

Barcelona Visiting Studio

ETSAB, BARCELONA
VISITING STUDIO_SPRING SEMESTER 2020

HABITAR: MINIMUM DWELLING

Instructors: Juhani Pallasmaa, Queralt Garriga + visiting specialists
Scholar: Cristina Marcos

GENERAL INTENTIONS AND PROCESSES

The Studio task is to design a minimum dwelling in wood for industrial production for the purposes of temporary and urgent housing needs in Barcelona (emergency housing, homeless, low-income persons and families, refugees, etc.). The unit is required to be completed in a factory (with the exception of ground works, erection and in-situ technical connections on the site). The basic system approach (spatial units, panel system, framed system, etc.) as well as the manufacturing process (cross-laminated timber, solid timber, panel construction, etc.) will be determined after familiarization with Spanish timber industries and systems that have been used in other countries. The design will be developed following practical views of the timber industry experts.

The aim is to design the housing unit/system during the spring semester as individual student projects. In the end of the semester, the best project will be selected by the instructors, representatives of the *Gremi de Fusta i Moble* and the students in the Studio. The Studio group will make a study of the industrial housing systems that have been used in various countries (perhaps, through a lecture by a specialist, if available).

The selected project will be developed further (production drawings, details, specifications, necessary engineering drawings and presentation material and models) as a separate project beginning in the autumn of 2020. The execution project will be developed in agreement with the *Gremi* organization to be exhibited in Barcelona and elsewhere. This separate project group will be determined later, but the author of the selected project will naturally be in the team. The academic conditions and merits of the second phase will be determined at the time the execution team will be appointed.

1. PRELIMINARY TASK: CONCEPTS¹

Architectural design programs are normally based on given and generally accepted concepts, units and elements of residential design (room program, various architectural functions, parts and functional or constructional "elements") The Studio desires to be free of such preconceived ideas, practices and given elements of design in order to explore the true essences of dwelling, inhabitation and home, architectural acts, images and experiences that constitute a house, dwelling and home (how should the notions of home and domestication be seen in temporary dwelling; what are the sociological and psychological requirements and constraints in the design of a temporary home; what are the dialectics of collectivity/individuality, safety and privacy, architectural aesthetics and utility in emergency housing).

In addition to its material essence, a house can be regarded as a collection of behavioural, perceptual and mental "acts" on which the material reality of the dwelling is grounded. Architecture choreographs and guides human actions, movements, interactions, experiences and emotions, and consequently, In its essence, architecture is closer to a verb than a noun.

In the first phase of the studio, the students are requested to focus on one of the listed primary acts/images/experiences of dwelling and to present an architectural, emotive reaction to one of the listed notions. Each participant is expected to study his/her selected notion/phenomenon, and present an experiential architectural reaction to the selected act/encounter/notion.

The intended acts are following: entering; cooking; eating; cleaning/washing; sleeping; relaxing; watching/observing.

The individual studies will be presented to the studio group and discussed collectively. The group will especially consider the consequences of the study to the actual design process.

2. DESIGN PROGRAM: REALITIES

The design program for the Studio will be discussed and decided collectively. The required presentation materials at each phase will be discussed.

¹ Recommended reading for the first Studio phase:
Juhani Pallasmaa, *Habitar* and *Esencias*, Gustavo Gili, Barcelona, 2016 and 2018.

The students will be working on their preliminary individual projects under the guidance of the instructors. Whenever judged beneficial, the projects or specific issues will be discussed collectively.

There will be individual conversations and criticisms; group conversations whenever deemed beneficial and individual presentations to the Studio of some student's project to be collectively discussed.

There will be a collective review with representatives of the *Gremi*, and discussion on the various approaches and problems that have arisen. There will be a final review of all the projects with outside experts (to be determined).

3. FAMILIARIZATION WITH TIMBER CONSTRUCTION AND INDUSTRIAL MANUFACTURE

During the Studio, different excursions and on site works will be organised to relevant factories and buildings in Catalonia. We will also study the industrial wood construction systems for housing in other countries and from different authors. Those visits will be conducted on Saturdays.

NB. As every design process and project is different and largely beyond precise anticipation, the internal intellectual and emotional circumstances of the Studio will be considered and the Studio process re-adjusted accordingly, if considered advisable.

The Studio schedule, working rhythm and evolution of the projects have to advance naturally and fluently, which calls for subtlety and flexibility in the overall plan and timetable.