

## UB 250

# Berlin Archipelago – An Introduction to Architecture and Urbanism

Seminar Leader: Caroline Wolf, Julian Meisen

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Office Hours: /

### Course Description

Through excursions, lectures, tutorials and studio time, this course aims to provide students with an introduction to architecture and urbanism in Berlin.

Over the last 100 years, Berlin has witnessed six different political systems that have each left their legacy – or scars – on its urban fabric until today. In this course, we will discuss prevailing controversies about the spatial planning of Berlin, from the post-GDR “critical” reconstruction of the historic center to innovative contemporary approaches such as cooperative urban development.

The design brief will focus on a small spatial intervention on the prominent site of the former Bauakademie by Karl Friedrich Schinkel, by the river Spree. Students will be required to develop, visualize, and present an architectural concept. During the semester, they will get familiarized with methods of spatial analysis, design, drawing and model making.

### Requirements

Students are expected to:

- Turn off phones during the entire class time. They will be allowed to be used only during breaks or as a tool for projects/assignments.
- Be prepared to present artworks / assignments without reminder.
- Engage in critiques and discussions.
- Always allocate extra time for work preparation and clean-up for independent production.
- Respond to emails from Professors in a timely manner.
- Inform Professors at beginning of 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 any personal belongings before the final inspection of the arts spaces during completion week. Failure to remove works and / or clean spaces used will result in final grade penalization. Donating artworks or art materials (unrequested) at any time is not permitted and will still be considered student’s property that will be expected to be uninstalled and removed.

### Attendance

- Attendance of ALL classes (online and on site) is expected.
- More than one absence (that is, absence from one regular three-hour session) 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.

Bard College Berlin does not offer credit for any course in which a student has missed more than 30% of classes, regardless of the reasons for the absences. The full Bard College Berlin attendance policy can be found in the Student Handbook, Section 2.8.

### Academic Integrity

Bard College Berlin maintains the highest standards of academic integrity and expects students to adhere to these standards at all times. Instances in which students fail to meet the expected standards of academic integrity will be dealt with under the Code of Student Conduct, Section 14.3 (Academic Misconduct) in the Student Handbook.

### Assessment

This course is expecting students to use sketches, collages, drawings, and models as their main medium of production. Basic drawing and model making materials will be provided. Depending on each individual project, some materials may need to be purchased/acquired directly by each student at their own expense. Students are encouraged to explore any model making or drawing materials, tools, and techniques, and will be graded on their conceptual and artistic/architectural production as well as on their 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 and their willingness to budget their time for all requirements connected to this class. The 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 Projects

Projects that are up to 24 hours late can be downgraded up to one full grade (from B+ to C+, for example). Instructors are not obliged to accept essays that are more than 24 hours late. Where a professor agrees to accept a late assignment, it should be submitted by the new deadline agreed upon

by both parties. Thereafter, the student will receive a failing grade for the assignment. Grades and comments will be returned to students in a timely fashion. Students are also entitled to make an appointment to discuss essay assignments and feedback during instructors' office hours.

Students receive mid- and end-of-semester grades for their seminar work. Students are entitled to make an appointment with an instructor to discuss seminar participation, or may be asked to meet with the instructor at any stage in the semester regarding class progress.

## Grade Breakdown

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

## Schedule

The course is structured in two phases: The first phase (until spring break) will focus mostly on theory; with biweekly seminars (Tuesdays, 6–9pm, alternating in Studio and online) as well as one excursion day (Sat, 25 February TBC). Exact dates are indicated below. The second phase (after spring break) will focus on practice and the development and finalization of the individual projects, with weekly seminars and one excursion day (Sat, 15 April TBC).

Please note that the exact dates are subject to change. In case there are any adjustments in terms of dates or assignments as the course progresses, students will be informed by professors in time.

### Class 1 (31 Jan), 6–9 pm

#### STUDIO:

Introduction to Class and Assignments

Input Lecture 1: History of pre- and postwar urbanism in Berlin

### Class 2 (14 Feb), 6–9 pm

#### ONLINE:

Input Lecture 2: Schinkel's Bauakademie – Past, Present and Future

Assignment 1 (teamwork à 2 students):

Architectural analysis of a building of choice from the list below to be presented in class 3.

Prepare as short presentation of ca. 10 minutes (printed handouts of 2-3 A4 sheets) including plans, sections, images, and text that you find important to explain the building.

Museum Island / Alte Nationalgalerie / Neues Museum / Altes Nationalgalerie / James Simon Gallery / Palast der Republik (demolished) / Berlin City Palace (reconstructed)

**Class 3 (SATURDAY 25 Feb:), 10 am–5.30 pm (TBC)**

SITE VISIT/EXCURSION:

Excursion to Museum Island and historic Centre of Berlin.

Presentation of Assignment 1 (teamwork à 2 students):

Assignment 2:

During our excursion look out for urban and architectural spaces that you find interesting. Document them with photos, videos and/or hand sketches. The result will be video or slide show (1-2 Min) that expresses your personal/artistic view of a certain space or detail.

**Class 4 (7 March), 6–9 pm**

STUDIO:

Presentation of Assignment 2

Intro to model making

Studio time: preparation of common site model

Assignment 3 (Teamwork): Completion of common site model

**Class 5 (21 Mar), 6–9 pm**

STUDIO:

Presentation of Assignment 3 (completed common site model)

Input lecture 3: Plan & Section – Introduction into architectural drawing

Studio time: Drawing practice

**Class 6 (28 Mar), 6–9 pm**

ONLINE:

Input lecture 3: Small interventions in (public) space

Assignment 4: Develop a concept for a small-scale spatial intervention for the site. Prepare Sketches, texts and/or collages that explain your idea and concept.

**Class 7 (SATURDAY, 15 Apr), 10 am – 5.30 pm (TBC)**

EXCURSION:

Cooperative urbanism in Berlin

Assignment 5: Refine your concept for a small-scale spatial intervention for the site.

**Class 8 (18 Apr), 6 am – 9 pm**

ONLINE:

Desk crit (presentation and individual reviews of your project)

Studio time: Drawing / model making

**Class 9 (25 Apr), 6 am – 9 pm**

STUDIO:

Presentation and individual reviews of your project

Studio time: Drawing / model making

**Class 10 (2 May), 6 am – 9 pm**

STUDIO:

Presentation and individual reviews of your project

Studio time: Drawing / model making / preparation of final presentation

**Class 11 (9 May), 6 am – 9 pm**

STUDIO:

Final Presentation

Assignment 6: Put together a digital booklet (PDF) containing a short text description, scans, and photos of your work (collages, drawings, models) and everything else you find relevant to document your project. Booklet to be sent to professors via email by 16 May.

## Facility Policies:

“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. Any space in the building, private or shared, cannot be used unless permission has been granted. Any questions relating to this must be addressed to the Director of Studios Arts.
- 2) Chip access to the building will only be granted to those students currently registered for classes using the factory (after add-drop), and that have been offered orientation.
- 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 (black-taped areas) 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 the building.
- 6) All work surfaces (table and floor) must always be protected with thick plastic or cardboard. If production is to happen outside, ground / concrete is also to be protected.
- 7) Food must be always cleaned up and removed immediately. Any food used for an art project requiring refrigeration must be labeled with one’s name and disposed of after presentation. All food must be disposed of in lidded trash cans.
- 8) All students are to always be respectful of other student artworks and personal property.
- 9) No art projects may function as weapons, or potentially cause bodily harm.
- 10) 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.
- 11) Students should always wear adequate protection (goggles, gloves, dust masks, etc.) when needed. BCB will always try to provide these items.
- 12) If you are uncertain how to use a tool or piece of equipment or require assistance, please ask for assistance (by appointment, if necessary).
- 13) Students must be aware of who else is working in the building after dark. Any curfews established by Bard College Berlin must be respected. Finishing production and cleaning up must happen before the curfew time.
- 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. All private property **MUST** be labeled and stored in its proper location.
- 16) All workshop items must be returned to the workshop when not in use.
- 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 your Professor, Studio Arts Manager, or Director of Studio Arts. When repainting any walls that need restoration, please consult with arts staff

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.
1. Contact Director of Studio Arts (John von Bergen) with any questions:  
j.vonbergen@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).
- 10) 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 with any questions: av@berlin.bard.edu