



Title: **Unveiling the (In)formal City** - *From Karachi To Place Liedts*

Tutor / **Asiya Sadiq**

Semester / **Second**

Language / **English**

Engagement / **Urban Cultures**

Location / **Campus Brussels**

“Public architecture and related open spaces are situated within the larger context of any city and the city is a living organism, within which all architecture, urban design, public open spaces and networks become integrated via formal and informal public engagement and an understanding of collective problem solving, finding innovative ways to reclaim and reimagine contemporary cities.”

***Asiya Sadiq and Christophe Polack
(The Rising Tide Exhibition Catalogue, Curated Naiza Khan, 2010, Artists Statement***

Contents of the Studio:

Karachi Studio – In Brief

Karachi studio was initiated in 2013 at the Faculty of Architecture - KU Leuven, Campus Brussels and has completed 08 cycles in 2021. The case-based Karachi studio was established with the intention of developing a specialized studio on Hyper Transforming Cities in South Asia utilizing the available expertise available in house, introducing the International Masters students to the specificity of the South Asian context through the case of Karachi, introducing the challenges encountered in the making of contemporary architecture in the global South.

This 9th Karachi Studio aims to:

Address

The unique design debate of **CONDITIONS vs SITUATIONS**. Emerging out of the practice findings of Asiya Sadiq the studio would explore and unveil the design potentials of the informal actors and processes which exist de-facto yet remain unrecognized in all our formal cities and their design protocols. Karachi and Place Liedts (BXL), seemingly far apart, are similar in that respect and will be unveiled for their informal design potentials while dealing with global design challenges which concern contemporary cities across the North and South, in all their formal and informal complexities, emerging trends and new realities.

Situate

The topic of (In)formality in cities and the recognition of its impact on urban and architectural design as a **CHOICE or a NEED**. The current formal – informal design norms, paradigms and parameters will be questioned, and new design ideas and strategies explored within the global overarching debates of; neoliberalism, land scarcity and density, climate change, migrations, increasing populations, decreasing resources, multiple disparities, and impending pandemics like COVID - 19.

Propose

Spatial strategies and projects (architectural/urban design/urban development) embedded in the topic of; **Formal-(In)formal Interface, Community Participation and Co-Creation**. These global recommendations will be applied as projects by the students to one of the two contexts of Karachi and Place Liedts to prove their validity, viability, and constraints.

Working Method:

The studio participants are organized as teams. This format is adopted to mimic a professional environment in which all students work with the tutor as a team and each one gets a chance to contribute, share their knowledge and build-up their potentials and constraints.

All students have access to the archives of previous works, lectures, discussions, and research data. The design teams after understanding the context arrive at critical design issues via primary and secondary data sources and digital means such as online lectures, interviews with resource persons and local stakeholder's groups identified by the tutors, as well as websites, vlogs, documentaries, and other media sources.

The research conducted remotely on Karachi or on site in Place Liedts will be analysed and developed as design projects by interfacing with the available archives and the real life personal and professional experiences of the tutor. All jury moments are used to interface with real stakeholders and become platforms of knowledge generation and exchange.

The works produced through this rigorous process are deemed very valuable, innovative and dissemination worthy by the tutor. The student works produced in the past 7 Karachi studios have been curated as an exposition, a seminar and a book titled, " Karachi Seen from a Distance - A New Perspective" in Campus Brussels in April 2021. Similar aspirations exist for all upcoming studios.

Links to Previous Studios Expo and Book

VDO

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TFP1jwQzrpE>

BOOK

https://www.dropbox.com/s/vva0krrk2bqn6ya/KARACHI_Booklet_FINAL.pdf?dl=0

Deliverables:

Weekly Design Development Process leading to intelligent, innovative, well analysed and developed.

- Conceptual Framework
- Design Strategies and Programming
- Urban and or Architectural Projects

On the Final Jury, Cumulative Presentation, a Poster, and a Booklet