

Course guide

210518 - CAEPC - Design Competitions as a Critical Thinking Tool

Last modified: 16/05/2025

Unit in charge: Barcelona School of Architecture
Teaching unit: 735 - PA - Department of Architectural Design.
752 - RA - Departamento de Representación Arquitectónica.
Degree: MASTER'S DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE (Syllabus 2015). (Optional subject).
Academic year: 2025 **ECTS Credits:** 5.0 **Languages:** Spanish, English

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer: HECTOR MENDOZA RAMIREZ
Others: Primer quadrimestre:
HECTOR MENDOZA RAMIREZ - M1
MARA GABRIELA PARTIDA MUÑOZ - M1

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

Lecture / Expository method
Participatory exhibition class
Case studies
Seminar / workshop

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

The objective is to understand through case studies of relevant projects, focusing on their competition phase, how contemporary situations have been solved, and how different international and local contexts have been interpreted.

The student will be introduced to research in architecture through architectural representation and the analysis of relevant Design Competitions.

The student will delve into architectural representation techniques as a tool for analysis and communication.

The student will delve into oral and written communication techniques.

The student will discover project strategies, systems, approach to different contexts

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Hours large group	30,0	24.00
Self study	95,0	76.00

Total learning time: 125 h

CONTENTS

Design competition as a critical thinking tool

Description:

The program comprises two parts.

Theoretical classes as lectures by professors and guests with experience in the area of interest, interspersed with oral presentations and debate in classes where the student intervenes directly in the analysis and criticism of the case studies.

This first part involves research, highlighting the relationship between the project and its representation in its different stages, (analysis, development and ideation, and communication)

Main topics to be covered:

Analysis of tender documents.

The graphic discourse of architecture design competition . International case studies.

The Design competition as a thinking tool. Local case studies.

The second part of the course will be workshop-seminars. In them, the student will be accompanied to delve into the selection for the case studies that each one will select. The student's work will be publicly exposed and work will be done on the graphic synthesis and essay that will be delivered as evaluation material.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Theory classes: 1h

Laboratory classes: 1h

Self study : 1h

GRADING SYSTEM

EXAMINATION RULES.

Throughout the course, the student will make a presentation of their research.

In accordance with the criteria established throughout the course, the student will deliver a graphic and written synthesis that shows their detailed approach to the case studied.

Research Presentation 20%

Graphic synthesis 60%

Essay or written synthesis 20%

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

- Tostrup, E. NuevArchitecture and Rethoric: Text and Design in Architectural Competitions, Oslo 1937-1990. London: Andreas Papadakis, 1999.
- Rönn, Mangus; Kazemian, Reza; Andersson, Jonas E. The Architectural competition : research, inquiries and experiences. Stockholm: Axl Books, 2010. ISBN 9789197859820.
- Cortés Vázquez de Parga, Juan Antonio; Moneo, Rafael. Comentarios sobre dibujos de 20 arquitectos actuales [on line]. Barcelona: ETSAB, 1976 [Consultation: 11/07/2022]. Available on: <https://upcommons.upc.edu/handle/2117/90472>.
- Chupin, Jean-Pierre. Architecture competitions and the production of culture, quality and knowledge : an international inquiry. Montreal: Potential Architecture Books, 2015. ISBN 9780992131708.
- Puebla, Joan. Neovanguardias y representación arquitectónica : la expresión innovadora del proyecto contemporáneo [on line]. Barcelona: Edicions UPC, 2002 [Consultation: 11/07/2022]. Available on: <https://upcommons.upc.edu/handle/2099.3/36806>. ISBN 848301565X.
- Robbins, Edward. Why architects draw : interviews with Edward Cullinan Cambridge, Mas. ; London: MIT Press, 1994. ISBN 0262181576.
- LIPSTADT, H.. Experimenting with the experimental tradition, 1989-2009 on Competitions and Architecture Research. Nordic Journal of Architectural Research, 2009.
- Berger, John.; Savage, Jim. Sobre el dibujo. Barcelona: Gustavo Gili, 2011. ISBN 9788425224652.