

History & Cross Domain

Designing public spaces for Maritime Mindsets

Leiden-Delft-Erasmus, Port City Futures



Spring semester 2022

Responsible coordinators:

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Code	[AR2AA017]
Credits	[15 ECTS]
Location	[Rotterdam]
Excursion	[Yes]
Semester	[2 - Q4]

**Only for MSc2 projects*

Project type	[Multidisciplinary]
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Approved Master 2 [Yes]	
Architecture design project	

Port city territories are nodes in complex maritime and terrestrial flows. They have been hubs of innovation and transformation on a global scale for centuries. Innovative practices have often emerged in the public spaces of port cities, including stock exchanges, town halls, and coffee shops, on markets, and public squares. After a century of dissociation of ports and cities, relevant stakeholders are again looking for more circular and sustainable practices and the (re)building of a port city ecosystem. This course argues that we need to build upon new theoretical approaches such as extended urbanisation (Brenner/Schmidt) and urbanisation of the sea to explore port cities as nodes in the sea-land continuum and to use this theoretical and historical understanding as a foundation for the design of new public spaces. The course is thus designed for students to investigate the role of public spaces in the creation of more sustainable port city regions. It connects questions of space, society, and culture, building on a long-term analysis of port city relationship with the goal to

use architectural and urban design for the creation of ecosystems. Mental mapping, close reading, exploration of long-term developments will help us understand the terms and practices of architectural and urban design for sustainable port city regions. Rotterdam will serve as our point of departure and will be explored in combination with a foreign port city. Exploring the local case of Rotterdam, a leading port and maritime capital city, we examine public spaces related to maritime activities in comparison and collaboration with other port cities. Using mapping, historical investigation, interviews, and first-hand observation as our analytical and methodological approaches, we will acknowledge different scales and invite students to design at the architectural, neighbourhood, or regional scale, allowing for interdisciplinary collaboration.

Keywords:

PortCityFutures, Urban Design, Design of Public Space, Urban Hi(stories), Cultural Anthropology, Sociology