

BORDERS & TERRITORIES

Graduation Studio: Transient Liquidities along the New Silk Road



Cosmic Ray Research Station on Armenia's Mount Aragats

Tutors

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Code	[AR3BO010]
Credits	[55 ECTS]
Location	Istanbul, Bilbao, Piraeus, et al..
Excursion	[Yes]**
Costs	[400 c.ca]

The graduation studio of B&T investigates contemporary border conditions within the larger urban and territorial scale. The studio focuses on sites where spatial conditions have emerged that are teeming with suggestive meanings and unexpected potential but are hardly analysed within contemporary architectural discourse.

In our day and age, it seems no longer possible to investigate space without taking global political developments into consideration, nor to ignore ecological anxieties, pressured coexistences or even economically driven migratory movements. Therefore, special attention should be given to the critical relationship between architecture and its environmental context, as well as with more general socio-political contexts.

B&T considers the contemporary city a testing ground for speculative approaches. To this end, the current developments in the border-territories related to the New Silk Road are particularly intriguing, as the spatial transformations in these areas between the far East, Africa and Europe are resulting in a fascinating array of spatial transformations,

where different regimes of spatial planning, (inter-) continental infrastructural projects, political (dis-) agreements, border tensions, global capitalism, extra-state utopias and the like, are re-formatting the contemporary territorial and urban landscapes.

B&T's graduate studio intends to map these emerging spatial complexities, with a special focus on the fundamental changes that are currently occurring regarding radical spatial differentiation, biodiversity, atmospheric and soil conditions, increased technological spatial control and economic asymmetries. The spatial patchworks of superposed political and economic processes, as well as juxtaposed social and spatial practices, will constitute the (almost) solid basis for alternative formulations of architectural interventions, aimed at formulating quite radical counterstrategies to the current, and really no longer sustainable status-quo.

Possible sites of investigation for B&T's 2022/23 graduate studio: Istanbul, Bilbao, Mombasa, Khorgas-Horgos, Djibouti, Sihanoukville (Preah Sihanouk), Piraeus, Calcutta.