Architecture & Dwelling

MSc 3&4 Advanced Housing Design Densification strategies



©Space&Matter – Oostenburgereiland, Amsterdam; 'a neighbourhood where everybody feels at home'

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Code	AR3AD100
Credits	55 ECTS
Location	Amsterdam
Excursion	to site
Costs	

Densification strategies: sustainable, pleasant, beautiful and connected neighbourhoods

The urgent need for adequate housing in large quantities in The Netherlands is particularly manifested in the larger cities. Amsterdam alone has the ambition to build 7.500 dwellings per year over the next 10-15 years, equalling one 10th of the ambitions for the whole country. As expanding the city's perimeter is no longer an option, these dwellings will be built within city boundaries, and become part of the current city fabric. Ranging from transformation of existing residential areas to industrial sites turned into mixed work-live neighbourhoods, these new additions will without any doubt have a strong and lasting impact on the qualities of living in Amsterdam, for both current inhabitants and newcomers.

How can we design not merely the quantities but rather the qualities that respond to the living standards and expectations a city like Amsterdam wants to offer? What are those qualities in the contemporary context, and how can architectural and urban design invent new answers to accommodate them? There has never been a more diverse range of target groups, environmental challenges and societal goals than for the new task ahead. How to reinvent our cities, and use the potential of densification to do so?

The Advanced Housing Design Graduation Studio (AR3AD100) explores – in collaboration with an urban research team of the municipality of Amsterdam – how housing design can successfully address these challenges. It departs from an analysis of what 'sustainability', 'living quality', 'beauty' and 'ownership' allude to in urban and architectural discourse as well as in the specific context of Dutch cities today. A research-by-design exploration of new design principles and solutions is followed by a fully elaborated design proposal for a chosen site within the city of Amsterdam.