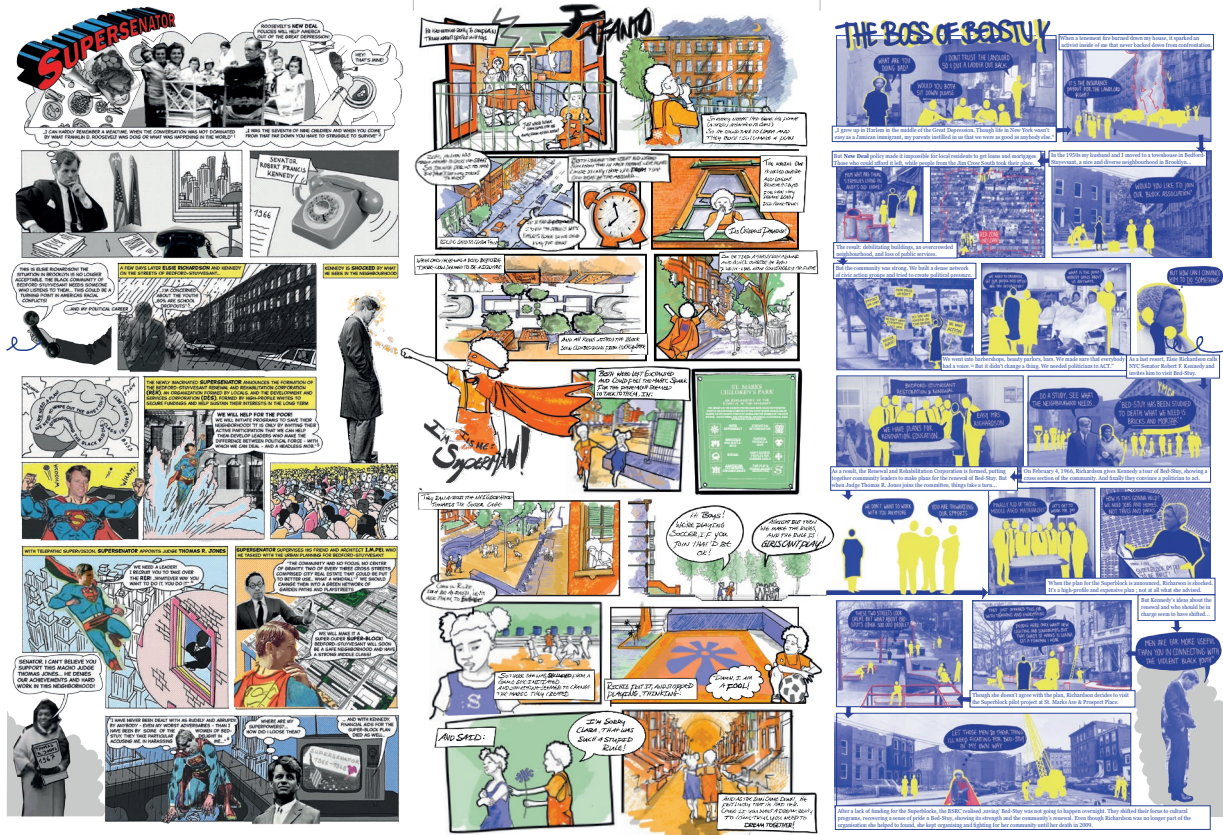


Building Ideologies

MSc_2 Building Stories: The Heteronomy of Urban Design



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Tutors
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Code	AR0825
Credits	5 ECTS
Location	--
Excursion	No
Costs	--

Project type Other

Urban design can be regarded as an autonomous discipline that develops according to internal logics. The perpetual reinvention of the urban grid is a good example; think, for instance, of Hippodamus in ancient Greece, the *supermanzanas* in 19th century Barcelona, and Parc de la Villette in 20th century Paris. This seminar, however, will focus not on the autonomy of the discipline, but on its heteronomy. We will investigate how urban design responds to external developments taking place in the social, economic, political, and cultural realms. During the 20th century, architects had to respond to a novel set of challenges, such as growing democratization, emerging ecological concerns, the rise of neo-liberalism, etc.

In the Spring semester of 2025, this research seminar will focus on the heteronomous challenge of sustainability.

Today, sustainability is often seen as a technical problem related to energy consumption and ecological conservation. This seminar instead returns to the roots of the sustainability debate and demonstrates how, historically speaking, the term enmeshed ecological and energetic concerns with social and economic ambitions. From the 1970s new urban projects and approaches emerged – e.g. urban preservation and participatory planning – that entangled concerns for equity, environment and economy, which later became known as ‘the three pillars of sustainability’.

During this seminar, each student will select and analyse one case-study urban design project from the 1970s, 1980s, or 1990s that responds to the challenge of sustainability. This analysis will take the form of a graphic novel short story and will draw on storytelling and fictocriticism as research methods.