

Architecture & Dwelling

MSc3/4 Global Housing

Architecture of Transition in the Bangladesh Delta



Khudi Bari by Marina Tabassum Architects. Photo by Asif Salman

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Code	AR3AD105
Credits	55 ECTS
Location	Bangladesh
Excursion	Yes
Costs	€ 1,200 (approx.)

The 21st century has seen a massive displacement of people worldwide due to a range of reasons including forced migration due to war, genocide, and extreme climatic and geographic conditions induced by the climate crisis. As a result, millions of people have been displaced from their homes, becoming refugees, asylum seekers, and internally displaced persons. This studio aims to understand the various forms of displacement, the challenges faced by these populations, and explore new housing design approaches for an architecture of transition able to mitigate the consequences of massive displacement.

The course will examine the differences in the living conditions of internally displaced people, cross-border asylum seekers, and refugees. It raises the question of whether architecture can contribute to the healing process and provide dignity to people in transition. The studio will also investigate the transitional state of displacement and its associated consequences to the social-spatial ecology of the case study areas.

The studio will explore approaches to enable architecture - in particular housing design - to contribute to a society in transition to a new ecological paradigm and provide students with the skills to project meaningful spaces for populations in transition. In doing so, students will address the aspects of permanent versus temporary in architecture, as well as how typology, materials, and technology play a role in creating meaningful spaces for an architecture of transition.

To gain practical experience, the studio will visit the Refugee Camps in Bangladesh and other transitional dwelling environments in the Delta of Bangladesh in Autumn 2023. This visit will allow students to gain first-hand experience of visiting shelters of refugees and other displaced communities, as well as interact with local host communities who have also experienced displacement.