

Urban Architecture

MSc1 Urban Architecture Design Studio *Fit In*



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Tutors

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This MSc1 Urban Architecture
Studio is provided in cooperation
with BES

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| Code | AR1UA010 |
| Credits | 10 ECTS |
| Location | Groningen (The Netherlands) |
| Excursion | Yes |
| Costs | t.b.d. |

"...Roelandt was able to develop a building, a programme and an urban design at the same time. ... Today, cities are no less subdivided, governments no less reluctant, private interest no less supreme. Our only chance is to take these limitations as a challenge to our imagination."

How to fit in a building into a location with a sensitivity towards the significance of building and location? An inspiring answer to this question can be found in Louis Roelandt's design for the Opera in Ghent (1837), as described in Journal of Architecture Oase 108 by Paul Vermeulen.

How to fit in, not an opera but a neighbourhood library in an existing urban context in Groningen, is the challenge of this studio. The neighbourhood library will function as a collective space, a meeting place for young and old in the neighbourhood. We work in groups of two. Each group re-interpretes the library in such a way that it fits into the given urban context. The re-interpretation also

involves a change of material, namely wood. Programmatic adjustments may be considered as well. In this process, site observation, drawing and model-making are key.

Every intervention in an existing urban structure is a conversion, or Umbau, to use Hermann Czech's word, even if it involves a new building. We ask ourselves whether it makes sense to demolish (and what exactly) and how to re-use, in order to make meaningful interventions while taking care of the existing fabric of our cities.

We ask students to present a coherent, significant, elaborated, correct and innovative design - on mainline and on aspects - from a medium sized building on MSC 1 level.