

# Architectural Wood

## MSc 3/4 - Timber for Urban Density



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Chair of Timber Architecture  
Alex de Rijke

Course Coordinator  
Gilbert Koskamp

Tutors  
Gilbert Koskamp  
Stijn Brancart

Code	AR3AW005
Credits	55 ECTS
Location	Amsterdam
Excursion	Yes
Costs	500-700 €

The studio embarks on an exploration of timber construction's potential for transforming cities. Our goal is to investigate how lateral design with timber can revitalise underutilised urban spaces while contributing to sustainable urban development. Topping-up existing buildings with timber and embracing amphibious architecture present promising solutions for revitalising urban areas, densifying urban fabric, and making alternative use of spaces like air and water. Situated in the metropolitan area of Amsterdam, our studio delves into specific themes of housing, health and well-being, timber tectonics, the anatomy of timber architecture, material physics, and bio-based material design. Through a hands-on approach students will gain practical experience and deepen their understanding of the benefits of learning through making; a creative engagement with materials, techniques and critical thinking skills.

The studio seeks to define timber architecture futures; new building typologies aligned with modern bio-

based building methods tested with/in urban applications. Students will begin by recalling key concepts related to timber construction and urban density, then analyse case studies to deepen their understanding.

Comparison with modernist construction tropes will be made, revealing how engineered timber can outperform rather than mimic concrete. Hands-on making activities, including 1:1 modelling of timber joints, will emphasise practical skills. Through critical analysis of existing urban fabric, students will identify sites for intervention. The final project challenges students to propose bold solutions addressing the pressing housing need. Propositions can include mixed-use, related or supporting programmes.

During our studio we deepen the understanding of wood and its role in past and future architecture and engineering. Excursions will provide firsthand experiences and insights into different stages of the timber lifecycle; from forestry to fabrication to building to rebuilding.