

UB103 Reduce To The Max

Introduction to Architecture and Urbanism

Seminar Leaders: Caroline Wolf and Wulf Walter Böttger

Course Times: Saturday (mostly biweekly, for details see schedule of syllabus), 11pm – 3pm

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Office Hours: tba

Course Description

The Housing Question is as relevant today as it was 100 years ago. How to create affordable and adaptable spaces and sustainable neighbourhoods is a central theme in architectural practice that reaches far beyond questions of real estate politics and speculation.

Berlin has long been a field of experiment for housing—reaching from the world-heritage *Siedlungen* (social housing estates) of the 1920s to the International Building Exhibitions of the 1950s to today's small-scale *Baugruppen* (co-op housing) developments and *Tiny House* movement.

Through excursions, lectures and design exercises, this course aims to provide students with an introduction to architectural design. In a practical design brief students will be required to design a *Tiny House* for a city nomad. Over the course of the semester, they will develop the drawing and model-making skills and vocabulary essential to visualize and present their ideas—spatially and conceptually.

Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during the entire class time, including off-campus trips. They will be allowed to be used only during breaks.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments / presentations without reminder.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Initiate appointments with Professor or Arts Staff outside of class time when assistance is necessary.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Respond to emails from Professor in a timely manner.
- Inform Professor at beginning of the semester if photos of student, artwork, works in progress are NOT to be taken and / or used for Bard College Berlin.
- Remove all artworks, art materials, and / or any personal belongings before end of semester inspection of spaces (including any storage offered). Failure to remove works or return spaces clean and empty may result in final grade penalization. Please note: donating unrequested artworks and / or art materials is not permitted and will still be considered student property. expected to be removed by your inspection deadline. Please contact Studio

Arts Manager Joon Park for more information: j.park@berlin.bard.edu

Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the staunchest regard for academic integrity and expects good academic practice from students in their studies. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section III Academic Misconduct.

Attendance

- Attendance of all classes is expected.
- More than one absence (that is, absence from one three-hour session per week) in a semester will significantly affect the participation grade for the course.
- Students are expected to attend all off-campus classes punctually, from start to finish. If there is a scheduling / travel conflict, Professor must be informed in advance.
- Tardiness after five minutes will be considered an absence.

Assessment

This course is expecting students to use drawings and models as their main medium of production. Some basic drawing and model making materials will be provided, though some materials may need to be purchased / acquired directly by each student at their own expense depending on individual project goals.

Students are encouraged to explore any model making and drawing materials, tools and techniques, and will be graded on their conceptual and artistic/architectural production as well as on its final presentation and (digital) documentation.

Students are also assessed on their ability to work independently and responsibly. They will be graded on their ability to communicate with the Professors as well amongst themselves. This also includes their ambition to create an architectural project as well as their willingness to budget their time for all requirements connected to this class. This assessment also includes preparation, production, and cleaning up of spaces used at Bard College Berlin.

Assignments

All assignments are due at the beginning of the following class if not otherwise specified. Detailed information about assignments and projects will be explained in class. The assignments, projects and dates described in this syllabus are subject to change by the instructors. Students will be notified of any changes to the syllabus in class and via email.

Policy on Late Submission of Artworks / Presentations

Assignments (artworks, essays, performances, oral presentations) that are up to 24 hours late will be downgraded one full grade (Example: B+ becomes C+). Professor is not obliged to accept assignments that are more than 24 hours late. Where Professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it must be submitted within four weeks of the deadline and cannot receive a grade of higher than C. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment.

Grade Breakdown

- Class participation (presence, preparation, cooperation, involvement in discussions): 25%
- Assignments: 25%
- Final project and documentation (booklet): 50%

Schedule

The course is structured in block seminars of (mostly) 4 hours each. They will take place in (mostly) biweekly turns from 11am to 3pm, with several exceptions. Exact dates and times are indicated in the schedule below. In case of adjustments of dates or content as the course progresses, students will be informed by professors in time.

Class 1 (8 September, 11am - 3 pm)

STUDIO:

Intro to class and assignment.

Lecture: Architecture and housing in pre- and postwar Berlin

Assignment 1:

Architectural analysis of a building of choice from the list below to be presented to students and professors in class 2.

Prepare a short presentation of ca. 10 minutes (projector and prompted handouts of 2-3 A4 sheets) including plans, sections, images and text that explain the building.

Buildings (one student per building):

- Hufeisensiedlung Britz, Bruno Taut, 1925
- Unité d'Habitation of Berlin, Le Corbusier, 1958
- Hansaviertel Tower, Van den Broek/Bakema, 1958-60
- Kreuzberg Tower, John Hejduk, 1988
- Spreefeld CoHousing, Carpaneto Architekten, Fatkoehl Architekten, BARarchitekten, 2013
- Frankie & Johnny student housing, Holzer Kobler Architekturen, 2018
- IB-eB (Integratives Bauprojekt am ehemaligen Blumengroßmarkt), ifau/Heide von Beckerath, 2018
- Wohnen am Dantebad (Munich), Florian Nagler, 2016

Class 2 (22 September, 11am - 5 pm, 6hs!)

STUDIO:

mandatory orientation (Joon Park)
Students' presentation of assignment 1.

OFF SITE

Excursion to various housing projects in Berlin (exact itinerary to be announced)

Assignment 2:

Prepare a collage on an A3 sheet of images, sketches, photos of what is/always was important for you personally in housing. You can focus on objects you need to be surrounded by, on views, light, spatial relations, surroundings, memories of your childhood etc.

Class 3 (6 October, 11am - 3pm)

STUDIO:

Lecture: little structures, parasites and tiny houses
Presentation and short discussion of assignment 2

Studio Time: introduction to model making and basic drawing techniques.

Assignment 3

Build separate mockup models (styrofoam or cardboard) in scale 1:10 of:

- *a bed*
- *a table*
- *a chair or bench*
- *a cooking place,*
- *a toilet*
- *a shower or bath tub*

Try how these could be arranged in different variations of how these could be arranged (combined, stacked, interlocked) in a space efficient and interesting way. Document your various arrangements (photos, sketches) and print them out.

Class 4 (20 October, 11am - 3pm)

STUDIO:

presentation of your favorite arrangement assignment 3

SITE VISIT:

During the site visit, document (photos, hand sketches) the urban and built spaces that could accommodate your tiny house structure. Imagine how and where exactly it could sit on or in between the buildings.

Assignment 4 (during fall break):

Develop a concept, where and how your structure could be placed on site. Think outside the box - would it be standing on, attached to or hanging between two buildings? How would it be accessed? Would it be a parasite structure or an independent structure? Could it be combined with other Tiny Houses? Prepare a collage of sketches, drawings and images OR a model to explain your idea.

Class 5 (10 November, 10am - 2pm(!))

Presentation and discussion of assignment 4

Studio time/individual review and assignment
Finalization of your concept
Drawing (site plan, plan, elevation, sections, 1:50)

Class 6 (17 November, 11am - 3pm)

Studio time/individual review and assignment
Drawing (site plan, plan, elevation, sections, 1:50)

Class 7 (1 December, 11am - 3pm)

Studio time/individual review and assignment
Drawing (site plan, plan, elevation, sections, 1:50)

Class 8 (8 December, 11am - 3pm)

Studio time/individual review and assignment
Model making (1:50)

Class 9 (15 December, 11am - 3pm)

Studio time/individual review and assignment
Model making (1:50)
Preparation of final presentation at the Open Studio event (date to be announced)

Class 10 (Open Studio, date tba)

Please note that in case the Open Studio event is cancelled, the final presentation will be on (Sunday, 16 December 11am-3pm instead.)

Assignment 10:

Put together a digital booklet (PDF) containing a short description scans, and/or photos of your work (collages, drawings, models) and everything else you consider relevant;
Booklet to be sent to professors via email by December 21st.

Completion week:

Cleaning and removing of all artworks and personal property from the factory (deadline tba)

Facility Guidelines:

“The Factory” – Eichenstrasse 43

- 1) The BCB “Factory” (main arts building) has space and facilities available to BCB students with an academic purpose for using the building. Students agree to only use the common spaces in the building that are available for their needs, and must respect private spaces that are off-limits.. Any questions relating to this must be addressed to the Director of Studio Arts.
- 2) Chip access to The Factory building and other arts facilities is limited to those students currently registered for classes needing those facilities. Orientations are required before access is granted. In addition, students and faculty involved in clubs as well as event hosting may receive chip access and permission to use The Factory after orientations have been arranged through the Studio Arts Manager.
- 3) No smoking is allowed anywhere inside the building. There are to be no projects using open flames (such as candles, torches, lanterns, fireworks, etc.) inside any part of the building.
- 4) Fire exits and lanes must be kept clear of any obstructions.
- 5) No spray-painting inside of the building. This also includes any strong, odorous materials (with or without spray). All production involving odorous material is to be done outside of the building.
- 6) All work surfaces (table and floor) must be properly protected with thick plastic or cardboard. If production is to happen outside, ground / concrete is also to be protected.
- 7) No oil painting is allowed on the property unless student is enrolled in a BCB painting course, or approved in advance by the Studio Arts Manager
- 8) Food must be always cleaned up and removed immediately.. All food must be disposed of in lidded trash cans.
- 9) All students are to always be respectful of other student artworks and personal property.
- 10) No art projects may function as weapons, or potentially cause bodily harm.
- 11) No sandals, flip-flops, or bare feet will be allowed inside or around the workshop areas, which includes walking through the workshop. This includes dance and theater students as well.
- 12) Students should always wear adequate protection (goggles, gloves, dust masks, etc.) when needed. Protective gear can be found in the Factory workshop.
- 13) If you are uncertain how to use a tool or piece of equipment or require assistance, please ask Studio Arts Manager for assistance (by appointment).
- 14) Students must make sure all lights are turned off and doors are closed when leaving the building. No windows or doors are to be left opened or cracked. All electrical items must be unplugged when not in use.
- 15) Any unidentified property left in any common space is subject to either be taken or thrown out, without restitution.
- 16) All Workshop items checked out are due back during the Workshop hours the following day, unless other arrangements have been made in advance directly with Studio Arts Manager. Workshop hours are: Mon-Friday, 1-3 pm. Details will be offered during orientation.
- 17) Any items leaving the building without permission will be considered stolen, and access to the factory may be suspended for the rest of the semester. If an item must be borrowed for a purpose outside of the building, contact The Arts Staff, and be prepared to leave your Student ID as a deposit. Fines may be charged for late return.
- 18) All students must respect signage posted in the factory that may involve rules that are not

mentioned in this document. This includes signage indicating reserved spaces where communal use is restricted.

- 19) There are to be no architectural changes to studios or any areas inside or outside of the building without first speaking with the Studio Arts Manager. When repainting any walls that need restoration, please consult with Studio Arts Manager beforehand.
- 20) During completion week, any space used by a student must be returned empty with clean walls and floors. All garbage must be bagged (or boxed) and properly disposed of. All students must accept the penalty of grades being affected and / or fines imposed if items are left (or renovations unfinished) by the inspection deadline.
- 21) Contact Studio Arts Manager Joon Park directly with any questions: j.park@berlin.bard.edu

AV Facilities – Eichenstrasse 43 (upstairs)

- 1) BCB's AV (Audio / Visual) facilities provide a limited quantity of AV equipment to support Admin, Faculty as well as those students enrolled in arts classes that require specific items. AV facilities do not include any black and white or color printing services for students.
- 2) The opening times may change every semester to adapt to specific course times. Once these times are established they will stay consistent throughout the semester, with possible exceptions. AV facilities are ONLY available during days when classes are held (closed during official BCB holidays).
- 3) All items checked out are due back during AV hours the following day, unless other arrangements have been made in advance directly with AV Staff.
- 4) Items to be reserved on a specific date should be requested at least one week in advance. Without reservation, availability is limited to a first-come, first-serve basis.
- 5) The AV Staff may exclude students from borrowing items at any time, if the student:
 - failed to return items in time
 - failed to return items in person (pick up and/ or return by friends is not allowed)
 - returned items with missing pieces
 - returned items damaged or in poor shape
- 6) AV equipment will be given out only to those students responsible in organizing, picking up as well as returning their items IN PERSON. No exceptions.
- 7) All items returned late, regardless of patron's position at BCB, will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day.
- 8) Any item returned without accessories (such as cables, SD card, batteries, tripod head, lens cap, etc) will be subject to a 1 Euro fine, per day (the same as late returns).
- 9) Any items missing will be subject to patron reimbursement for its value (or under special circumstances, replacement, at the discretion of AV Staff). Any items damaged or malfunctioning are expected to be reported to Staff upon check-in.
- 10) Please use the AV email to inquire about equipment or policy, as well as to reserve (av@berlin.bard.edu). Do not contact AV Staff through their personal emails.
- 11) We strongly suggest personally visiting the facilities to inquire and reserve before borrowing equipment!
- 12) AV equipment is limited at BCB. Whenever possible students are encouraged to use their own devices (computers, cameras) for production purposes.
- 13) Contact AV Staff directly with any questions: av@berlin.bard.edu

MacLab and Photo Darkroom Facilities – Platanenstrasse 98 (downstairs)

** Guidelines to be offered during orientations.