

COURSE NAME: HOUSING

Semester: Spring 23

Teacher(s) in charge:

Jan Liesegang APP

Héctor Piña APP

Alberto Altes Arlandis THEORY

Richard Seymore DAV

NN DAV

Course Content:

We will approach the many aspects of what housing means today:

_ The house, the flat as a model of how we should live together and behave. Housing as a mirror of everyday life. As a place to take care of, as a place that needs to be maintained, repaired, cleaned and renovated. The house as a place of order and disorder, of personal drama and boredom.

_ The housing as a construction of identity: Through how we live and where we live, we distinguish ourselves from others and construct our identity within the society.

_ The house as an architect's plan, a floor plan that assigns a function to each room that tells us how to live.

_ Houses as commodity, as investment, as speculative object, as security, as the object we inherit to our children, as the ultimate object indicating our social status.

The house as a assembled material: As an amalgamation of hundreds of components and parts as a node of different economies and material supply chains.

_ The building as a machine that continuously consumes energy and recourses: As a node of infrastructure networks: electricity, water, gas, sewage, transport and information.

_ Housing and the history of housing: The cave, the nomads tent, the hut, the house, the apartment buildings, the modern house, tower blocks and flat types.

Modernism as a new invention of housing: open floor plans, Frankfurt kitchen, open kitchen, no kitchen, etc.

The idea of the course is to collectively develop a deep understanding of what housing means today: What ideas of living together are represented in today's housing market? And are reproduced by it? What other forms of living together are practiced in reality and why are there no housing models for these other conditions? What forms of cohabitation do we dream of? How can housing be changed in relation to the global climate- and resource crisis?

Learning Outcome:

The most important learning objective is to promote the ability to think critically and independently. Various techniques of mapping and grasping complex interrelationships in diagrams are taught and practiced. In various working steps, the reality of housing today is analyzed independently. Learning to look closely and repeatedly. To depict and understand things which have become invisible through their everydayness.

In the accompanying seminar, texts on housing and climate and resource crises are discussed and applied to the students' own theses. One starting point is the phenomenological examination of housing with its multi-layered social and spatial connotations.

In the "Housing project's today" step, the standards of housing construction, laws, regulations, fire regulations and types of housing are closely examined. Why do we build the way we do? Construction physics, material properties, standards and costs are analyzed using example projects.

Ecological building methods will be in the focus of the design. In a practical workshop on straw and clay construction, the techniques for these materials are learned and practiced.

In the design part, students will structure their own work and develop their own criteria for their projects. Step-by-step definition of ideas and concepts in different scales will be trained.

Working and learning activities:

ORIENTATION / LEARNING TOGETHER

The course will be accompanied by a reading seminar. In weekly meetings we will read and critically discuss a selection of contemporary books and articles around the topics of housing and resources which discuss the contemporary political, economical, ecological constraints and propose different modes of possible change and action.

PROPOSED WORKINGS STEPS:

STEP 0 / PROGRAM AND CONTEXT introduction workshop / week 1

Introduction to the task, content, teachers and program. An intense two days opening workshop in which we will try to set up a good working atmosphere, structure and studio space.

STEP 1: MAPPING REALITY / HOW DO WE LIVE TODAY? weeks 1&2

How do people really live in Bergen? We very often live in the wrong place, either too big or too small or too far away from work, or with the wrong people etc. Research about the misfits and performance gaps in the Bergen housing realities.

STEP 2 : MATERIAL / LESS EXTRACTIVE ARCHITECTURE week 3

Straw and clay building workshop with Bjørn Kierulf and Zuzana Kierulfová (to be confirmed)

STEP 3: THE URBAN CONTEXT weeks 4-5

The questions of the character, typology, social structure programmatic mix, etc of the future city obviously leads to the bigger question: How do we want to live together in the future? This question can properly not be answered right away, but only be a departure for a process of exploration. We propose to start this process of exploring possible futures in the reality of the existing city / neighbourhoods.

WHAT IS ALREADY THERE? We believe that a meaningful plan for a housing project, no matter how radical and different it might be, has to be rooted in a deep understanding of the history, relation to nature, social and economical structure, typology etc of its site. This knowledge is partly available in existing plans and statistics. It seems to be important to be able to read, understand and relate their content to our projects. Other facts like the qualities of public space, its character, its use, its potentials and shortcomings are not to be found in existing maps. These key qualities for the understanding of the city as a space of everyday life have to be explored on site. We have to develop methods of recording and mapping these site conditions.

STEP 4: WHERE ARE WE NOW? / HOUSING PROJECTS TODAY weeks 6-7

Common research on the housing market, housing typologies and the conditions of ordinary buildings processes today in Bergen. In depth analysis of two recent housing projects in Bergen. Interviews and meetings with all relevant planning partners, developers, builders and users. Mapping of project development, material flows and social and environmental impact.

STEP 5: STUDY TRIP TO MARSEILLE week 9

STEP 6: COHERENCY / DESIGN WORK / weeks 10-19

Work on plan, structure, material in 1:50 model and drawings. In this final working model should become inhabited by your ideas. In the end every space every colour, every material should be as you imagine it.

STEP 7 / THE HOUSES TALE / last 2 weeks 20&21

Create a short movie from and with your model. Show your house in use. Write a script. How do the inhabitants use your house? Which spaces are private? Which spaces are shared? What are the threshold and transitions in between these zones? Create the atmospheres you imagine. Interview one or some of the future inhabitants.

Requirements:

The course aims to unfold the complex architectural design process in structured working phases. It is a full time course in which the present in the studio and collaborative research and learning is essential. In contrast to the digital tools that we will use as drawing and communication tools, the course intends to be extremely spatial, tactile and with a lot of material specific model building on a high level of craftsmanship. The idea is to create a lively conversation between students, teachers and different actors through different means of making: writing, 1:1 building, sketches, models, drawings and short films. Central should be the work in different architectonic scales, real materials and big scale models.

Reading list /References: (To be completed)

_ DOWN TO EARTH, Politics in the New Climatic Regime, Bruno Latour, 2019

_ „Of other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias“, Michel Foucault

_ “Species of spaces and other pieces” George Perec

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Reference books:

_ THE MATERIAL BOOK, Rubi Press

_ Straw Bale Construction Manual: Design and Technology of a Sustainable Architecture, Minke, Gernot, Krick, Benjamin

_ Lehm- und Holzbautechnik: Von den Anfängen bis heute, Dezember 2019

Specific conditions

A master course is considered a formal exam at BAS. The only grading is Pass /Fail.

An external examiner will be present during the final review, and participate on the final grading of the student in collaboration with the teacher(s) in charge on the course.

If a student lacks the minimum level and attendance in order to be evaluated for the exam, the student shall receive written notice of this as soon as possible, and at the latest 2 weeks before the final review. Then this student will have failed the course. As a master course is based on the effort and work during a whole semester, this will be the basis for the approval for the exam.

Written notice/warning can be given throughout the semester if a candidate does not have the required progress or attendance. Then it is the student's responsibility to put in the extra effort and resources.

Even though a student does not receive a warning/notice from the teachers, the final result will be depending on an evaluation also by an external assessor, and the result can therefore not be guaranteed.

If a student has special needs and will need facilitation during the master course, the student must contact BAS before the course starts and inform the school about this. It is required to have documentation of a diagnosis in order to have facilitation. If you have had a process with this earlier in your study, you nevertheless have to contact adm. to inform and agree upon the specific needs for facilitation for the upcoming semester.

The final assessment

will be made by the teacher(s) in charge of the course plus an external examiner during the final review, and will be based on:

1. The individual submission for the different stages of the project.
2. The level of participation and contribution to the collective/group work.
3. The assessment of the work/project as presented at the final review.

After the final review one will receive either a pass or fail. If there are minor weaknesses that could improve the project in order to pass, a candidate may be given supplementary work that is to be completed within 2 weeks after the final review. The supplementary work will be evaluated to either a pass or a fail by the teacher(s) in charge. If the weaknesses are not possible to overcome by doing supplementary work, the grade will be fail. This decision of giving supplementary work is solely up to the teacher and the external examiner.

Portfolio

a student is expected to make a portfolio of all 3 master courses before diploma. This is to be submitted at the beginning of the diploma semester.