

Interiors Buildings Cities

MSc2 Salon



Noorderpaviljoen Antwerp, model by Aïmilia Nteka and Sabina Martinakova. 2023.

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Code	AR2AI011
Credits	15 ECTS
Location	TBA
Excursion	Yes
Costs	€100-150

Project type	Practice related
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Approved Master 2 Yes
Architecture design
project

The Salon of the MSc2 project refers to the tradition of the large public room, which receives and shapes the society of people that it gathers. Originally the salon was both a cultural phenomenon and a specific space within the European aristocratic home during the 17th and 18th centuries. They were social gatherings in which participants engaged in the art of conversation, dedicated to the exchange of ideas and the pursuit of knowledge. Salons were mostly initiated by women, and offered a way for those without formal power to influence discourse. This course considers the relevance of such a notion in a contemporary setting.

You will design a contemporary space for conversation, such as a café or a debate centre, in response to an existing building and a specific community and site. The room's scale and elaborated interior structures the orders and arrangements of the building in which it is set. It offers opportunities for both intimacy and publicness and, whether through its

physical relationship with the outside, or as a consequence of the conversations or events that it hosts, it engages the city.

Through a process of iterative drawing and large-scale physical modelling, supported by lectures and seminars, you will design the structure and fabric of a contemporary space for conversation, including considerations of its furnishing, material finishes and the possibilities for its inhabitation. The project will depart from a close examination of the various contexts within which it is set: the existing building and site, the community it addresses, a selection of relevant historical precedents and contemporary notions of ecology and technology. In doing so, it brings together the idea of the building and its interiors as cultural artefacts with the necessary technical components or architectural strategies it needs to operate within 21st-century demands on comfort and sustainability.