

# COMPLEX PROJECTS

MSc2 Research & Design Studio\_Datapolis



Photo: Amazon 100,000m2 fulfillment center in Carteret (New Jersey, USA)

Spring semester 2021

## Tutors

Paul Courmet  
Negar Sanaan Bensi

## Responsible Instructors

Kees Kaan  
Negar Sanaan Bensi (Coordinator)

Code	AR2CP011
Credits	15 ECTS
Location	NL
Excursion	TBC
Costs	50-100

Project type	Research & Design
Approved Master 2 Architecture design project	Yes

'The world's most valuable resource is no longer oil, but data.' The Economist, 2017.

What is the 'cloud' and how is data shaping the way we design cities and buildings in this ever more connected world?

By entering the information age, we -humans- have changed our relationship with the physical world. We are today living in a world where data, algorithms and 'clouds' are ubiquitous to our daily activities while we have increasingly become fully committed to stay connected with each other regardless of time-zones, geographies and political borders...

The aim of the studio is to create an understanding of the physical impact of data on our world today. Data has become a critical component to our life -when was the last time that you spent 24h00 offline?-, yet, we hardly comprehend its mechanisms: global internet cable networks, automated distribution centers, self-driving vehicles,

data centers, AI robot citizens... are yet the tangible evidences of a complex and connected world.

During the semester, students are asked to critically study the physicality and the impact of data on our built environment; and to translate these diagnostics into conceptual architectural visions.

The semester is divided in 2 chapters.

Chapter 1 / Research ('networks/ systems'): Students develop a research on the networks and systems for which data has today a critical importance.

Chapter 2 / Design ('footprints'): Students design a specific, intensive point of this larger system: an architectural object at conceptual level. The design proposal must reflect the thesis developed earlier in the research phase.

Lectures and (possibly site visits) with experts are organized during the semester. Research books, large scale drawings (A0) and a conceptual model will be produced by each student. Final works of the studio to be exhibited as a collective show in a cultural institution in the Netherlands.