

Adaptive Architecture for Public Buildings: Theories and Practices

MSc. 2 Public Building Seminar



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Tutors

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Code	AR0918
Credits	5 ECTS
Location	N/A
Excursion	N/A
Costs	N/A
Project Type	Intra-disciplinary

This seminar course will present the different theories and operative strategies informing architectural **reuse**, by focusing attention on the transformation of contemporary **public buildings**. In particular, the course will investigate notions of form, vocabulary, legibility deriving from the dialogue between old and new structures.

What does transforming existing structures entail in terms of language and recognizability? How can old and new interact visually and formally? What are the strategies describing their relationship? (continuity, contrast, juxtaposition, fragmentation, etc.) How can reuse connect to climate adaptation? How did the act of transforming existing buildings evolve over the centuries?

The course will address these questions within the general context of **circularity**; students will investigate topics such as adaptability, retrofit, upcycle, disassembly. They will study historic precedents of reuse, current trends and

also future directions. Students will not only be introduced to the current debate on reuse; they will also experiment with cutting-edge strategies that can contribute to the design of **healthy living environments** and public buildings.

The course will consist of lectures and conversations with invited guests, who will introduce the students to a multiplicity of approaches. Students will react to those inputs by applying their design strategy to a concrete case study – a small-scale project of adaptive reuse.