ADAPTIVE REUSE
EXPLORING SPATIAL POTENTIALITIES & THE POETICS OF THE EXISTING

INTERNATIONAL MASTER OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

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 archaeological perspective, it emphasises a design-based approach 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.

They are encouraged to explore the beauty, memory, hidden qualities and broader potentialities of the sites handed down by our predecessors.

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.
Hasselt University —

ExPloRING SPATIAL POTENTIALITIES

THE POETICS OF THE EXISTING

&

OF INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

Hasselt University, Belgium

InTRoDUcTIOn

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

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

Peter Zumthor, Kolumba Museum, Cologne, Germany

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, Menen Town Hall, Menen, Belgium

Pierre Hebbelinck, Museum du Grand-Hornu, Mons, Belgium

OMA, Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy

51N4E, C-Mine, Genk, Belgium

51N4E, Buda, Kortrijk, Belgium

Coordinators

Rob Cuyvers / Koenraad Van Cleempoel / Bie Plevoets / Freek Persyn 51N4E, Brussels

Mark Pimlot TUDelft

Genaro Postiglione Politecnico di Milano

Study Visits 3

Design Studio Adaptive Reuse 15

Master’s Thesis 9

Language requirements

You may have to complete a preparatory programme (max. 48 ECTS).

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. General information about admission requirements, registration, tuition fees and scholarships... can be found on our website: www.uhasselt.be

Contact & information

Faculty of Architecture and Arts, Hasselt University

Agoralaan Gebouw E

www.facebook.com/facARK

www.toerisme.hasselt.be

The Faculty of Architecture and Arts is located in Diepenbeek, Hasselt and is part of a historical and still dynamic region comprising cities like Aachen and Maastricht, the latter reveal exceptional atmospheric conditions that are valuable in the transition process. In these cities, as in many other historical cities in the Euregio, a variety of types of sites are preserved.

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

The programme seeks to train students who explore and activate the rich potential of heritage value, atmospheric qualities, construction details and spatial meanings of spaces, as their functions are transformed. In this way, the latter reveal exceptional atmospheric conditions that are valuable in the transition process.

The programme focuses on the study, transformation and reuse of sites that are part of ongoing research projects but may also include sites in the surrounding area, such as churches, as well as post-war detached houses. While research is not always directly related to the programme, the latter reveal exceptional atmospheric conditions that are valuable in the transition process.

The programme’s modular structure is based on three main components: the design studio and research seminars hinge on the design studio and research seminars; the theory module focuses on the study, transformation and reuse of sites that are part of ongoing research projects but may also include sites in the surrounding area, such as churches, as well as post-war detached houses. While research is not always directly related to the programme, the latter reveal exceptional atmospheric conditions that are valuable in the transition process.

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...can be found on our website: www.uhasselt.be
The one-year master’s programme consists of three major components: design studio, theory module and master’s thesis and 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, considerable attention is paid to heritage value, atmospheric qualities, construction details and spatial characteristics that no longer correspond to the 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, photography and model making. 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 theory and frame of reference related to adaptive reuse by studying relevant texts and recent case studies. It offers historical, philosophical and artistic insights required in order to gain a profound insight into the spatial and conceptual dimensions of the interior.

Study visits to several historical cities and adaptive reuse projects in the Euregio are included in the programme.

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. A written and/or graphical thesis presents the research supporting the design. 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.

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

Programme seeks to train students who explore and activate the rich potential of an architectural and critical approach to give new and unexpected energy to buildings. Therefore, the programme explores both the material and immaterial values of the built environment. To today, the role of architecture is to participate in the transition and adaptation of the built environment.

Adaptation is at the heart of the profession. 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, transformation and reuse.

The programme is strongly embedded in the ongoing research on adaptive reuse.

This is a selection of relevant and inspiring projects that will be studied during the programme:

**Adapting urban buildings**
- Peter Zumthor, Kolumba Museum, Cologne, Germany
- José Ignacio Linazasoro, Ruins of the Escuela Pías Church, Madrid, Spain
- 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
- 51N4E, C-Mine, Genk, Belgium
- Meili Peter, Zypressenstrasse, Zürich

The master’s project and thesis consist in a personal and original work of design on an existing building and its surroundings. A written and/or graphical thesis could be, for example: transforming a 17th-century monastery, adaptation of existing buildings and sites. Representative examples of this type of projects are:

- Robinson House, London, UK
- Project Plus et al.
- Gardenhouse Palace in Bruges
- Project InCLO
- Z33 and CIAP focus on contemporary art in a university town that offers plenty of opportunities for entertainment as well as sporting facilities.

Hasselt is at the center of the so-called ‘Meuse-Rhine Euregion’, a historical and still dynamic region comprising cities like Aachen (Germany), Maastricht (Netherlands), Liege (Belgium), and Hasselt (Belgium), capital city of the province of Limburg.

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

**Master’s programme interior architecture with a strong focus on adaptive reuse**

**Coordinators**
- Koenraad Van Cleempoel
- An Fonteyne
- Saidja Heynickx
- Maria Segantini
- Ellen Klingenberg

**Eligibility**

Bachelors or Masters in Architecture and/or Interior Architecture with a strong interest in adaptive reuse. Depending on previous education, master’s education is required. The master’s programme focuses on the study, transformation and adaptation of an existing building and its surroundings. Students are confronted with the notion of an architectural and critical approach to give new and unexpected energy to buildings.

**Language requirements**

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 by a recent score on a Dutch language test (other languages are possible too).

**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.

**Contact & information**

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www.facebook.com/facARK

Specific information about the master’s programme can be found on the websites www.fac-ark.be and www.facebook.com/facARK.
The programme is strongly embedded in the ongoing research on adaptive reuse taking place at the Faculty of Architecture and Arts, targeting future students in this research.

Jewellery, Art Sense(s) Lab and Reading Type & Typography. More generally, the research conducted at our faculty centres around the poetic aspects of reusing our architectural heritage. 

The programme departs from the conventional understanding of the ethical dimensions as Public Interior. This is a selection of relevant and inspiring projects that will be studied in detail during the master's programme. This is a selection of relevant and inspiring projects that will be studied in detail during the master's programme.

In the final seminar, students will present their design studio project, concluding the programme, followed by their master's thesis proposal. The master's project and thesis consist in a personal and original work of design on an existing building and its surroundings. A written and/or graphical thesis needs to be confirmed, by candidates having demonstrated a good command of English, both written and spoken. English language skills need to be confirmed, by candidates having demonstrated a good command of English, both written and spoken. English language skills need to be confirmed by candidates having demonstrated a good command of English, both written and spoken.

In the context of the Poetics of the Existing, transformation and adaptation of the built environment take centre stage in the practice and theory of the profession. This academic master's programme is innovative as it considers preservation, transition and reuse in tandem.

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FACULTY AND TEACHING STAFF

Coordinators
Rob Cayyers / Dean  UHasselt
Christoph Grafe / theory module  Universität Wuppertal
Koenraad Van Cleemput / master program  UHasselt
Nikolaas Vande Keere / design studio  UHasselt

Faculty
An Fonteyne
Saidja Heynickx
Vlad Ionescu
Bie Plevoets
Maria Segantini

Possible guest lecturers
Karl Otto Ellefsen  AHO, Oslo
Ellen Klingenberg  KHiO, Oslo
Freek Persyn  51N4E, Brussels
Mark Pimlot  TUDelft
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, Kolumba Museum, Cologne, Germany
Wulfhert Watson Mann, Aston Castle, North Warwickshire, England
José Ignacio Linares, Ruins of the Escuela Pías Church, Madrid, Spain
Ellen Harvey, Sint-Amelbergakerk, Bossuit, Belgium
Lacaton & Vlassal, Tour Bois le Prêtre, Paris, France
Diener & Diener with Helmut Federle, Swiss Embassy, Berlin
Fuhrmann Häcker, 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
51N4E, C-Mine, Genk, Belgium
51N4E, Buda, Kortrijk, Belgium
OMA, Fondazione Prada, Milan, Italy
Melí Peter, Zypressenstrasse, Zürich
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 Liège (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.

**LOCATION**

**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.

General information about admission requirements, registration, tuition fees and scholarships... can be found on our website: http://www.uhasselt.be/international-students

**Contact & information**

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Specific information about the master’s programme can be found on www.uhasselt.be/master-of-interior-architecture-adaptive-reuse