EPFL

AR-401(ae)

Studio MA1 (Pantazis et Rentzou)

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture	MA1, MA3	Obl.
Mob. AR	H	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	13
Withdrawal	Unauthorized
Session	Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	During the semester
Workload	390h
Weeks	14
Hours	**6 weekly**
Courses	2 weekly
Project	4 weekly
Number of positions	

It is not allowed to withdraw from this subject after the registration deadline.

Remark

Inscription faite par la section

Summary

The studio transforms traditional architecture into new domestic typologies, without concern about aesthetics in the traditional sense. It focuses on users, daily routines, improvisation, collective life and public space, as well as on appropriation and the interaction of the being with the plot.

Content

Old Athenian Houses, 'House As A Machine For Communal Life' examines types of anonymous architecture and transforms them in new paradigms, challenging their limits and connecting tradition and modernism. Without concern about aesthetics in the traditional sense and largely improvised, as is typical of vernacular architecture practiced by anonymous builders, it puts the focus back on the human user, daily routines, improvisation and compositional freedom, collective life and public space. It engages with the question of how to appropriate a given shell moving the focus from the object to the interaction of the being with the plot. It examines how we architects can adopt and intervene in cities and structures that are already built, focusing on combinations of rule & exception, normal & eccentric, rejecting traditional notions of scale and promoting density and multifunctionality. It tests how to structure a house around communal life, rather than individual life.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:
- Develop strategies to complete partially documented architectures
- Draw plans and construct models
- Identify potential contemporary qualities in existing architecture
- Use and transform given architectures
- Recognize the political and social meaning of domestic space
- Establish a pertinent formal language
- Apply representation techniques borrowed from artistic works

Teaching methods

Every student will take one house.

Part 1
The students will complete the projects by imagining the missing documentation.
Tasks:
1. Invent the missing drawings.
2. Identify 5-10 details or areas of the project that are unusual, suprising, or unconventional vis a vis construction method, design or they way they promote communal life.
3. Create a representation of the house (image) that makes a hypothesis about what the colors of the house might have been (vis a vis the Hellenic Houses series of paintings of Greek painter Nikos Eggonopoulos).
4. Make a model in scale 1:20, and photograph it producing new views of the houses
5. Present the house through the above.

Part 2
The students will create new architectures reacting on the now completed houses.
Tasks:
1. Propose new social programs for the houses addressing the mater of collective dwelling today.
2. Design the interior with specific furnishings and atmosphere, arguing about the politics of the interior proposed, with rooms that embody the most positive qualities of contemporary society and that empower the inhabitant.
3. Update the model and photograph the new situation.
4. Design a specific interior construction and present it through a complete set of images, drawings and construction details.
5. Represent the new project in the form of a totem, highlighting relations discovered and proposed between its parts.

Assessment methods

Weekly Table critics
Intermediate and final reviews with guests juries

Resources

Ressources en bibliothèque

- Elements for self-knowledge / Konstantinidis
- Ta palia Athinaïka spitia / Konstantinidis