

ADAPTIVE REUSE

EXPLORING SPATIAL POTENTIALITIES & THE POETICS OF THE EXISTING

INTERNATIONAL MASTER

*Faculty of Architecture and Arts
Hasselt University, Belgium*

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INTRODUCTION

The Faculty of Architecture and Arts welcomes applications for an innovative international master's programme in (interior) architecture with a strong focus on adaptive reuse.

It is safe to assume that (interior) architects will have to deal increasingly with the transformation and adaptation of the built environment. Today, the role of architecture is being re-defined due to demographic, economic and ecological challenges. Transition and reuse take centre stage in the practice and theory of the profession.

This academic master's programme is innovative as it considers preservation through the act of adaptive reuse instead of mere conservation and restoration. Rather than relying on an archaeological perspective, it emphasises a designerly approach to give new and unexpected energy to buildings. Therefore, the programme seeks to train students who explore and activate the rich potential of existing sites through design supported by research and theory.

Ideally positioned in a region full of historical sites with various identities (cultural, artistic, religious and industrial), the faculty is in close geographic proximity to a rich laboratory of potential cases that span 600 years. Students are taught to conceive of these sites as palimpsests rather than monuments.

They are encouraged to explore the beauty, memory, hidden qualities and broader potentialities of the sites handed down by our predecessors.

The master's programme departs from the conventional understanding of the 'interior' as a quantifiable spatial category by underlining its richer artistic and ethical dimensions as Public Interior.



C-Mine Genk Belgium
*Transformation of a mining site into a cultural center C-mine
by Studio 51N4E
Photo: Sijn Bollaert*



Het Predikheren Mechelen Belgium
*Transformation of a former convent into a public library by Korteknie Stuhlmacher Architecten and Callebaut Architecten-
Photo: Luuk Kramer*

MASTER'S PROGRAMME

The one-year master's programme consists of three major components: design studio, theory module and master's thesis and project.

The **design studio** focuses on the study, transformation and adaptation of existing buildings and sites. Representative examples could be: transforming a 17th-century monastery, a concrete office tower of 1970, or a 19th-century prison with a panoptical plan. During this process, considerable attention is paid to heritage value, atmospheric qualities, construction details and spatial characteristics that no longer correspond to the new buildings. In this context, two **research seminars** hinge on the design studio and the theory module. One seminar concentrates on reading spaces by means of various techniques such as hand drawing, photography and model making. The other seminar explores the changing meanings of spaces, as their functions are transformed. In this way, the programme explores both the material and immaterial values of the built environment.

The **theory module** introduces students to the emerging theory and frame of reference related to adaptive reuse by studying relevant texts and recent case studies. It offers a historical, philosophical and artistic approach required in order to gain a profound insight into the spatial and conceptual dimensions of the interior. The book 'Adaptive Reuse of the Built Heritage: Concepts and Cases of an Emerging Discipline' by Bie Plevoets and Koenraad Van Cleempoel (Routledge, 2019) is used as the main course material.

Study visits to several historical cities and adaptive reuse projects in the Euregio are part of the master. A traditional trip to the richly layered city of Rome forms a cultural introduction and is included in the programme.

Preceded by a two week workshop, the **master's project and thesis** conclude the programme, consisting in a personal and original work of design on an existing building and its surroundings. A written and/or graphical thesis presents the research supporting the design. Students will be invited to consider sites that are part of ongoing research projects but may also propose sites from their own home countries.

Master's Programme (1 year)	ECTS
Master's Project	21
Master's Thesis	9
Design Studio Adaptive Reuse	12
Research Seminars	9
Theory Module	6
Study Visits	3
Total	60

Programme may be subject to change.

RESEARCH

The programme is strongly embedded in the ongoing research on adaptive reuse by TRACE, part of the research group Arck of the Faculty of Architecture and Arts, Hasselt University. Our ambition is to actively involve the international students in this research.

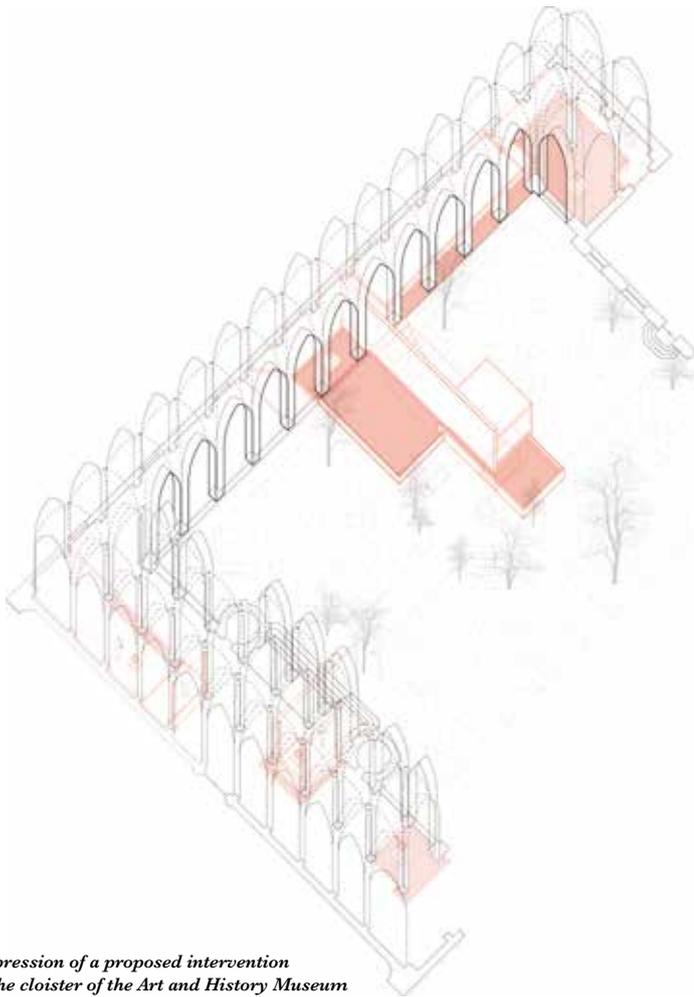
Ongoing and finished doctoral research on adaptive reuse deals with very diverse typologies such as mining sites, monasteries and churches, as well as post-war detached houses. While research is always related to design output, we develop potential strategies and programs for buildings and sites without ready-made answers. This is the case when, for instance, a building is a listed monument and its reuse would involve strong spatial adaptations. Finally, we analyse the material and immaterial qualities of sites, especially when the latter reveal exceptional atmospheric conditions that are valuable in the transition process.

More generally, the research conducted at our faculty centres around architecture, interior architecture and visual arts. The faculty hosts about sixty researchers and is a partner of PXL-MAD, a School of Arts that offers international master's programmes in Object & Jewellery, Art Sense(s) Lab and Reading Type & Typography.

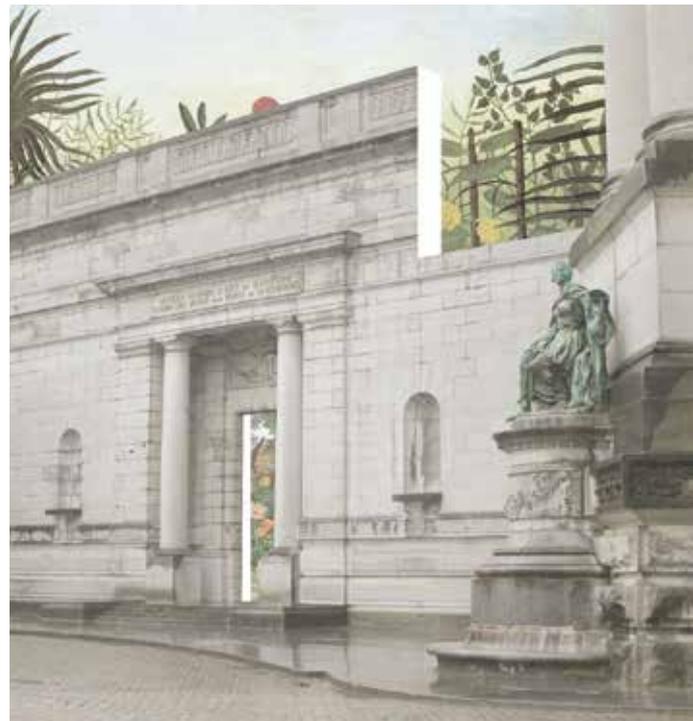




*Models of the existing situation of the Art and History Museum
Produced by students in the seminar Tactics*



*Impression of a proposed intervention
in the cloister of the Art and History Museum
Master's Project, project by Matthew Moskal*



*Impression of a façade intervention in the Art and History Museum
Design Studio, project by Lisa Battaline and Alexia Di Carlantonio*

FACULTY AND TEACHING STAFF

Stefan Devoldere / <i>dean</i>	UHasselt
Nikolaas Vande Keere / <i>design studio + master's project</i>	UHasselt
Koenraad Van Cleempoel / <i>research seminar genius loci + master's thesis</i>	UHasselt
Saidja Heynickx / <i>research seminar tactics + master's thesis</i>	UHasselt
Bie Plevoets / <i>theory module + master's thesis</i>	UHasselt
Els Hannes / <i>study visits</i>	UHasselt
Christoph Grafe / <i>theory module</i>	Universität Wuppertal
Stefanie Werkx / <i>research seminars + design studio + master's project</i>	UHasselt
Philippe Swartenbroux / <i>design studio + master's project</i>	UHasselt
Linde Van Den Bosch / <i>design studio + master's project</i>	UHasselt

REFERENCE PROJECTS

This is a selection of relevant and inspiring projects that will be studied more in detail during the master's programme.

51N4E, C-Mine, Genk, Belgium
Lina Bo Bardi, SESC Pompeia Factory, São Paulo, Brazil
Caruso St John, Sir John Soane Museum, London, United Kingdom
David Chipperfield & Julian Harrap, Neues Museum, Berlin, Germany
Diener & Diener with Helmut Federle, Swiss Embassy, Berlin, Germany
Flores & Prats, Sala Beckett International Drama Centre, Barcelona, Spain
Fuhrimann Hächler, Gigon Guyer & Atelier WW, Löwenbräu, Zürich, Switzerland
Pierre Hebbelinck, Museum du Grand-Hornu, Mons, Belgium
Herzog & De Meuron, Park Avenue Armory, New York, USA
Leo von Klenze, Hans Döllgast, Alte Pinakothek, München, Germany
Lacaton & Vassal, Tour Bois le Prêtre, Paris, France
José Ignacio Linazasoro, Ruins of the Escuela Pías Church, Madrid, Spain
Meili Peter, Zypressenstrasse, Zürich, Switzerland
José Rafael Moneo, City Hall, Murcia, Spain
noAarchitecten, Law Faculty of Hasselt University, Hasselt, Belgium
OMA, Masterplan Zeche Zollverein, Essen, Germany
Secchi & Vigano, Park Spoor Noord, Antwerp, Belgium
Carlo Scarpa, Castelvecchio Museum, Verona, Italy
Wetherford Watson Mann, Astley Castle, North Warwickshire, England
Peter Zumthor, Kolumba Museum, Cologne, Germany



Photo: Iwett Bernakiewicz



LOCATION

The Faculty of Architecture and Arts is located in Diepenbeek (Belgium) near Hasselt, the capital city of the province of Limburg.

Hasselt is at the center of the so called ‘Meuse-Rhine Euregion’; a historical and still dynamic region comprising cities like Aachen (D), Maastricht (NL) and Liege (B). It is boosting with economic and cultural innovation. Hasselt is within one-hour from Brussels and Antwerp. Hasselt offers a rich cultural scene with theatre, dance, classic and contemporary music. The Fashion Museum shows a wide variety of internationally renowned exhibitions. Art Centers Z33 and CIAP focus on contemporary art in a university town that offers plenty of opportunities for entertainment as well as sporting facilities.

More information about Hasselt University, living in Belgium, sports- and cultural facilities is available in the online ‘welcome guide’: www.uhasselt.be/brochures_en.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Diploma requirements

Bachelors or Masters in Architecture and/or Interior Architecture with a strong interest in adaptive reuse. Depending on previous qualifications, you may have to complete a preparatory programme (max. 48 ECTS).

Language requirements

Candidates have to demonstrate a good command of English, both written and spoken. English language skills need to be confirmed, by a recent score on the Test of English as Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing Systems (IELTS) or any recognized proficiency test.

Timing & Tuition

Deadline for application is May 1 for non-EEA-students and September 1 for EEA-students. The academic year starts in September and finishes at the end of June.

General information about admission requirements, registration, tuition fees and scholarships... can be found on our website: <http://www.uhasselt.be/international-students>

Contact & information

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www.facebook.com/facARK

Specific information about the master’s programme can be found on www.uhasselt.be/master-of-interior-architecture-adaptive-reuse and www.uhasselt.be/trace

