



**Rotterdamse  
Academie  
van  
Bouwkunst**

**Studio 1.7: The Renaissance City**

**Theme: Research**  
**Object: Urban Typologies**

Year: 2010-2011 / First semester

Friday: 13.45h – 19.45h

Sessions: September 3th, 10th, 17th and 24th  
October 1st, 8th 15th and 29th  
November 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th  
December 3rd and 10th

Final review: week 50/2010

Presentation panels have to be put on display on Monday evening december 13th, panels delivered after the 13<sup>th</sup> will not be reviewed

Study Load: 9 EC (252 hours, 70 of which during the Friday sessions)

A/S points: 7A/2S

Complexity: High

Remarks: This studio is English spoken

**Tutor: Fernando Donis (DONIS)**

### **Content**

The Renaissance reinvented Classicism as a system extending its grammar to correlate the new Humanist and Theological agendas. Immersed into a representational apparatus between canonical codes and the need for invention, architecture has faced since then a contradiction with consequences in the modern day. The studio will analyze that condition by studying the main books written during the Renaissance (Alberti, Serlio, Palladio, Vignola, and Scamozzi) and their relationship with the built architecture and cities they produced. As the focus will be on treatises, students will be asked - instead of drawing buildings - to map those canonical documents in order to decipher their practical and philosophical principles. Akin to the reliance on site documentation within the Renaissance era, a trip to Florence-Venice will be organized within the studio to analyze examples and its historical transformation. A concluding visit to the Venice Biennale will critically confront this knowledge with the current production of architecture.

### **Assignment**

Analysis and *mapping* of Renaissance treatises (books) to decipher its fundamental theoretical principles and relevance in the construction of the Renaissance and the contemporary city.

### **Planning and content per week or phase**

Week 1. Detailed introduction to the research-studio and assignment of tasks

Week 2. Discussion on the structure of the books

Week 3. Debate on architectural representation within the books

Week 4. Classicism and the construction of the Renaissance city

Week 5. Identification of theoretical principles within the studied books

Week 6. Mapping/Diagramming of identified principles

Week 7. Graphic comparison between the analyzed Renaissance books

Week 8. Study trip to Florence-Venice

Week 9. Contemporary implications of the Renaissance books and architecture

Week 10. Relationship of theory and practice in architecture during the Renaissance

Week 11. Analysis of influence of the books - time and geography

Week 12. Representation of the content within the Renaissance treatises

Week 13. Detailed mapping/diagramming of the books

Week 14. Preparation of boards and booklet towards final presentation

## Learning Goals

- Developing the architectural knowledge gained by studying the idea of Classicism during the Renaissance.
- Understanding the rational logic of Classicism, its standardization and historical evolution.
- Analyzing the tension and historical 'returns' to Classicism *vis-a-vis* other styles.
- Understanding the implications of the potential of having a system of architecture.
- Understanding Classical architecture as sharing a mimetical bond with cultural phenomena, in this case particularly the Humanist and theological agenda.

## Final qualifications of the education of an architect which are addressed in this studio

<b>MArch</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9a	9b	9c	9d	9e	9f	9g	9h	9i	9j	10	11
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5. Formulates soundly based professional judgements that take into account the societal and ethical responsibilities that are connected with applying his or her own knowledge;
6. Works and studies independently, reflects on his or her own behaviour and innovates on those fields;
7. Makes use of spatial design as a research tool using research methods that are relevant for the professional design practice;
8. Makes use of relevant methods of research during the process of producing architectural projects and integrates the results of this research in (innovative) architectural concepts and designs;
- 9b. Makes use of appropriate knowledge of the history and theory of architecture and related forms of arts, technological disciplines and the humanities when producing architectural concepts, designs and projects and accounts for the use of this knowledge;
- 9g. Makes use of appropriate knowledge of the visual arts, as far as they are of importance for the quality of architectural design, in producing architectural concepts, designs and projects and accounts for the use of this knowledge;
10. Communicates effectively with others about a design using images, written and spoken words and reflects critically on these forms of communication and on the results of it;
11. Reflect on his or her own architectural production and positions him- or herself actively in the architectural practice, making use of this reflection.

## Final qualifications of the education of an urbanist which are addressed in this studio

<b>MUrb</b>	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10a	10b	10c	10d	10e	10f	10g	10h	10i	10j	11	12	13
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6. Formulates soundly based professional judgements that take into account the societal and ethical responsibilities that are connected with applying his or her own knowledge;
7. Works and studies independently, reflects on his or her own behaviour and innovates on those fields;
8. Makes use of spatial design as a research tool using research methods that are relevant for the professional design practice;
9. Makes use of relevant methods of analysis and research when producing urban design project and integrates the results into (innovative) solutions as urban design concept and design;
- 10a. Makes use of appropriate knowledge of the history and theory of urban design and other related professions involved in town planning when developing urban design concepts, visions, strategies and / or designs and accounts for use of this knowledge;
12. Communicates effectively with others about a design and plan using images, written and spoken word and reflects critically on these forms of communication and on the results of it;
13. Reflects on his or her own urban design production and positions him- or herself actively in the urban design practice, making use of this reflection.