

Course guide

210339 - NHSMR - New Social Housing for the Rural World

Last modified: 11/06/2025

Unit in charge: Barcelona School of Architecture
Teaching unit: 735 - PA - Department of Architectural Design.
740 - DUTP - Department of Urbanism, Territory and Landscape.

Degree: DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE STUDIES (Syllabus 2014). (Optional subject).

Academic year: 2025 **ECTS Credits:** 5.0 **Languages:** Catalan

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer:

Others: Segon quadrimestre:
JÚLIA BELTRAN BORRÀS - 2SMI
JORDI FRANQUESA SANCHEZ - 2SMI

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

This subject is based on student self-learning as well as their empowerment. It is grounded in the issue of the lack of access to housing in rural areas and explores new alternatives, particularly the rehabilitation and transformation of underutilized buildings, specifically former rectories. These buildings were traditionally the social hubs of many rural communities, and the aim is to restore that role in our contemporary context. Transforming rectories to provide social housing involves, first, addressing the needs of a vulnerable group; second, contributing to population retention in rural areas; and third, preserving heritage.

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Hours large group	50,0	40.00
Self study	75,0	60.00

Total learning time: 125 h



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Description:

The proposal involves intervening in rectories for two main reasons. The first is that these buildings are located in the urban centers of rural towns and, therefore, can represent significant opportunities for the transformation of these villages, especially since some of them include other facilities owned by the same diocese. As such, the intervention could significantly alleviate the problem of depopulation and, at the same time, the lack of social and affordable housing in these rural areas, while also contributing to social cohesion. The second reason is that these are heritage buildings. Most rectories date from the 18th or 19th centuries, contain important heritage elements, and are particularly relevant because of the architectural ensemble they form along with the church at the heart of the town. These heritage buildings are in a state of degradation, and their restoration also means recovering a collective and identity-based heritage.

Although this course has a fixed scope, and its final objective is to develop a group-consensus project proposal for the transformation of a rectory into social housing, it should be understood as a precursor to a future workshop focused on the physical implementation of the proposal by the students. In any case, attending the workshop is not mandatory to pass the course, nor is it necessary to have taken the elective course to participate in the workshop, but it is important to understand that both courses are complementary.

Specific objectives:

1. Awareness of rural dynamics and depopulation issues.
2. Study of the housing access problem in rural areas and its alternatives.
3. Assessment of the transformation capacity and versatility of rural spaces and buildings.
4. Design and transformation based on changes in use and adaptability to new housing requirements.
5. Development of an individual project and comparison with other proposals.
6. Group consensus on the best transformation option and justification of the best proposal.
7. Planning of the interventions to be carried out and the different phases of development.

Full-or-part-time: 55h

Theory classes: 10h

Practical classes: 45h

GRADING SYSTEM

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

- Ignasi Aldomà et al. Atles del món rural 2022.
- Deplazes, Andrea. Construir la arquitectura: del material en bruto al edificio: un manual. Barcelona: Gustavo Gili, ISBN 9788425223518.
- OPPENHEIMER DEAN, Andrea, BARTHEL, Elena, FREEAR, Andrew. Rural Studio at twenty.
- Lacol. Construir en colectivo. Barcelona: Pol·len Edicions, SCCL, ISBN 9788416828395.
- Philippe Rahm. Climatic Architecture. New York ; Barcelona: Actar Publishers, 2023. ISBN 9781638400394.
- Bunyesc, Josep. Arquitectura Positiva. 1a. AxA Edicions, 2020. ISBN 9788409219599.
- Lluís M. Vidal i Arderiu. Anna Vidal. Inventaris d'Arquitectura.
- Vegas López-Manzanares, F., Mileto, C.. Aprendiendo a restaurar: un manual de restauración de la arquitectura tradicional de la Comunidad Valenciana. Valencia: Generalitat Valenciana, Conselleria de Medi Ambient, Aigua, Urbanisme i Habitatge, 2011. ISBN 9788486828936.