Educational aims

In the laboratory we propose the design of an urban void in Rome located in the consolidated city. The choice of this theme aims to educate the students, from the first year, to the study of an urban tissue, learning techniques of analysis and intervention in the physical context of the existing city. The laboratory tries to make the student able to control a limited architectural system, consisting of a single building or multiple buildings, adjacent to the existing fabrics.

The choice to work in very defined and consolidated typological and morphological features depends on considering the architecture of the city as a basic text for learning a design method. We exclude any historicist or nostalgic approach, establishing a continuity between architectural and urban design, meaning the architectural design as a process of deformation / transformation of a place but also the deformation / adaptation of a type to an urban context.

Design subject

The program requires the design of an architectural structure that contains student residences and related services, also used by the inhabitants. The university residences are not intended as a simple dormitory, but must provide - as the best European and international examples - every supporting facilities, that qualify the residence: kitchens, multipurpose rooms, small common livings, roof garden, cultural and educational services (workstations study, reading room, media library), cafeteria, laundry. A scaling analysis of space and quantity will be supplied by the lecturer during the course of the Laboratory, in the second half. For the exam is mandatory to attend the program.

1 semester - Elements of Reading in the urban landscape

In the first semester will take place the course Elements of Reading the urban landscape in theoretical lessons on a weekly basis. The topics covered want to provide students with knowledge of the main issues of contemporary architecture, giving them the necessary tools to begin the practice of the project.

2nd semester - Laboratory of Architectural Design

Some ex-tempore exercises will alternate each week in order to accustom the student to work in the classroom, solving "simple" design problems in a certain time, also allowing the lecturer to calibrate communications on specific needs or more frequent gaps. Students should always be provided with materials for drawing and for making study models in the classroom. In the first phase the exercises will address problems of housing size, use of space, of the furnishings. The final exam is individual and consists in the description of the project and the exercises performed during the year (ex-tempore, individual and group exercises). During the exam the student must also demonstrate to have assimilated the content of lessons and to have a general understanding of the texts listed in the bibliography, to have reached a sufficient understanding of the subject.

The project must clearly show the principle of settlement, relations between the parts and the whole architecture, the architectonic and constructive configuration by a general plan that includes the urban portion of the design of open spaces, plans, elevations, sections, model of the project and any three-dimensional views.
Texts and References

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A. Rossi, L’architettura della città (1966), Città Studi Edizioni, Torino 1995
L. Quaroni, Il progetto per la città. Dieci Lezioni, Kappa, Roma 1996
L. Reale, Densità, città, residenza. Tecniche di densificazione e strategie antisprawl, Gangemi, Roma 2008

We also recommend reading and following consultation with the architectural magazines:

a+t, a+u, Area, Casabella, Detail, L’Industria delle Costruzioni, El croquis, Lotus International, 2G