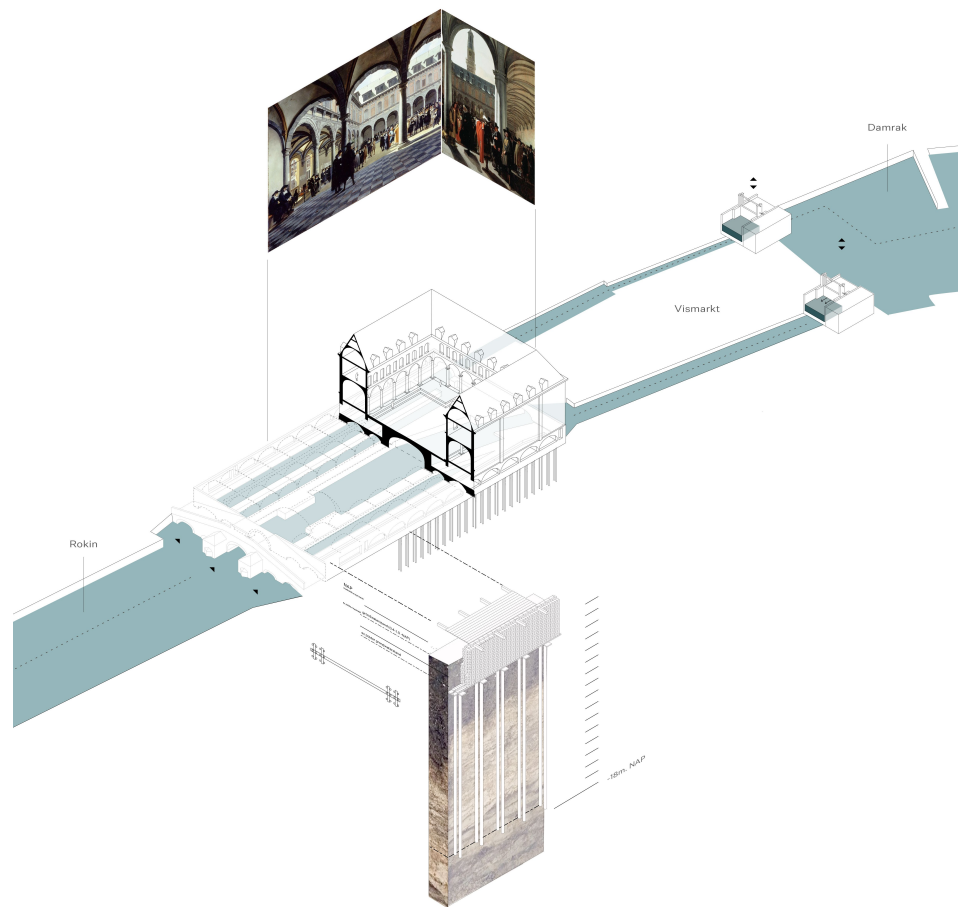


Borders & Territories

Idiosyncratic Infrastructures II



Reconstruction Beurs van Hendrick de Keyser, Rokin, Amsterdam (built 1608-11, enlarged 1668, demolished 1836-37). Drawing by Jens Jorritsma on www.hiddenwaters.net

Tutors

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Code	AR081
Credits	5 ECTS
Location	NL
Excursion	Optional
Costs	None

The elective 'Idiosyncratic Infrastructures II' intends to remedy a knowledge gap, by collecting, retro-engineering, redrawing and categorizing pieces of infrastructure. Analyzing the specific circumstances conditioning these artifacts, investigating modes of representation specific to infrastructure, and focusing on the very 'thingness' of the infrastructural artifact, will contribute to a catalogue of 'idiosyncratic infrastructures'.

Infrastructure and its component parts are dominated by standards, codes and conventions that are intended to enhance efficiency, safety and feasibility, cemented in a repository of proven knowledge that is above all normative. At the same time, infrastructural objects are always grounded in complex pre-existing realities, produced by contradictory desires, and often influenced by conflicting agencies.

The customized intersection of standards, codes and conventions with the specificities, resistances and opportunities of a real terrain has produced often clever, inventive, and perverse solutions. These 'idiosyncratic' solutions have however often remained off the radar, and do not prominently contribute to the body of knowledge of infrastructure design, mainly because of being too specific and "exceptional" to categorize. The course practices the inverse of design, striving to analytically unpack the multi-disciplinary synthesis of the highly-specialized architectural objects of infrastructure.

This 'Borders&Territories' elective takes existing infrastructure case-studies at the intersection of architecture, city and landscape, as the basis for a drawing and modeling experiment. Seminar-discussions on different representational conventions will feed the speculation towards a final exhibition/catalogue.