

Architectural Research and Design Seminar

Architecture and Colonialism _ MSc2 Q3 Elective



Photo by Nama'a Qudah

Tutors
Nama'a Qudah

Coordinator
Rachel Lee

Dirim Dinçer
Burcu Köken
Dorina Pllumbi
Sabina Tanovic

Code	AR2AA010B
Credits	5 ECTS
Location	BK on Wednesdays
Excursion	No
Costs	N/A

Project type	Elective Seminar / Design by Research
--------------	--

Approved Master 2 [No]
Architecture design by research
project

Architecture is central to colonialism, used both as a tool of domination and a symbol of power. Colonial architecture was often designed to reflect the authority of the colonizers, imposing foreign styles and structures on local landscapes as a way to assert control. At the same time, colonial powers often exploited local labor and resources in these construction efforts, further entrenching economic and social hierarchies.

This course provides a timely and in-depth examination of the history of settler colonialism in Palestine, with a particular focus on how this history informs the current conflict in Gaza. By exploring the origins and implications of the colonial borders that gave rise to the Gaza Strip, the course aims to shed light on the historical context that underpins contemporary issues. Through critical engagement with the ongoing situation in Palestine, students will have the opportunity to scrutinize the ways in which colonial histories and practices continue to impact the present.

The course encourages a thorough analysis of how colonial constructs and narratives have created disjunctions between past and present, and how architecture was used as a tool of control to further colonial domination of the land and the resources in Palestine. By examining a number of architectural typologies and infrastructures, students will gain a deeper understanding of how architecture is interwoven with power dynamics in colonized contexts, and how they shape the lived experiences of people in Palestine today.

Lectures from tutors and invited guests will guide the students in developing a critical position towards architecture and colonialism. Building on readings and lectures, the students will develop a shared vocabulary to communicate the entanglements between architecture and colonialism. This will result in a collectively produced Colonial Glossary. The glossary will provide the foundation for the development of individual research projects through which the students will express their interpretations and positions on the nexus of architecture and colonialism in Palestine.