

# Urban Architecture

## MSc\_2 Building for the neighbourhood



Spring semester 2021

### Tutors

Elsbeth Ronner  
Leeke Reinders  
Eireen Schreurs

Code	AR2UA020
Credits	15 ECTS
Location	Overvecht, Utrecht, NL
Excursion	Yes
Costs	tbd

*\*Only for MSc2 projects*

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

The MSc2 studio focuses on an urban area where the 'right to the city', as Henri Lefebvre has put it, is in need of strengthening. These areas are characterized by a multitude of challenges, such as making the building stock sustainable, creating a healthy living environment and developing a diverse supply of spaces, both in regard to housing and space for public and economic activities. We strive for strategic interventions which re-design the environment and uplift the neighbourhood on the basis of present assets.

The studio is located in Overvecht, a post war neighbourhood in Utrecht, the Netherlands. We set off with the survey of both the physical and social fabric of this neighbourhood. Analysis takes place in the neighbourhood itself and questions will be raised about accessibility of public space, availability of space for communal activities and complementing existing housing stock. Emphasis will be laid upon experimental research methods (housing stories, fieldwork, on site observations) and notation/documentation (picture stories, narrative mappings).

Simultaneously we will work on the design of the densification and diversification of the housing stock in close relation to public amenities. Central to the design are the role of the interface between buildings and public space: intermediate spaces, transitions and transitions gradations between public and private space and the combination of new and existing buildings, housing, public and other programs. The studio proceeds from an overall strategy up to the design of a specific mixed program including housing developed with a particular group of actors. Key element of the design is the ability of architecture to encourage encounters between residents and to enrich their daily routines.

The MSc2 studio opposes tabula rasa and treats existing structures on the site with caution: possible re-uses for community needs are investigated. The aim of the studio is to study the neighbourhood's complexities yet resulting in architecture.