

## ARCHITECTURAL PROJECT AND THOUGHT

### Intentions

Convenient ambiguities: materiality as a flexible playground for architecture.

Every action of architecture is an action on the materiality of a site. We will always act on some material territoriality (regardless of its size) and we will do it with some material tools (structures and technologies). We propose to look at the apparent and irreconcilable struggle between ideas and matter under to light generated by the combination of complexity, unorthodoxy, disciplinary secularism and ludic awareness.

During the course, technical and material considerations are, therefore, integrated with others of a social, urban and ecological nature, within the framework of a more sustainable vision of the reality of our cities and landscape, seen as a story that never reaches a defined ending and to which the project does nothing but add another layer.

The subject is structured through four types of work: the lectures; the visits; the media; the exercises. The idea of architectural heritage will not be studied in a conventional way, since we want to develop the participant's skills in terms of architectural intelligence, rather than provide some specific technical knowledge on the topic.

In order to do so, we will explore four fundamental concepts particularly important for the general theory of architecture and beyond: past; future; destruction; construction. For in many aspects of human life, the balance between past and future, destruction and construction is crucial in order to understand and, maybe, take control of the dynamics of reality around us.

As far as the exercises, participants will be asked to prepare a final project. The work will be developed individually or, depending on the subject, in small teams of 2 people. The project will be a kind of resume of the reflections led during the course and it will be developed in four steps + one. Each step will correspond to one of the four mentioned concepts and the team will work on some of the sites already under work from the others subjects of the master. Therefore, there will be a strong interaction among the subjects in order to optimise resources and maximise results. These four intermediate steps will be previous to the final exercise, that will be a proposal for a specific site in the area of Barcelona.

## **Syllabus**

### First block, PAST:

- Theoretical lecture: the notion of heritage.
- Movie: Alejandro Amenábar, *The Others*, 2001.
- Visit: Ciutat Vella, the old center of Barcelona.
- Architectural lecture: Carlo Scarpa in Verona; the old Sassi in Matera
- First exercise: topic and location.

### Second block, FUTURE:

- Theoretical lecture: how the Future arrived in our lives.
- Movie: Stanley Kubrick 2001, *A Space Odyssey*, 1969.
- Visit: the former power station in Sant Adrià (Les tres xemeneies).
- Architectural lecture: Boullé and the visionary ideas of Enlightenment
- Second exercise: topic and location.

### Third block, DESTRUCTION:

- Theoretical lecture: big disasters in history.
- Movie: Peter Greenaway, *The Belly Of An Architect*, 1987.
- Visit: the area of the Sants railway station in Barcelona.
- Architectural lecture: Hiroshima, WTC New York, Chernobyl.
- Third exercise: topic and location.

### Forth block, CONSTRUCTION:

- Theoretical lecture: the never ending overlap of time and material.
  - Movie: Michelangelo Antonioni, *The Passenger*, 1975.
  - Visit: the park of Plaça de Les Glòries and the “22@” District.
  - Architectural lecture: to build is an endless task; old buildings still alive
  - Forth exercise: topic and location.
- Final presentation. Other professors from the Master will be invited.

## **Bibliography**

- BENJAMIN, Walter: “The destructive character”. In *Reflections: essays, aphorisms, autobiographical writings*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1978
- POCH, Arcadi; Daniela POCH (Ed.): *Urban creativity experience. Creative experiences in contemporary cities*. Madrid: Lemo Editorial, 2013
- WOLFE, Tom: *From Bauhaus to our house*. NY: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1981