

# Post-master's programme

## The Berlage Post-master in Architecture and Urban Design

Faculty of Architecture and  
the Built Environment



The Berlage Center runs a post-master programme for advanced critical thinking in architecture and urban design. Graduate and experienced architects and urban designers are given the freedom to develop alternative models and theoretical insights into the built environment to meet the challenges of globally orientated practice. The Berlage, as part of TU Delft, continues the legacy of the former Berlage Institute.

*Addressing the  
challenges of globally  
orientated practice*

The programme is unique in its focus on how architects and urban designers practice in a globalised world. Students strengthen their theoretical knowledge, critical thinking and research skills in a collaborative and experimental setting with guidance from leading practitioners and scholars. Students participate in research and design-based projects, theory seminars, fieldwork, and master classes, with a public events series complementing the programme.

Applicants have a master's degree (or graduate-level bachelor's degree) in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture or related fields. Prospective students demonstrate an interest in theoretical enquiry. Upon completion of the program, students obtain a postgraduate Master of Science degree from TU Delft.



## Career prospects

Given this programme's focus on theoretical enquiry and a deep understanding of global architectural practice, graduates have a unique skill set. Previous graduates have started their own offices, worked as curators and editors, become educators, and pursued PhD research.

## Post-master's programme

The Berlage offers an international, one-and-a-half-year English-language post-master's programme in architecture and urban design. The programme begins with a year of course work followed by a six-month final thesis project. The first semester *Cultures, Methods, and Instruments* introduces methods and tools to examine architectural thought and practice while the second semester *Societies, Environments, and Economies* looks at the societal, environmental, and economic factors that shape architectural practice.

### Term 1: Cultures, Methods, and Instruments

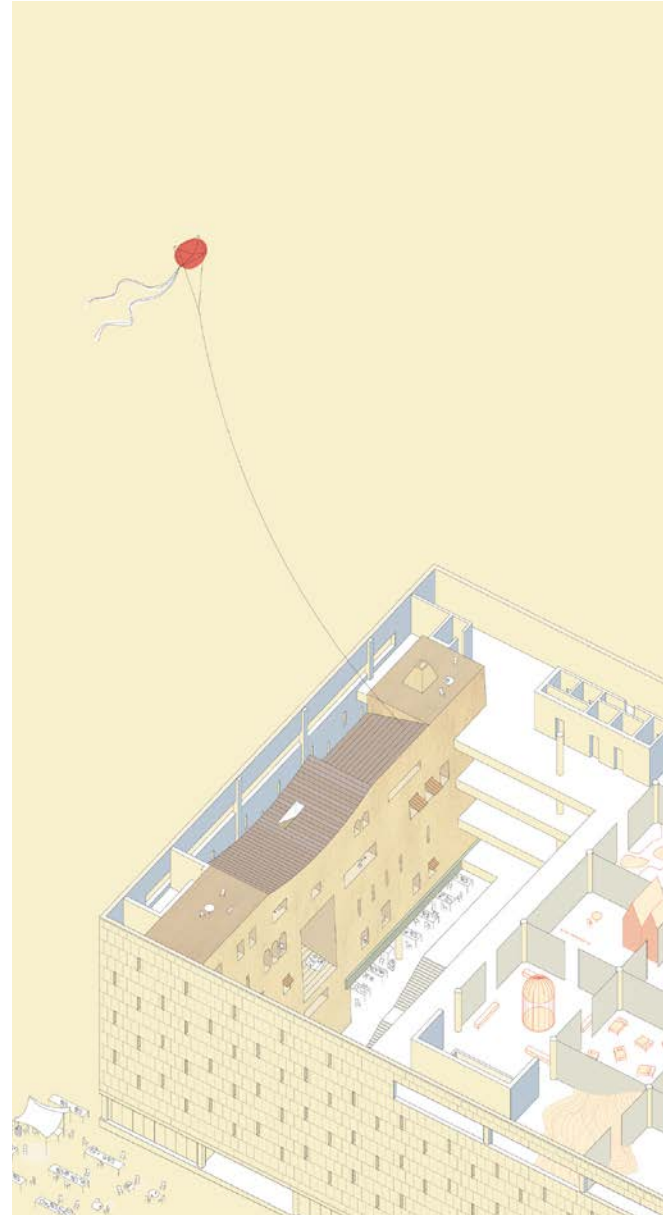
Students are introduced to methods of advanced critical thinking and research, to historical and contemporary design instruments, and to emerging digital technologies and platforms. Students engage in a broad range of methods, tools, and topics, examining the relationship between architectural thought and practice to different cultures and contexts. Intelligent communication is developed as a tool for learning, research, and design, exploring how experimental mediums may frame academic work for engagement with a broader public audience.

### Term 2: Societies, Environments, and Economies

Students focus on societal, environmental, and economic determinants related to contemporary architecture and urban design, building on the knowledge gained in term 1. Within select architectural and urban contexts, they develop advanced research methods, design tools, and theoretical approaches.

### Term 3: Final Thesis

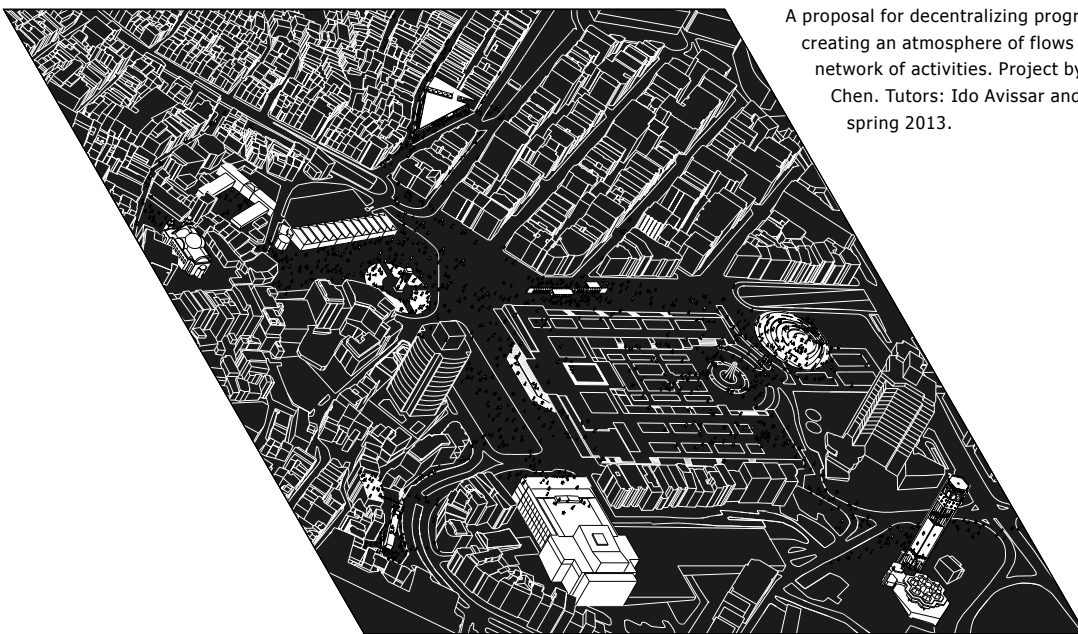
Synthesizing the knowledge gained in the previous two terms, students culminate their education by producing an individual research- and design-based thesis project under a defined thematic framework. They are encouraged to reflect, speculate, and develop alternative models and new insights on today's architectural and urban challenges. Students conduct independent research, under the supervision of an advisor, learning to position themselves at the intersection of theory and practice.



A proposal for reconfiguring De Bijenkorf in Rotterdam into a system of office space, a courtyard, and museum. Thesis project, entitled "Architecture of Memento Mori," by Xiaoting Chen, Thesis Advisor: Freek Persyn, fall 2013.

# The Berlage Post-master in Architecture and Urban Design Curriculum

Year 1 (40 weeks)		Year 2 (20 weeks)
Term 1: Cultures, Methods, and Instruments (30 ECTS)	Term 2: Societies, Environments, and Economies (30 ECTS)	Term 3: Final Thesis (30 ECTS)
ARB101 Project (12 ECTS)	ARB201 Project (12 ECTS)	Thesis Project (30 ECTS)
ARB102 Theory Seminar (6 ECTS)	ARB202 Theory Seminar (6 ECTS)	
ARB103 Postgraduate Research Colloquium (8 ECTS)	ARB203 Thesis Preparation Lectures (4 ECTS)	
	ARB204 Thesis Preparation Seminar (4 ECTS)	
ARB104 Design Master Class (4 ECTS)	ARB205 Theory Master Class (4 ECTS)	



A proposal for decentralizing program along Taksim Square, creating an atmosphere of flows and an interconnected network of activities. Project by Jinsun Baik and Xiaoting Chen. Tutors: Ido Avissar and Marcus Kempers, spring 2013.

## Skills for an increasingly globalised profession

After working on built projects in New York and Beijing, I wished to revisit architecture as an academic field. I found the post-master's program of the Berlage ideal because of its unique focus on theory and research. I now work at ETH Zurich teaching in the chair of Marc Ang  lil and practice as an architect in my own office – Specter. I am also a co-founder of Die Weinhalde, a temporary project space that organizes cultural events and quarterly calls for *in-situ* work. In my experience, the Berlage trains you in skills that are crucial but often overlooked in our increasingly-globalised profession: how to think critically about what you are doing and argue coherently for what you think should be done.



Sarah Nichols

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## Admission requirements and application procedures

Students are admitted into the program in the autumn term only. Study begins once a year in September and concludes a year later at the end of January.

To be considered for admission to The Berlage Post-master in Architecture and Urban Design programme, you will need to meet the following general requirements

### Summary of admission requirements

1. a master's degree in architecture, urban design, landscape architecture, or allied discipline (or equivalent five-year graduate-level bachelor's degree); or a master's degree from a different discipline in combination with relevant work experience.
2. a sufficient **TOEFL** (minimum of 90) or **IELTS** (minimum of 6.5) score.
3. a motivation essay of 1,500 to 2,000 words.
4. three letters of recommendation in English.
5. a portfolio showing representative examples of design work (academic and/or professional), publications, awards, etc.
6. an extensive curriculum vitae.
7. proof of identity.

The application period starts in September and closes on 1 April. Please go to [www.theberlage.nl](http://www.theberlage.nl) for more information on how to start an MSc application.

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## For further information

**For admission requirements and more detailed information, please see [www.theberlage.nl](http://www.theberlage.nl)**

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Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment  
Delft University of Technology  
Julianalaan 134  
2628 BL Delft  
The Netherlands

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