

Architecture and Dwelling

MSc 3/4 - 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	Sylhet, Bangladesh
Excursion	Yes
Costs	€ 1,200 (approx.)

This studio will focus on the theme of “architecture of transition” by embedding itself within the context of Sylhet – a rapidly growing second-tier city and region in the north-east of Bangladesh that is exposed to several challenges induced by growing industrialisation, internal migration and climate change. It will study the broad context of the Sylhet division, its history, demographics, climate and contemporary demands across several locations that will range from consolidated urban areas, peri-urban areas as well as rural settlements located in the wetlands at the feet of the Himalaya.

Each of these different site conditions pose unique design challenges of building housing that can respond to populations in transition in a context that is also rapidly transitioning away from a predominantly rural existence to one that is increasingly urban. The concept of “Architecture of Transition” highlights architectural responses to the pressing environmental crisis, highlighting inventive solutions,

novel materials, and fresh approaches to designing architecture and urban environments. In this context, this studio will invite participants to discuss how does the growing call for climate action in society affect the field of architecture, and what are the tangible and visual consequences stemming from these calls? In what ways can architecture play a role in supporting a society undergoing a shift toward a new ecological framework? What is the specific role that housing design can play in this changing paradigm?

In the Autumn semester, the studio will visit and study transitional dwelling environments in the Sylhet division. The fieldwork will allow the participants in the studio to gain first-hand experience of visiting the dwelling circumstances of communities in transition, and support the development of new approaches to provide adequate housing conditions for the residents of the study areas.