Complex Projects

MSc 2 Elective: City of Innovations Project

Gaming session at the Walk-In Workshop on Rotterdam Lombardijen 2023. Photo by Emre Namli ©

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Code	AR0109
Credits	5 ECTS
Location	Netherlands
Excursion	Yes
Costs	50 - 100€

The City of Innovations project interrogates the relationship between architectural design and mobility. Students will examine architecture and urban design strategies that address an integrated approach to the design of station buildings and their surroundings. The course connects the academic knowledge to practice by analysing case studies in education in close dialogue with different stakeholders. Under the guidance of the tutors and the input from the design experts, students will work in groups to develop design options for selected station areas. The research and design scenarios arise in workshop settings. *Lectures* from the case owners, academics and practising designers are included in the program. Before starting to design a multifunctional station and its surroundings, students will explore in *gaming sessions* what are the needs of future users and other stakeholders and they will test several design solutions.

Context. In the most recent National programme called "Mooi Nederlands", one of the topics is *urban nodes* or metropolitan stations, their transition due to the current densification strategy and their spatial quality. Metropolitan nodes are indispensable links in the integrated mobility system to ensure an optimum journey, creating efficient and attractive multimodal interchanges. Instead of just stations where you get on or change trains, they are increasingly becoming *destinations* in themselves with a multifunctional character. Apart from various services (e.g. restaurants, shops and parcel pick-up and drop-off points), the immediate vicinity offers opportunities for spatial development (homes, offices and other amenities).These space-demanding tasks require a strategy across the different scales (architecture, urban design and planning). How to design stations to be more attractive, people-centred and future-proof? How to utilize available space, integrate various functions, and design with consideration for people and environmental values? Students will collectively investigate those questions on station areas along the Oude Lijn (Dutch for "old line") the oldest railway line in the Netherlands, as new subcentres to the inner city.