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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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 archaeologicial 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 | SP01
© Stijn Bollaert

Hasselt University
Transformation of a 19th-century panoptical prison into the Law Faculty of Hasselt University (Belgium) by valarchitect
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.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Master’s Programme (1 year)</th>
<th>ECTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Master’s Project</td>
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<td>Master’s Thesis</td>
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<td>Design studio Adaptive Reuse</td>
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<td>Research Seminars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theory Module</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Study Visits</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
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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.
Sketch of a project inside a neo-romanese church used during a participation project with local user — by arch. Saidja Heynickx

Charcoal drawings by Franky Larouwelle as part of his master’s project on a former meat annillery
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

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

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### Coordinators
- Rob Cuyvers / Dean, UHasselt
- An Fonteyne / design studio, noAarchitecten
- Christoph Grafe / theory module, Universitat Wuppertal
- Koenraad Van Cleempoel / master program, UHasselt

### Faculty
- Saidja Heynickx
- Vlad Ionescu
- Bie Plevoets
- Maria Segantini
- Nikolaas Vandee Keere
- Koen Van Synghel

### Visiting lecturers
- Karl Otto Ellefsen, AHO, Oslo
- Ellen Klingsenberg, KHiO, Oslo
- Freek Persyn, 51N4E, Brussels
- Mark Pimlot, TUDelft & London
- Genaro Postiglione, Politecnico di Milano
- Emilio Tuñón, Mansilla+Tuñón Arquitectos, Madrid
- Raphaël van Amerongen, vh Merckx & Girod, Amsterdam
Work in progress
Photos: Liesbeth Driessen @ Faculty of Architecture and Arts
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.

**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