



## Course guide

# 290272 - LEXPE03 - The Experience of Architecture 03: 'Brussels'

**Last modified:** 01/02/2024

**Unit in charge:** Vallès School of Architecture  
**Teaching unit:** 735 - PA - Department of Architectural Design.  
**Degree:** DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE STUDIES (Syllabus 2014). (Optional subject).  
**Academic year:** 2023    **ECTS Credits:** 3.0    **Languages:** Catalan, Spanish, English

### LECTURER

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**Coordinating lecturer:** Sabaté Giner, Maria Núria

**Others:**

### TEACHING METHODOLOGY

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### LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

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analysis of architectural works  
analysis of parts of the city  
conceptualize a project from its formal, economic and political components  
learn to prepare the best documentation that explains a project  
teamwork

## CONTENTS

### Content

#### Description:

This course aims to promote learning outside the classroom through contact with built reality, architecture and the city, whether through famous projects or less popular ones, to generate a critical spirit in the student.

The architecture experience 03 will be a journey to discover, analyze and confront the characters, works and context of contemporary architectural production in the capital of Belgium (and Europe).

'Brussels-based': a series of architects and artists who have decided to settle in Brussels and operate in or from it will be questioned, which will allow us to understand their point of view on the idiosyncrasy of what this city represents. To name a few they are: Dogma (Pier Vittorio Aureli i Martino Tattara), BC Architecture Studies, Rotor DC, Baukunst (Adrien Verschuere), OKGDVS (Kersten Geers, David Van Severen), Sergison Bates, Bas Smets, Richard Venlet, Véronique Patteeuw, Séverin Malaud, Paola Viganò...

Urban Artifacts: The urban evolution of Brussels does not correspond, like other European cities, to the application of forceful urban planning, but rather it has been a city subjected to radical and fragmentary transformation processes as a consequence of specific historical, economic and political moments, which make reading its morphology not easy. We will analyze its specificity through the visible traces left by these processes: superimpositions, tunnels, viaducts, artificial topographies, monofunctional zones, hidden natural spaces...

Urban Forms: a large part of the residential fabric of the city corresponds to what has been called 'la maison bruxelloise', that is, a house between party walls with two or 3 floors, narrow and with a rear garden. Since the 20th century, other housing models, very different from one another, have configured new urban and peripheral landscapes, which have contributed to a certain sensation of disorder and contrast with the previous existing fabric so characteristic of the image of the city. This historical evolution will be studied by comparing it with ongoing housing operations.

**Full-or-part-time:** 30h

Practical classes: 30h

## GRADING SYSTEM

assessment of the research work, compilation report and participation in the preparation of the travel guide

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

#### Basic:

- BILLEN, Calire / DUVOSQUEL Jean-Marie / CASE, Charley. Bruxelles. Fonds Mercator, 2000.
- JASPERS-EYERS & Partners. How to not demolish a building. Berlin: Ruby Press, 2022.
- SCHUITEN, François / PETERS, Benoît. Bruxelles, un rêve capital. Casterman, ISBN 978-2-203-22977-8.
- STRICKER, Eva / BRANDI Guido / SONDEREGGER, Andreas / ANGST, Marc / BUSER, Barbara. Reuse in construction: a compendium of circular architecture. Zurich: Park Books, 2022.
- AURELI, Pier Vittorio / Berlage Institut. Brussels, a manifesto: towards the capital of Europe. NAI Publishers, 2007.
- LEDENT, Gérald / POROTTO, ALESSANDRO. Brussels Housing. Atlas of Residential Building Types. Basel: Birkhäuser Verlag, 2023.