

# ADAPTIVE STRATEGIES

## Designing Scenarios for Port Cities

MSc\_Architecture



View of the Seine River during the 2024 Olympics, Carola Hein

Spring semester 2025

### Course Coordinator

Carola Hein and Rachel Lee (TUD)

### Teaching Staff

Paolo De Martino (TUD)

Code	[AR0110]
Credits	[5 ECTS]
Location	[TU Delft]
Excursion	[Yes]
Semester	[2 - Q3]

*\*Only for MSc2 projects*

Project type	[Multidisciplinary / Practice related]
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Approved Master 2  
Architecture design  
project

Paris, with its deep connection to the Seine, offers a unique laboratory for experimenting with new forms of coexistence between urban space and maritime flows, especially in light of climate change. The city's motto, "fluctuat nec mergitur," reflects its historic port function, which continues to shape logistics, transportation, and industry along the Seine. However, conflicts arise as these port activities—managed by Haropa - Ports de Paris—compete with public and recreational use of valuable riverfronts.

The course explores how these ports, including Port de Gennevilliers, which handles freight, and Ivry-sur-Seine and Bonneuil-sur-Marne, which focus on waste management, can contribute to Paris's sustainable transition. Tourism ports like Port de la Bourdonnais and Port de l'Arsenal add to the pressure, as public aspirations for more leisure-friendly riverbanks clash with industrial and logistics needs.

Amidst these tensions, the course asks: How can Paris balance its port activities with its climate goals? Students will examine multi-scalar, short, medium and long-term approaches to urban resilience by mapping the historical and contemporary interactions between land and water.

The course encourages students to explore adaptive strategies for the future of Paris as a river port city, combining insights from shipping, urban infrastructure, and ecological systems. Through multidisciplinary research and innovative design methodologies, students will analyze port-city relationships to propose new, resilient futures for Paris, informed by its past and present dynamics.

The course will take place on Fridays.