MBArch URBANISM

Master's Degree in Advanced Studies in Architecture

du tp Departament d'Urbanisme Territori i Paisatge

ETSAB MBArch

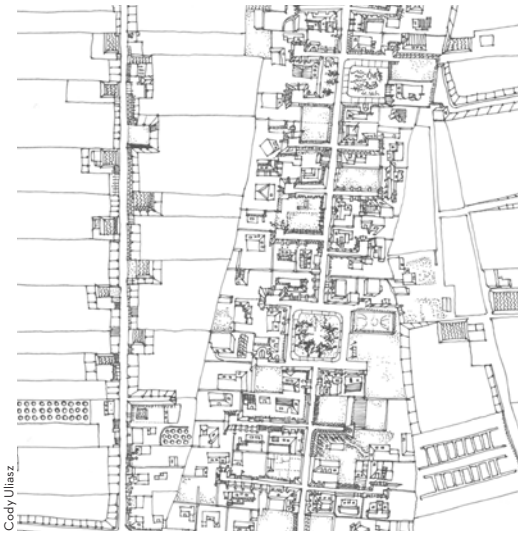
Eulàlia Gómez-Escoda

ARCHITECTURE, CITY AND PROJECT

The course *Architecture, City and Project* proposes an introduction to the urban fact from the point of view of history, culture and attention to the concerns that guide the contemporary transformation of cities. The course is organized into four blocks. The first one contextualizes the course exercise and introduces the reading of the city beyond the canonical texts of the urban discipline. The two central ones explain the evolution of cities from some key urban projects; the Industrial Revolution is taken as a turning point between these two cetral blocks. The last part of the course reviews some fundamental project strategies for acting in contemporary metropolises.

Evangelia Raikidou

Sein Turna



Cody Uliasz

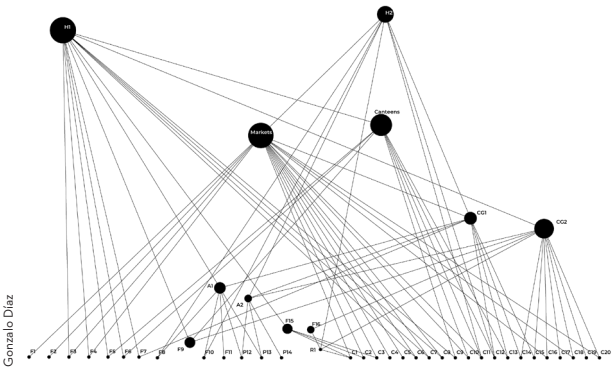
Isaac Landeros

Inés Aquilué + Álvaro Clua

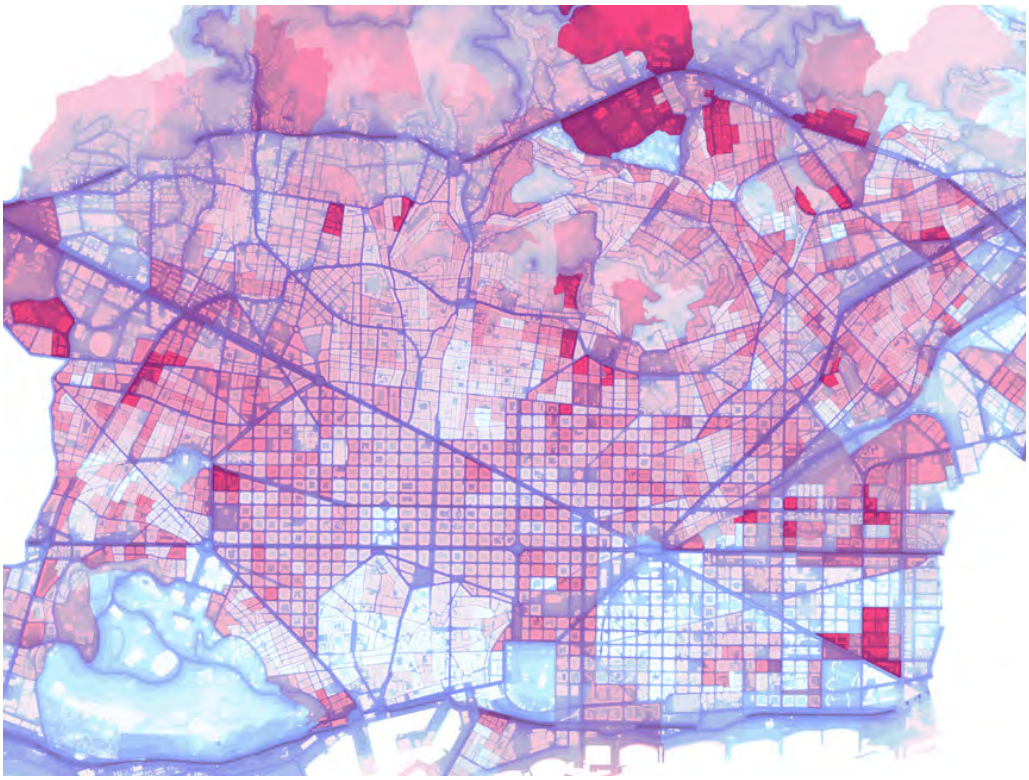
ARCHITECTURE, THEORY AND CRITICISM

The course in Architecture, Theory and Criticism introduces the students to methods used in urban studies. It aims to present urban phenomena in the context of contemporary thought, revising some key theses that tackle the relation between cities and social studies. The course combines sessions dedicated to discussing contemporary theories in urban studies with practical training in analytical and graphic methods to construct evidence about urban topics.

Ke Nan



Gonzalo Díaz



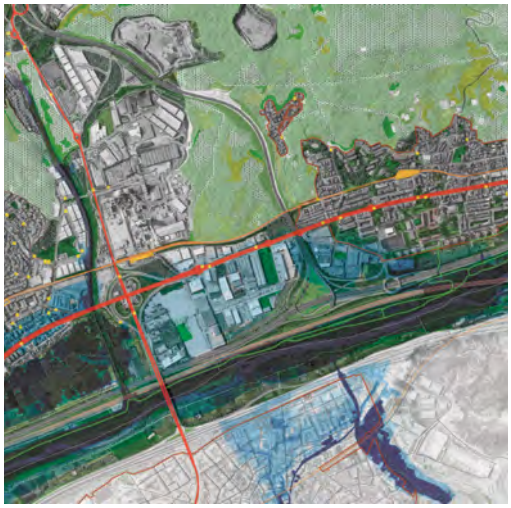
Gonzalo Díaz + Marina Sunyer

Carles Crosas + Miquel Martí

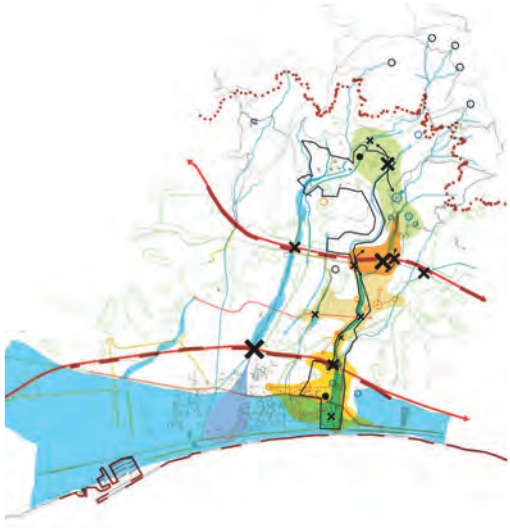
ARCHITECTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

The course builds on the multifaceted impact of environmental sustainability and resilience in the design and transformation of cities. The analysis of the urban design dimensions of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses on the relationship between urbanization, natural resources consumption and environmental pollution. Combining theory and case studies, the course covers a wide range of topics, including ecological systems logics and performance, specific expressions of blue and green infrastructure, sustainable mobility (low and zero-carbon emission trips, inter-modality and environmental behaviour) and an in-depth approach to urban metabolism. It also addresses challenges and opportunities regarding the water cycles, energy and goods.

Majed Naseri



Isaac Landeros, Fernando García Ochoa



Amal Ben Ammar, Gonzalo Díaz

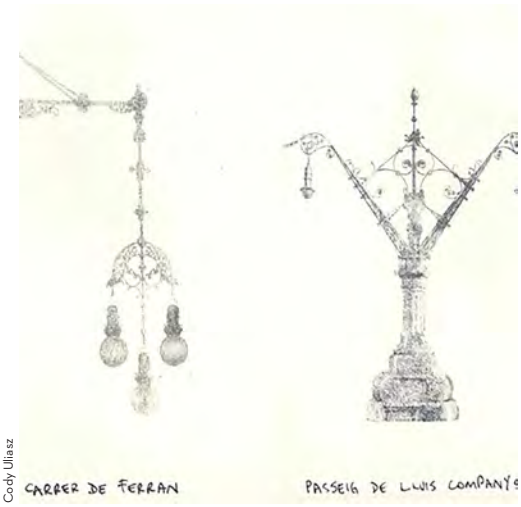
Miquel Martí + Álex Giménez

PUBLIC SPACE: EXPERIENCES, PROJECTS & POLICIES

The course proposes an open reflection on contemporary public space considering diversity and complexity as two main features. It combines two approaches: the first, which is more theoretical, looks at diverse concepts and meanings of public space configuration in contemporary cities and examines the main urban policies in some selected cities. The second approach focuses on developing strategies and tools for designing spaces.

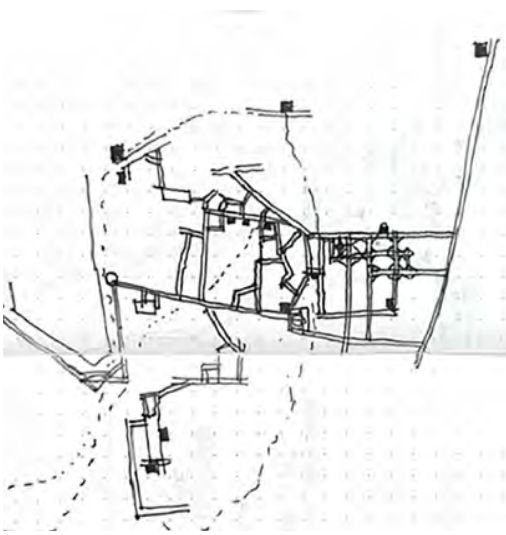
It considers diverse functions and connections with the architecture of the building and grounds, interlinked with multiple flows and interconnected with the surrounding areas. These spaces play a social role and act as symbolic references.

Luisa Rios



Cody Uliasz

Urva Parmar



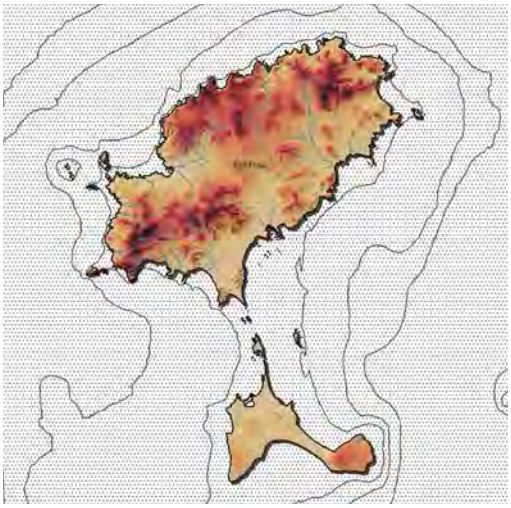
Fernando García

MBArch Urbanism

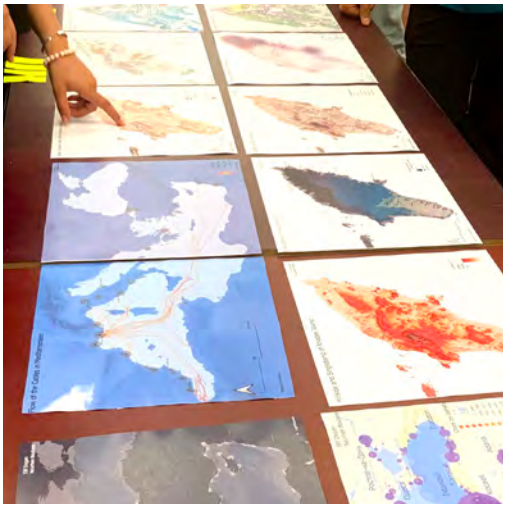
Álvaro Clua

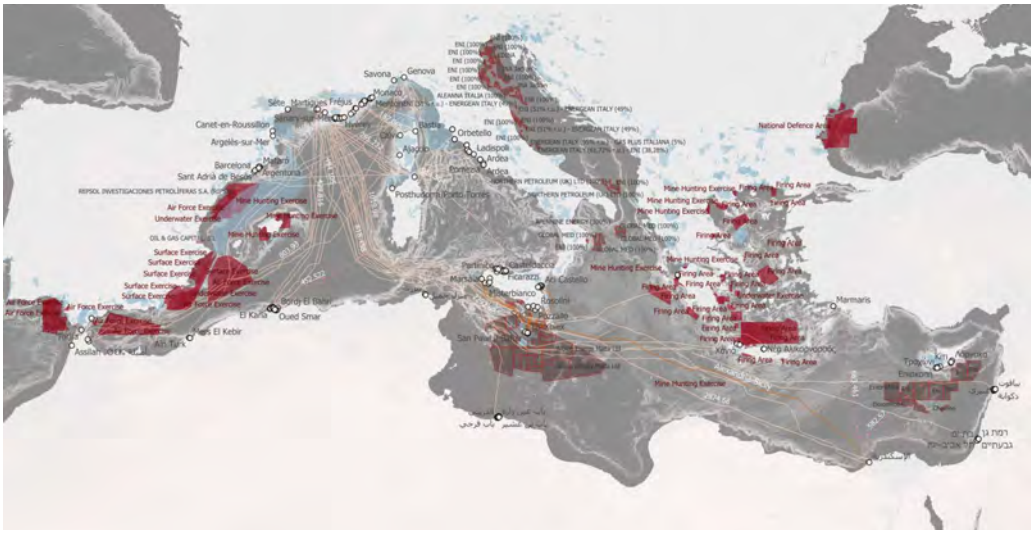
TERRITORY AS ARCHITECTURE

The course introduces essential concepts and tools for mapping cities and territories. In the first part of the workshop, students will focus on hand-drawing techniques by creating detailed maps of Barcelona, learning cartographic principles at the scale of the whole city. This hands-on approach enhances their understanding of spatial relationships and graphic elements in map-making. In the second part, students will map Mediterranean cities and territories using advanced GIS technology. They will gain proficiency in software like QGIS to analyze spatial data. By combining hand-drawing skills with digital technologies, students will produce precise, informative, and visually compelling maps, preparing them for diverse mapping challenges in urban and territorial design and studies.



Cody Uliasz





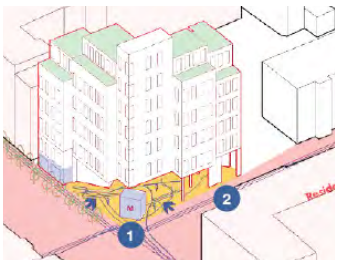
Majed Naseri

MBArch Urbanism

Kathrin Golda-Pongratz + Rosina Vinyes

CONTEMPORARY RESIDENTIAL URBAN PROJECT

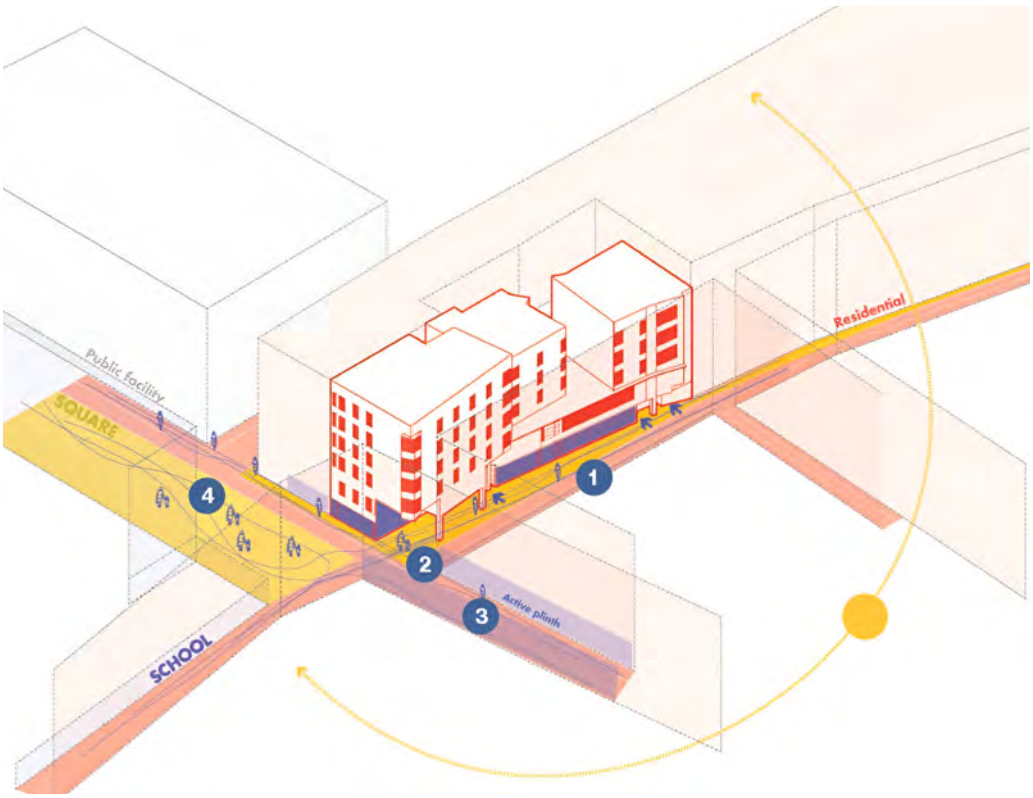
The course analyzes the paradigms in the production of housing and collective spaces during the 20th and 21st Centuries in their respective historical, political, geographical and cultural contexts. It aims at answering questions such as: What is the identity of the contemporary urban project? What type of residential design has been implemented and which type can or should be implemented in specific territories? What is the role of the (future) inhabitants in the design and management? Which kind of residential projects can reverse the current housing needs? What characteristics should the new design provide?



Tzvetelina Vesselinova, Juan Arcila, Sofia Miranda

Lecture on site - La Borda / Can Batlló

Lecture on site - Casa bloc



Tzvetelina Vesselinova, Juan Arcila, Sofia Miranda

Stefano Cortellaro + Melisa Pesoa

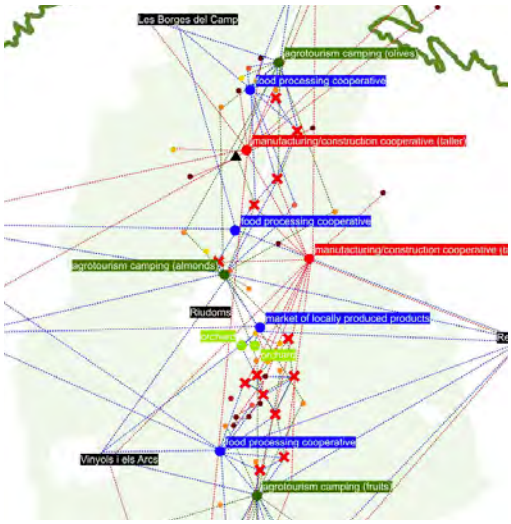
CULTURAL LANDSCAPES, HERITAGE AND TERRITORIAL PROJECT

This course focuses on the research and project of the processes and forms of urbanization on contemporary territory. For this, we will study the landscape, the heritage, and the shape of the territory as planning criteria based on local resources and the identity of the place. The module explores the concepts of landscape, «cultural landscape», heritage, and the operationalization of the territory in the current context through the study of theoretical references and case studies. Drawings and cartographies are used as the main tool for the development of interpretive hypotheses. This opens up a broad field of reflection on the diversity of territorial patterns and intervention strategies and projects on contemporary territory.

Evangelia Raikidou, Kostantinos Karvouniaris

Urva Parmar, Akhil Sathyan

Cody Uliasz, Marina Schuttel

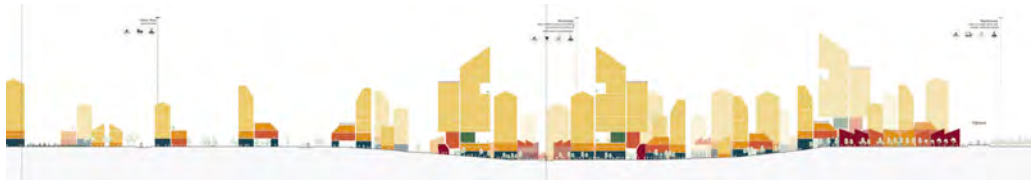


Evangelia Raikidou, Kostantinos Karvouniaris

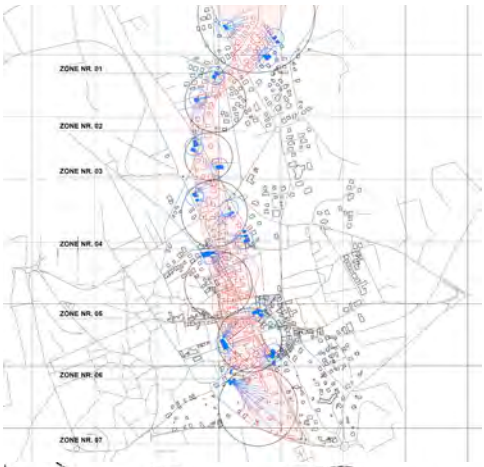
Inés Aquilué + Teresa Garcia

DESIGNING THE CITY: EMERGING CITIES AND TERRITORIES

The course tackles the diversity and complexity of territories from a systemic perspective, learning from their patterns of change, and giving clues to more sustainable development that includes a spatial and holistic perspective as part of the transformation process. The course will introduce new international paradigms within urban studies to learn how to read emerging developments and, finally, how to intervene. The subject is divided into sessions dedicated to topics that affect our highly urbanized lands such as global metropolises, self-constructed cities, spaces of emergency, divided cities, new urban utopias and spatial dystopias. The approach used is to analyse the structure and morphometrics of emerging territories to find vulnerabilities that lead to patterns of intervention to improve urbanity without losing social and spatial networks. Time and needs are considered the basis to tackle the fragility of territories from a sociospatial and complex perspective.

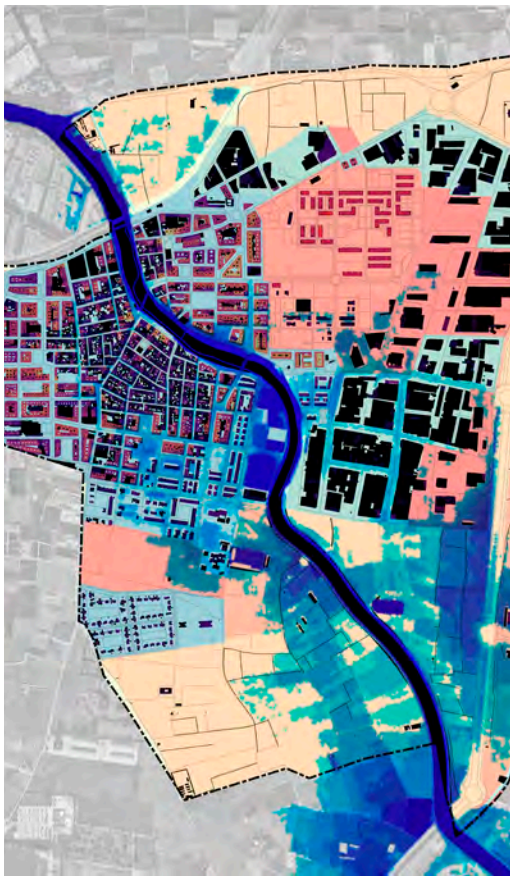


Neelihan Gulhan, Fernando García, Luisa Ríos



Majed Naseri

Julia Duda, Manaswi Garodia, Karina Rodríguez

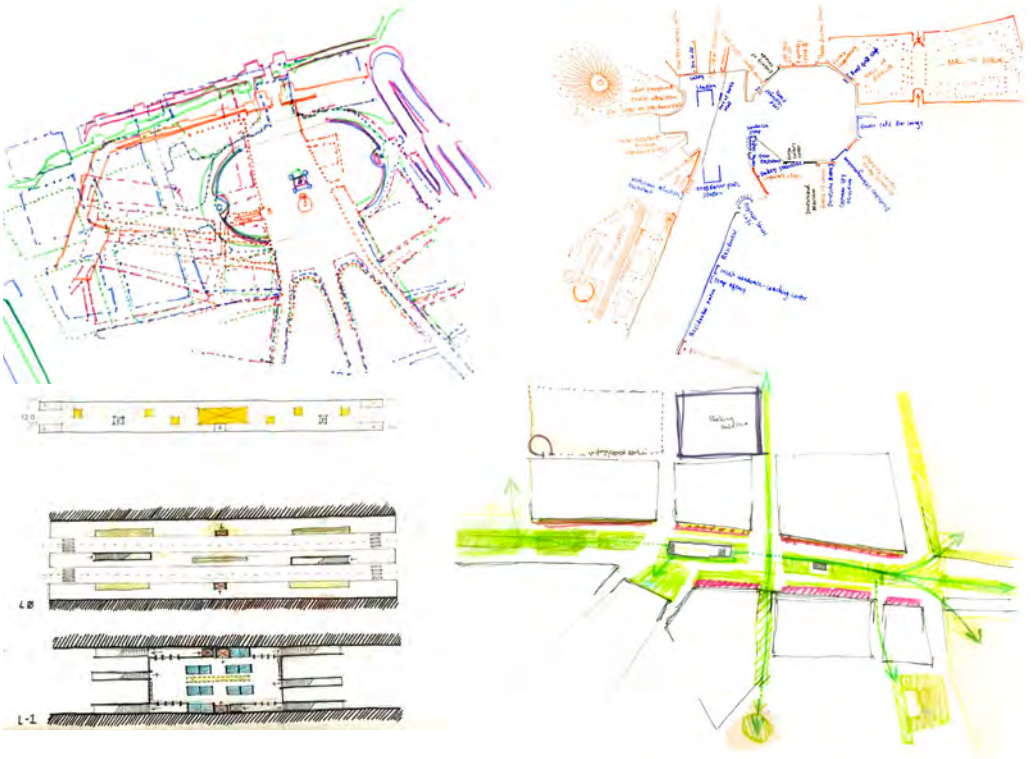


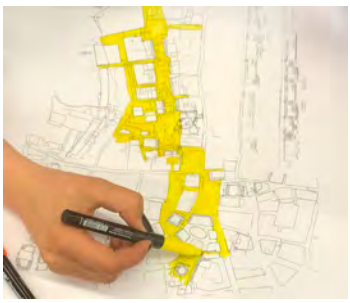
Urva Parmar, Akhil Sathyan

Álvaro Clua

CRUCIAL ASPECTS OF URBAN PROJECTS

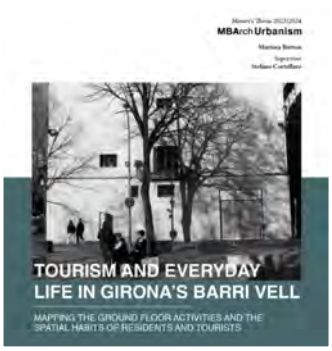
The course explores the origins, concepts and dominant paradigms of contemporary urban projects, in light of the unique tradition of urban design explored in Barcelona since the 1980s. The module introduces critical discussions on the design strategies that are shaping the new fragments of the city: from urban composition to the role of data-based decisions, from spatial ideas to social collaborative thinking, from abstract conceptualizations to materiality, from metropolitan scope to the bottom-up approach, from urban form to activities and flows. The course is organized in a series of theoretical lessons, and design-oriented assignments focused on complex urban projects. The aim of the course is to provide a theoretical background on urban design, to build a comprehensive atlas of relevant references and to test key design and analytical tools to approach projects in urban contexts.

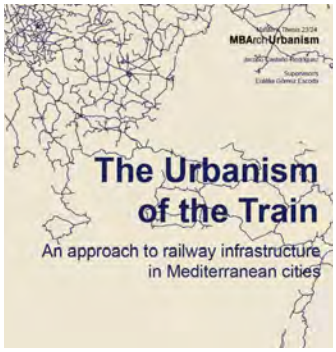


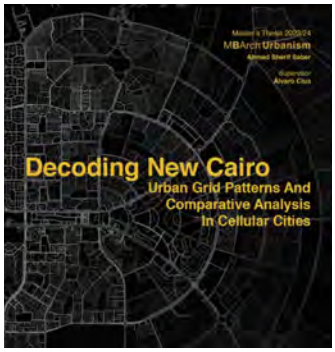


MASTER'S DEGREE THESIS

The MBArch Urbanism master's program culminates with the development and defense of a research work exploring themes related to contemporary urban challenges, why and how certain urban phenomena or issues are impacting our cities. The themes should be directly or indirectly related to challenges in cities and territories similar to the ones at the Mediterranean basin. The project is supervised by one or two professors and involves an exploration of urban or territorial issues using graphic resources, field works, interviews, documentary materials, data, and scientific literature sources. The project can address either a theoretical theme, a case-study based research or a more design-oriented approach, aimed at providing guidelines for future interventions.







The official master MBArch in Urbanism [English track] continues the experience of the official Urbanism Master of Research in Barcelona, with a long tradition and international recognition.

The master combines research with design, specialization with interdisciplinary approaches and theory with practice, offering new interpretations and areas of original reflection. This track is entirely taught in English, and aims to train professionals to face the challenges of contemporary urbanism and to attend to the development of new urban analysis and project tools.The track also offers the necessary training complements for the PhD Program in Urbanism, distinguished since its inception with the Mention of Excellence.

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ETSAB Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura de Barcelona