

Course guide

290508 - REHABIT - Re-Dwell

Last modified: 05/07/2024

Unit in charge: Vallès School of Architecture
Teaching unit: 735 - PA - Department of Architectural Design.

Degree: MASTER'S DEGREE IN SUSTAINABLE INTERVENTION IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (Syllabus 2014).
(Compulsory subject).

Academic year: 2024 **ECTS Credits:** 5.0 **Languages:** English

LECTURER

Coordinating lecturer: Pere Fuertes (ENG)

Others: Pere Fuertes

DEGREE COMPETENCES TO WHICH THE SUBJECT CONTRIBUTES

Specific:

9. Awareness of the impact that social demand for sustainability has in the architect's fields of action (namely design, building, city and territory) and the need for the architect's role re-definition.
10. Knowledge in the description of the material flows that determine urban metabolism as well as in understanding their relationship with urban spaces.
11. Ability to identify the opportunities for the transformation of the urban environment towards a sustainable direction.

Generical:

4. Ability to diagnose urban settings according to sustainability characterization.
5. Design interventions in the urban milieu to improve its sustainability.

Transversal:

6. TEAMWORK: To be able to work as a member of an interdisciplinary team, either as an associate or as a team-leader, so that projects are developed in a pragmatic and responsible manner by setting up goals fitted with the available resources.

7. SOLID USE OF INFORMATION RESOURCES: Proper management and acquisition, structuring, analysis and visualization of data and information in the specified knowledge field; capacity for critical assessment of results and conclusions.

8. (ENG) TERCERA LENGUA: Conocer una tercera lengua, preferentemente el inglés, con un nivel adecuado oral y escrito y en consonancia con las necesidades que tendrán los titulados y tituladas.

Basic:

1. Students will be able to integrate knowledge and deal with decision-making complexity that, even in cases of incomplete or limited information, ought to reflect on social and ethical outcomes.
2. Students will earn skills in clear and non-ambiguous communication of their conclusions, as well as the knowledge and reasoning sustaining them, to expert and non-expert audiences.
3. Students will build a capacity for self-driven and autonomous learning that may empower them in further studies or education.

TEACHING METHODOLOGY

The course is conceived as a forum for reflection, debate and learning about the capacity for transformation of built space through use and activity. Sessions link theory and practice through immersive case study work, which is addressed throughout the semester. To this end, the contents are structured according to the following formats:

- Lectures on the theory and practice of architectural design aimed at transforming the built space through its habitability performance.
- Continuous workshop (project-based learning) that allows students to apply and discuss the contents of the lectures in the case study. The work is done in pairs and, periodically, this format takes up the entire session.
- Seminar (participative expository class) to encourage individual reflection on current issues in relation to habitability.
- Cooperative work and learning are an essential ingredient of the course and are considered a basic competence for professional practice. The workshop takes place in groups of two or three students.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES OF THE SUBJECT

The course aims to elaborate visions and strategies of intervention on architectural and urban spaces from the perspective of habitability, defined as the capacity to provide living conditions for the use of space and the performance of socially acceptable activities.

To this end, students are asked to develop tools to generate a narrative on the compatibility between activities and spaces, as these vary, considering the built environment as a resource.

The main objective is to reconsider intervention in the built environment from a specific reading of the potential for the occupation of space and hence redefine an adaptive, culturally sensitive, and multiscale habitability in which individuals and communities are actively involved.

STUDY LOAD

Type	Hours	Percentage
Hours medium group	22,5	18.00
Hours large group	22,5	18.00
Self study	80,0	64.00

Total learning time: 125 h

CONTENTS

Kick-off week (transversal approach)

Description:

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Full-or-part-time: 3h

Laboratory classes: 3h

Habitability

Description:

Activities, Relations, Levels of privacy. Scales of habitability.

Students are invited to reflect on the fact of inhabiting the built space and the varying conditions in which it is produced over time. Habitability, as the fundamental goal of architecture and urban planning, is the expression of a social agreement and accordingly should be part of any transformation proposal.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Theory classes: 1h 30m

Practical classes: 1h 30m

Re-inhabiting

Description:

Space through activity. Adaptive reuse.

Based on the above reflection, the definition of re-inhabiting is aimed at intervening in the inhabitant's relationship with the physical support over time. This involves that the inhabited space can be approached through its spatial agency in order to modify its ways of use as a strategy for transformation.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Theory classes: 1h 30m

Practical classes: 1h 30m

Indoors

Description:

Inhabitants' scale. Flexibility and adaptability.

It is possible to intervene in the way the rooms of the house are used if they are considered as aggregable and combinable entities. Modifying the structure of conventional uses in dwellings becomes a form of applied critique, in order to shorten the distance between the layout of the house and the way of life.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Theory classes: 1h 30m

Practical classes: 1h 30m

Follow-up workshop

Description:

Habitability audit.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Laboratory classes: 3h

Halfway review (transversal approach)

Description:

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Full-or-part-time: 3h

Laboratory classes: 3h

Satellites

Description:

Building scale. Diffuse home.

Flexibility and adaptability have identifiable constraints: the available floor space in the dwelling and the variability of needs. When the building scale is considered, the question of suitability for use can be raised with other instruments that take into account temporality and shared services.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Theory classes: 1h 30m

Practical classes: 1h 30m

Induced changes

Description:

Building and community scales. Catalysts of change.

Specific interventions in the building stock can spread their effects beyond the specific problem they are meant to solve.

Approaching these repair operations as catalysts makes it possible to project this beneficial effect. This session raises some observations to address the original issue as an opportunity for induced improvement.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Theory classes: 1h 30m

Practical classes: 1h 30m

In-between buildings

Description:

Community scale. Domesticate the street.

Re-inhabiting the street aims to reclaim the urban space as a public domain, encouraging community and social relations through a reflection on the characteristics of the ground floor premises and the street itself, along with the uses they can support.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Theory classes: 1h 30m

Practical classes: 1h 30m

Follow-up workshop

Description:

Habitability diagnose.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Theory classes: 3h

Heritage as opportunity

Description:

Common heritage. Obsolescence and reprogramming.

This session aims to observe misused, unoccupied or abandoned buildings as opportunities to revitalize the city from within, considering alternatives to demolition that extend buildings' lifespan and exploring other uses to re-establish a symbiotic relationship with the city.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Theory classes: 1h 30m

Practical classes: 1h 30m

Reused city

Description:

Urban scale. Intervention and network strategies.

The urban scale seems adequate to address re-inhabitation because of its physical, legal and social continuity. It can also encourage this practice to happen coherently and provides a metabolic environment to understand converted buildings as part of a general system which tends to be sustainable in a comprehensive meaning of the word.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Theory classes: 1h 30m

Practical classes: 1h 30m

Follow-up workshop

Description:

Habitability strategy.

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Laboratory classes: 3h

Synthesis workshop

Description:

Habitability synthesis. Construction of a case-study narrative from habitability (audit, diagnose, strategy).

Full-or-part-time: 3h

Laboratory classes: 3h

Final review (transversal approach)

Description:

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Full-or-part-time: 3h

Laboratory classes: 3h

GRADING SYSTEM

Based on continuous evaluation, participants in the course are required to discuss and submit the following assignments:

E0. Habitability audit practice

E1. Habitability audit

E2. Habitability diagnose

E3. Habitability strategy

Attendance and participation in debates is 30% of the grade. The cumulative sum of the assignments is 70%.

EXAMINATION RULES.

Assignments are evenly distributed along the course, according to the theoretical content. Most tasks are carried out in pairs. Specific criteria and guidelines are communicated to students well in advance. Deadlines and formats, also announced in advance, are compulsory.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basic:

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- Druot, F.; Lacaton, A.; Vassal, J. Plus : la vivienda colectiva : territorio de excepción = les grands ensembles de logements : territoire d'exception = large-scale housing developments : an exceptional case. Barcelona: Gustavo Gili, 2007. ISBN 9788425226540.

Complementary:

- Emery, Nicola. Progettare, costruire, curare : per una deontologia dell'architettura. 2a. Bellinzona: Casagrande, 2010. ISBN 9788877135766.