**Week 14; May 19 (Modality to define)**

Morning & Afternoon Sessions

Development of work under Tutor supervision:

- All stages

Exchange moment - more information to be provided towards the final review.

**Week 15; May 26 -EXTENDED FINAL REVIEW with External Jury (To confirm) (Modality to define)**

All Stages

## 9. Course Specific Competences maib24 Design Studio -15 ECTS

### Course specific competences:

- 1A1 The student has insight in different aspects of the architectural process such as context analysis, conceptualization, problem awareness and engagement, ethics and personal imagination.
- 5A1 The student is able to develop a relevant design project out of various spatial scale levels and the dimension of time.
- 3A1 The student is able to develop a critical argumentation on the position of his/her design project within the international architectural debate.
- 5A3 The student is able to develop a relevant design project out of a conceptual-programmatic logic.
- 7,1 The student is able to develop alternatives from a multidisciplinary and intercultural perspective.
- 4A2 The student is able to act methodologically throughout the designing process in a creative manner.
- 4A3 The student is able to establish his/her own research or project strategy.
- 5A4 The student is able to develop an innovative design project.
- 7,2 The student is able to expand his/her knowledge continuously and creatively.
- 2C1 The student is able to develop a complex cultural-theoretical analysis.
- 5C1 The student is able to develop a relevant design, based on an complex cultural / societal context analysis.
- 6C1 The student is able to explicitate a contemporary point of view out of a cultural-historical rhetoric within the discipline.
- 4B1 The student is able to develop a constructional design strategy for a complex case.
- 4B3 The student is able to develop a relevant design, taking into account fire safety, acoustics and other factors in constructional physics.
- 2B1 The student is able to think in a problem-solving manner, related to building technology.

### Contribution to the generic competences:

The student is able to assimilate and integrate in critical way information through research and study in a way to act in a methodological, explorative and creative way in his architectural design in the UAD design studio.

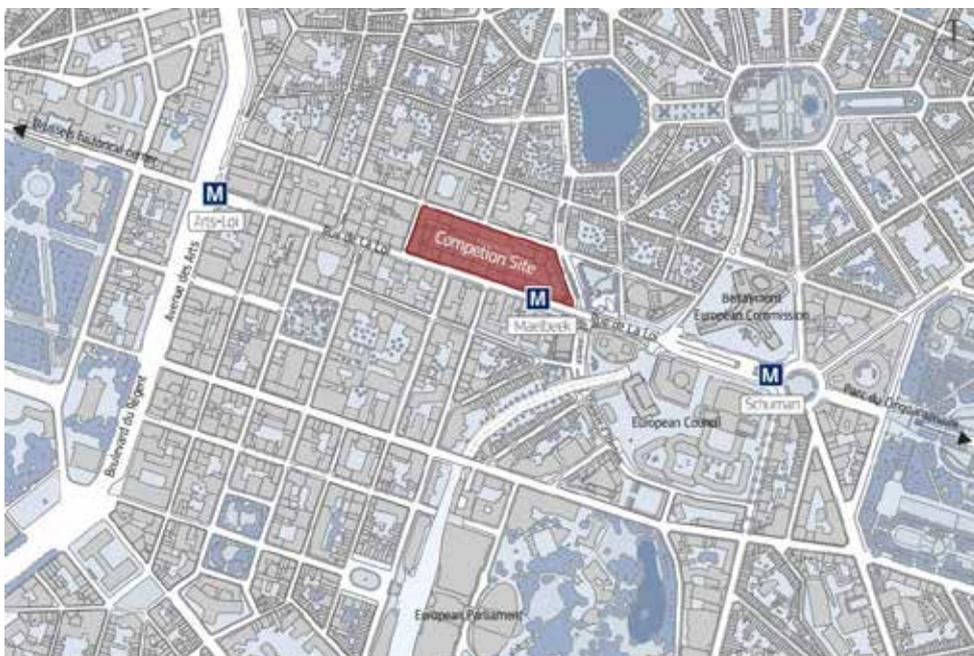
The student can interpret his personal frame of references in relation to architecture through the specific field of UAD(urban architectural design) and specifically in the field of cities in transition. He is able to describe, to evaluate and to apply key concepts on this field.

## 10. Appendix



Source: <https://perspective.brussels/fr/projets/poles-strategiques/quartier-europeen>

<b>PuL</b>	<b>Loi 130</b>
Total surface: 880.000 m <sup>2</sup>	Gross floor area: 175,000 - 190,000 m <sup>2</sup>
New Housing: 110.000m <sup>2</sup>	5,250 people
Shops and public facilities: 60.000m <sup>2</sup>	2 childcare centres
New offices: 240.000 m <sup>2</sup>	visitor centre (estimated 345,000 people a year)
	3,000 square meters of restaurants and shops and public spaces with green areas.
Former surface:	New entrance to Maelbeek metro station,
Offices: 490.000 m <sup>2</sup>	<i>“whole complex will have the highest possible level of security”</i>
Increase in surfaces: 390000 (offices 240.000 m <sup>2</sup> , housing 110.000 m <sup>2</sup> and retail 40.000m <sup>2</sup> )	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/competition_en.htm#jury">https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/competition_en.htm#jury</a>



[https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/competition\\_en.htm](https://ec.europa.eu/oib/loi130-competition/competition_en.htm)