

ADAPTIVE REUSE

EXPLORING SPATIAL POTENTIALITIES & THE POETICS OF THE EXISTING

INTERNATIONAL MASTER
OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE
2016-2017

*Faculty of Architecture and Arts
Hasselt University, Belgium*

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KNOWLEDGE IN ACTION

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INTRODUCTION

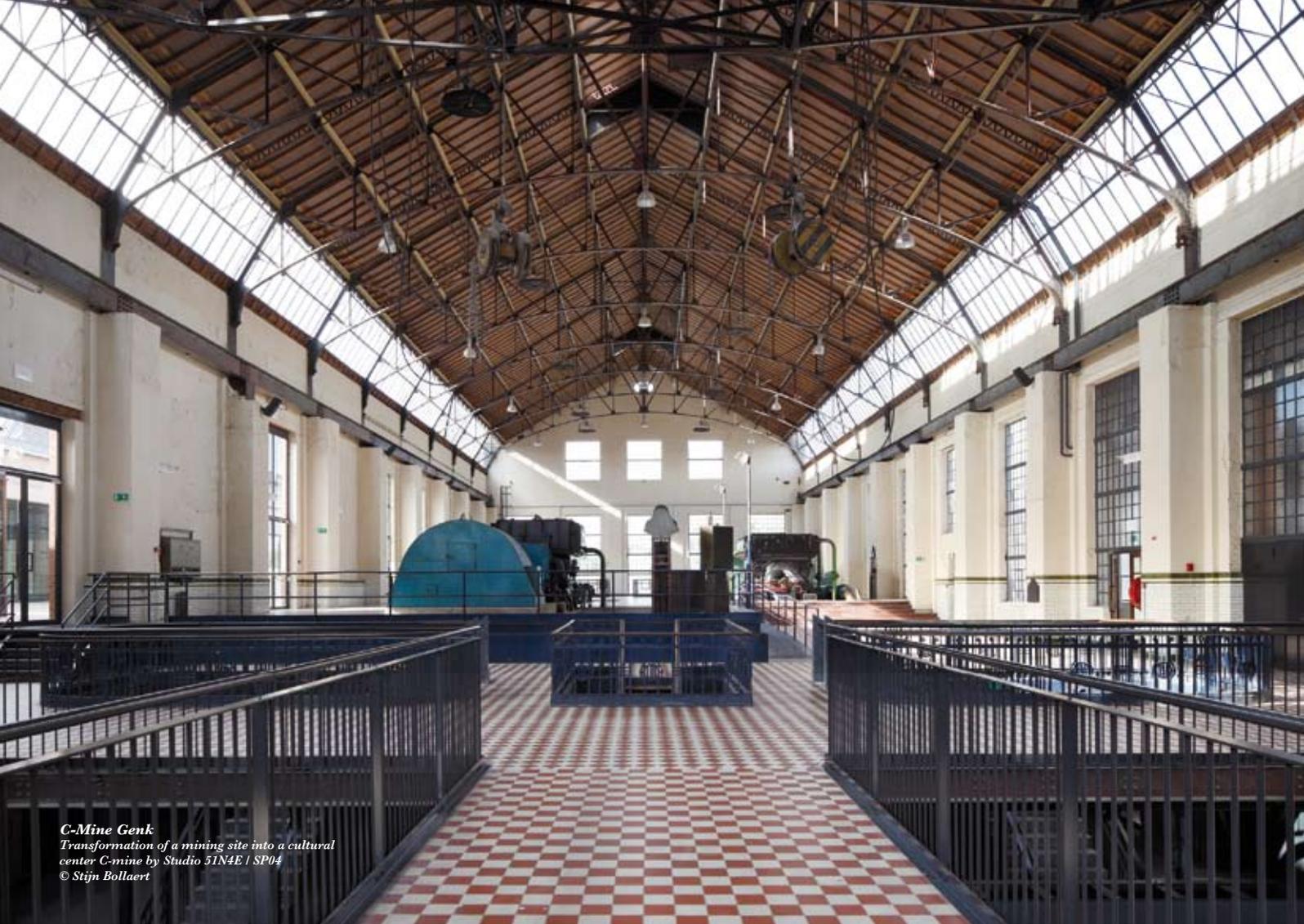
The faculty of Architecture and Arts welcomes applications for an innovative international master's programme in interior architecture with a strong focus on adaptive reuse.

It is safe to assume that (interior) architects will have to deal increasingly with the transformation and adaptation of the built environment. Today, the role of architecture is being re-defined due to demographic, economic and ecological challenges. Transition and reuse take centre stage in the practice and theory of the profession.

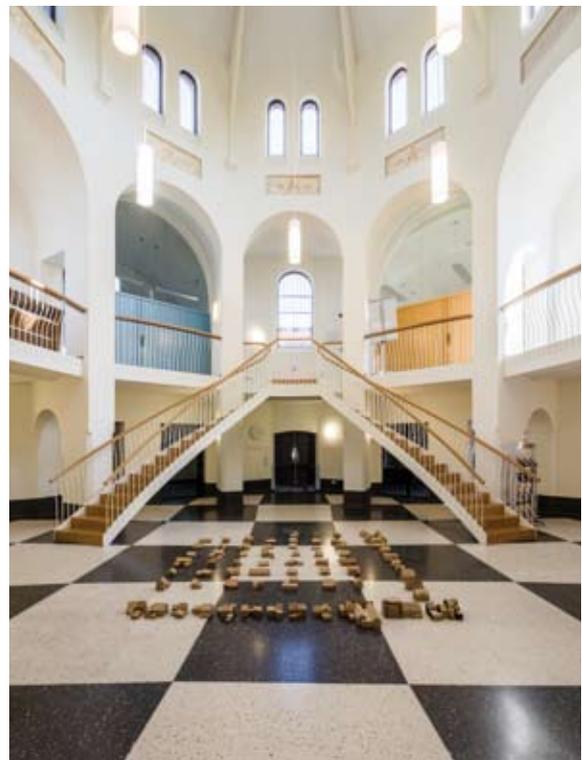
This academic master's programme is innovative as it considers preservation through the act of adaptive reuse instead of mere conservation and restoration. Rather than relying on an archaeological perspective, it emphasises a designerly approach as to give new and unexpected energy to buildings. Therefore, the programme seeks to train students who explore and activate the rich potential of existing sites through design supported by research and theory.

Ideally positioned in a region full of historical sites with various identities (cultural, artistic, religious and industrial), the faculty is in close geographic proximity to a rich laboratory of potential cases that span 600 years. Students are taught to conceive of these sites as palimpsests rather than monuments. Subsequently, they are encouraged to explore the beauty, memory, hidden qualities and broader potentialities of the sites handed down by our predecessors.

Finally, the master's programme departs from the conventional understanding of the 'interior' as a quantifiable spatial category by underlining its richer artistic and ethical dimensions as Public Interior.



C-Mine Genk
 Transformation of a mining site into a cultural center C-mine by Studio 51N4E | SP04
 © Stijn Bollaert



↑
Hasselt University
 Transformation of a 19th-century panoptical prison into the Law Faculty of Hasselt University (Belgium) by noAarchitecten
 Photo: Iwert Bernakiewicz

← **University Library**
 Transformation of the ruined baroque church of Escuela Pías de San Fernando, Madrid, into a University Library by Estudio Linazasoro&Sánchez (Madrid).
 Photo: Miguel de Guzmán

THE MASTER PROGRAMME

The one-year master's programme consists of three major components: design studio, theory module and master's thesis/project.

The **design studio** focuses on the study, transformation and adaptation of existing buildings and sites. Representative examples could be, for example: transforming a 17th-century monastery, a concrete office tower of 1970, or a 19th-century prison with a panoptical plan. During this process, there is considerable attention paid to heritage value, atmospheric qualities, construction details, and spatial characteristics that are no longer appropriate for new buildings. In this context, two research seminars hinge on the design studio and the theory module. One seminar concentrates on reading spaces by means of various techniques such as hand drawing and photography. The other seminar explores the changing meanings of spaces, as their functions are transformed. In this way, the programme explores both the material and immaterial values of the built environment.

The **theory module** introduces students to the emerging frame of reference related to adaptive reuse by studying relevant texts and recent case studies. It also offers relevant historical knowledge regarding the function of interiors, their spatial, ornamental and conceptual potential. Obviously, special attention is also paid to specific technical and material aspects.

The **master's project and thesis** conclude the programme, consisting in a personal and original work of design on an existing building and its surroundings. Students will be invited to consider sites that are part of ongoing research projects but may also propose sites from their own home countries.

Master's Programme (1 year)	ECTS
Master's Project	21
Master's Thesis	9
Design studio Adaptive Reuse	15
Research Seminars	6
Theory Module	6
Study Visits	3
Total	60

Programme may be subject to change.

RESEARCH

The programme is strongly embedded in the ongoing research on adaptive reuse taking place at the Faculty of Architecture and Arts, Hasselt University. Our ambition is to actively involve the international students in this research.

Ongoing and finished doctoral research on adaptive reuse deals with very diverse typologies such as mining sites, monasteries and churches, as well as post-war detached houses. While research is always related to design output, we develop potential strategies and programs for buildings and sites without ready-made answers. This is the case when, for instance, a building is a listed monument and its reuse would imply strong spatial adaptations. Finally, we analyse the material and immaterial qualities of sites, especially when the latter reveal exceptional atmospheric conditions that are valuable in the transition process.

More generally, the research conducted at our faculty centres around architecture, interior architecture and visual arts. The faculty hosts about sixty researchers and is a partner of PXL-MAD, a School of Arts that offers international master's programmes in Object & Jewellery, Art Sense(s) Lab and Reading Type & Typography.



Work in process
Photo: Iwett Bernakiewicz



Sketch of a project inside a neo-romanesque church used during a participation project with local user — by arch. Suidja Heymicks



Charcoal drawings by Franky Larouelle as part of his master's project on a former meat smokery

FACULTY AND TEACHING STAFF

Coordinators

Rob Cuyvers / <i>Dean</i>	UHasselt
An Fonteyne / <i>design studio</i>	noAarchitecten
Christoph Grafe / <i>theory module</i>	Universitat Wuppertal
Koenraad Van Cleempoel / <i>master program</i>	UHasselt

Faculty

Saidja Heynickx
Vlad Ionescu
Bie Plevoets
Maria Segantini
Nikolaas Vande Keere
Koen Van Syngel

Visiting lecturers

Karl Otto Ellefsen	AHO, Oslo
Ellen Klingenberg	KHiO, Oslo
Freek Persyn	51N4E, Brussels
Mark Pimlot	TU Delft & London
Genaro Postiglione	Politecnico di Milano
Emilio Tuñón	Mansilla+Tuñón Arquitectos, Madrid
Raphael van Amerongen	vh Merckx & Girod, Amsterdam

REFERENCE PROJECTS

This is a selection of relevant and inspiring projects that will be studied more in detail during the master's programme.

Adapting urban buildings

David Chipperfield & Julian Harrap, Neues Museum, Berlin
Peter Zumthor, Columba Museum, Cologne, Germany
Witherford Watson Mann, Astley Castle, North Warwickshire, England
José Ignacio Linazasoro, Ruins of the Escuela Pías Church, Madrid, Spain
Ellen Harvey, Sint-Amelbergakerk, Bossuit, Belgium
Lacaton & Vassal, Tour Bois le Prêtre, Paris, France
Diener & Diener with Helmut Federle, Swiss Embassy, Berlin
Fuhrimann Hächler, Gigon Guyer & Atelier WW, Löwenbräu, Zürich
Leo von Klenze / Hans Döllgast, Alte Pinakothek, München
noAarchitecten, UHasselt, Hasselt, Belgium
noAarchitecten, Menen Town Hall, Menen, Belgium

Adapting industrial buildings

Pierre Hebbelinck, Museum du Grand-Hornu, Mons, Belgium
Herzog & De Meuron, Zeche Zollverein, Essen, Germany
Herzog & De Meuron, Tate Modern, London
51N4E, C-Mine, Genk, Belgium
51N4E, Buda, Kortrijk, Belgium
OMA, Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy
Meili Peter, Zypressenstrasse, Zürich



Work in progress
Photos: Liesbeth Driessen @ Faculty of Architecture and Arts

LOCATION

The Faculty of Architecture and Arts is located in Diepenbeek, Hasselt (Belgium), capital city of the province of Limburg.

Hasselt is at the center of the so called ‘Meuse-Rhine Euregion’; a historical and still dynamic region comprising cities like Aachen (D), Maastricht (NL) and Liege (B). It is boosting with economic and cultural innovation. Hasselt is within one-hour from Brussels and Antwerp. Hasselt offers a rich cultural scene with theatre, dance, classic and contemporary music. The Fashion Museum shows a wide variety of internationally renowned exhibitions. Art Centers Z33 and CIAP focus on contemporary art in a university town that offers plenty of opportunities for entertainment as well as sporting facilities.

More information about Hasselt University, living in Belgium, sports- and cultural facilities is available in the online ‘welcome guide’: www.uhasselt.be/brochures_en.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Diploma requirements

Bachelors or Masters in Architecture and/or Interior Architecture with a strong interest in adaptive reuse. Depending on previous qualifications, you may have to complete a preparatory programme (max. 48 ECTS).

Language requirements

Candidates have to demonstrate a good command of English, both written and spoken. English language skills need to be confirmed, by a recent score on the Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS) or any recognized proficiency test.

Timing & Tuition

Deadline for application is May 1 for non-EEA-students and September 1 for EEA-students. The academic year starts in September and finishes at the end of June.

Information about admission requirements can be found on our website: www.uhasselt.be/International-master-students

Contact & information

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www.uhasselt.be/master-of-interior-architecture-adaptive-reuse

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