Port-City Architectures. Inclusive and Hybrid Approaches for Land-Sea Settlements.

Università di Genova, Scuola Politecnica, Dipartimento Architettura e Design, DAD, Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Architettura LM-4
COASTAL DESIGN AND
OTHERS EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS
Beatrice Moretti, Michele Manigrasso
code 95274, ICAR/14, 4 cfu + 2 cfu, 60 hours, elective and English language course,
a.y. 2022/2023, second semester

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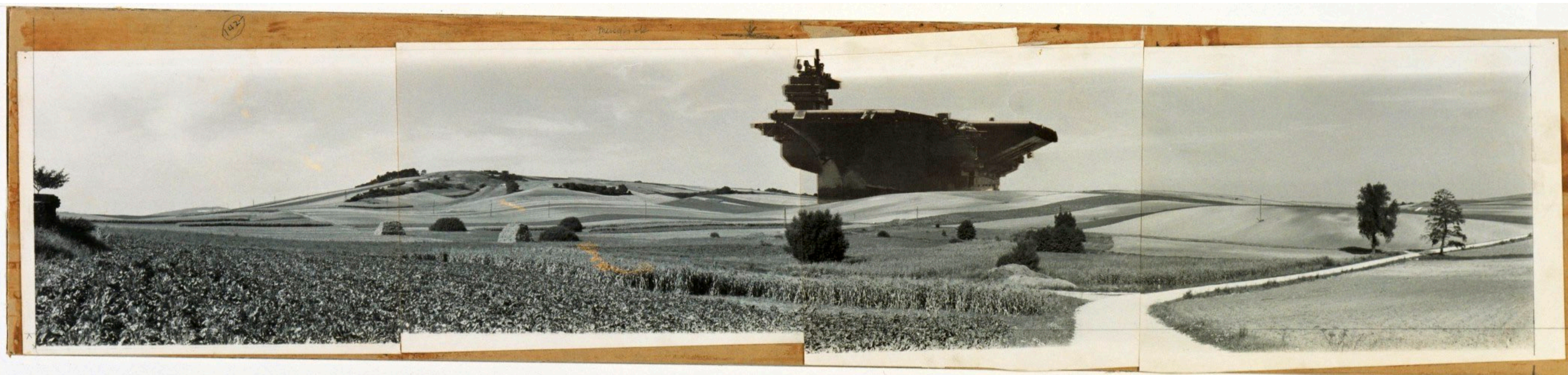
00. Hans Hollein, Aircraft Carrier City in landscape. Project perspective, unbuilt, 1964

topics ad goals

The encounter between land and sea, as the one between city and port, produces particular architectures which posses their own unique characters and compositional codes.

These are port-city architectures: special artifacts, residuals of the port emporium or functioning buildings that define a peculiar landscape, no longer just isolated objects but fragments of a heritage hinged on the boundary line between city and port.

Across this amphibious line, each port has produced its own nature, so extreme as to outline a new architectural typology which is even today manifested through analogies that distinguish and, jointly, unite it.

Port-city architectures physically occupy the port-city border – or better threshold – increasing its heterogeneity: they are not only buildings generated by a functional mix, but extraordinary architectures that inhabit the threshold, becoming carriers of new functions and uses.

With the purpose of experimenting inclusive and hybrid approaches, the course aims to develop design solutions of port-city architectures in which both urban and port programs coexist within the same building(s).

Through the study of 8 excellent international cases of contemporary port-city architectures in world port cities, the goals of the course are to experiment the latent potential of these artifacts, to encourage hybrid and inclusive design approaches straddling land and sea, and, lastly, to claim the practices related to land-sea and marine settlements in the field of architecture.

01. Due to a storm, in February 2008, the Chinese vessel Zhen Hua 10 runned aground on a sandbank in the port of Rotterdam carrying 5 gigantic container cranes. Lots of people gathered on the Maasvlakte beach to watch the disembarkation operations. (Photo by Leo Roubos, 2008)

methodology

The course aims to build <u>tools for critical reading and design of the architecture</u> of the coastal landscape and, in particular, of the <u>port-city environment</u>.

The course will be based on <u>two exercises</u> that the students will carry out in <u>groups of two persons</u>.

The two exercises are <u>preparatory to each other</u> and their evaluation determines the overall exam grade.

The improvement of <u>communication skills in English</u> and developing a disciplinary vocabulary will be stressed.

exercise 01

study and interpretation

Each group will be <u>assigned a case study of an existing port-city architecture</u>. The work will consist of <u>analyzing the building and the context in which it is set</u>, the design choices made by the designers, from the spatial and volumetric configurations to those relating to particular technologies, materials or devices integrated into the architecture.

At this stage, the <u>methodology of collecting data, diagrams, site drawings, photographs and models through publications</u> (in books, magazines, scientific journals, web) and possible direct contact with the designers of the assigned architecture will be very important.

The first exercise will require the drafting of 1 A1 panel which will collect and summarize this research and a short digital presentation to be discussed collectively in the classroom.

exercise 02

project and vision

Starting from the case study of an assigned port-city architectures, each group will <u>elaborate an alternative design solution through the development of its own architectural project</u>. The context and positioning of the building will remain unchanged while the <u>functional program will be reformulated to include both a port function and an urban function</u>. Students will be asked to design, e.g., an <u>architecture capable of simultaneously housing a large hotel and an ecological production plant or a bathing facility and a shipyard or a residential housing estate and a cruise terminal</u>, and so forth.

The aim will be not only to make the functions coexist but <u>to elaborate a distinct and new architectural typology in which the port and urban character hybridize in an inclusive form</u>.

Particular attention will be devoted to the <u>definition of development phases in which the architecture and its context evolve progressively</u> to meet new conditions and uses. Students will form <u>a sequence of alternative scenarios</u>, potentially mid- to long-term duration.

The second exercise will require the preparation of 3 A1 panels and a digital presentation to illustrate the project collectively.

02. Tourists eat at a seafront café in a Chinese port, on the other side of the waterway the container ship XIN YAN TAI is docked full of containers. Stills from the movie "The Forgotten Space" (Allan Sekula&Noel Burch, 2010)

case studies

AA

Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg, GER
Herzog & de Meuron, 2017

BB

FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais, Dunkerque, FRA
Lacaton&Vassal, 2015

CC

Kraanspoor Office Building, Amsterdam Nord, NL
OTH Arkitecten, 2007

DD

Docks de la Joliette, Marseille, FRA
5+1AA (former), 2015

EE

The Silo, Copenhagen, DEN
Cobe Architects, 2017

FF

Frøsilo, Gemini Residences, Copenhagen, DEN
MVRDV, 2005

GG

Danish National Maritime Museum, Helsingør, DEN
BIG Architects, 2015

HH

Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa MOCAA, Cape Town,
SOUTH AFRICA
Heatherwick Studio, 2011

L'ART EST SIMPLEMENT
LA PREUVE D'UNE VIE
PLEINEMENT VÉCUE

FRAC Nord-Pas de Calais, Dunkerque, FRA. Photo: Philippe Ruault . Courtesy of L&V, 2020

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Kraanspoor Office Building, Amsterdam Nord, NL. Photo: Christiaan de Bruijne. Courtesy of OTH Arkitecten, 2022

Zeitz Museum of Contemporary Art Africa MOCAA, Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA. Photo: Iwan Baan. Source: archello.com

co-creation event: CALL FOR WORDS

A co-creation event, called **Call for Words**, will be held one time during the course.

It will focus on the bibliography and literature assigned and will involve an ex-tempore activity.
This activity consists of a call for new lexical categories (lexicons, words, terms, phrases, etc.) that will be launched to implement the construction of a glossary specific to port cities.

Students will propose words and work on their definition by collaborating and engaging in collective discussion.

guest lectures (TBC)

PortCity Futures Research Group
Leiden-Delft-Erasmus Universities, NL

All-inclusive Urbanism. **Containerhafen / Lagunen / Urlaub**
Something Fantastic
[Peter Behrens School of Architecture – PBSA, Düsseldorf / Berlin, GER]

Returns to Seaspace. **Inhabiting the Sea between Architecture, Urbanisation and Ecological Materialities**
PhD Matteo Vianello
[IUAV, Venice, IT]

[…]

03. Women workers in apple orchards on their lunch break near a major logistics railway hub. Stills from the movie "The Forgotten Space" (Allan Sekula&Noel Burch, 2010)

contacts and links

AULA WEB COURSE PAGE

https://2022.aulaweb.unige.it/course/view.php?id=4733#section-0

UNIGE WEBSITE / SYLLABUS

https://corsi.unige.it/en/off.f/2022/ins/59718

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