

ARCHITECTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Intentions

The aim of this workshop is to understand the project as a tool of research.

We'll focus the attention on the transformation of cities, where a continuous fight between the invasive force of the globalization and the persistent resistance of multiple identities is supported. We consider the public space as the focal center of the community, which brings together social life and all the conflicts of the city from the symbolic, morphological and functional points of view.

Changes are part of the real dynamic of our cities, cultures and landscapes, and we are called to find opportunities, better than problems, to improve the real environment and make our cities much more liveable than they are now. We'll talk about big cultures, big infrastructures and big cities, but not forgetting "the small is the new big".

Exercise: The living city, an opportunity for the public space

The main target of this exercise is to focus the attention on the public space to "improve the health of our communities", emotionally and functionally. First of all, you must discover an urban conflict and turn it in an opportunity for the public space. Once the strategy of the project is defined, you have to identify an architectural issue to write a memory and to open a way of research. Optionally, in the second semester you can continue this project to do your master's thesis.

This year we are going to work on the recovery of the Infanta's Channel, a former agriculture irrigation infrastructure of 17 km length, build in 1819 to feed Barcelona. Nowadays, this infrastructure is erased by the growth of the city and becomes a piece of archaeology. The idea is to transform this old infrastructure in a new metropolitan Blue way – Green way. A sequence of public spaces.

Cartographic tools

AMB Cartography Geoportal <https://geoportalcartografia.amb.cat>

ICC Cartografia Topogràfica <http://www.icgc.cat>

Instamaps Xarxa Hidràulica del Canal de la Infanta <https://www.instamaps.cat>

Syllabus

September Presentation

October 1. First step: Site selection and first proposal
Find an urban conflict, analyze the existing situation from the point of view of the public space and define the strategies to make a proposal of transformation. The conception of the project must improve the public space with buildings: recycling, demolishing, constructing.
Use artistic means and criteria.
First delivery: models and portfolio [notebook]

November 2. Second step. Development of the project (or several projects)
Make models, plans, sections and elevations to understand well the spaces and volumes. Propose a program according with the site and building. Include materiality from the beginning.
Consider the project as a metaphor.
Second delivery: models and portfolio [notebook]

December 3. Third step. Editing and writing of a short memory of the project
Make a list of possible issues to be researched by your project. Choose a topic of research according with your project. Explain the main ideas and strategies you have used to solve the problems and conflicts you found.
Remember: the program and functions are oriented to the needs of the body, and the arts are oriented to the needs of the spirit.
Third delivery: models and portfolio [notebook]

January Final presentation*
Layout of plans and discourse
Delivery of the full project including photos of models
Paper and digital | Upload the pdf on Atenea
Final delivery with external Jury

Evaluation criteria

40% Main ideas: conception, creativity, story
30% Development: technology, program, distribution
30% Representation: drawings, collages, models, texts, layouts

* Who has a good project can use it for the Master's Thesis