MARSEILLE

Studio Sergison
Autumn Semester 2026

Marseille



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Aerial view of Marseille

This semester the studio will work in Marseille, in the south of France, and address normative building programmes.

We have chosen 12 project sites in the centre of the city, a part of Marseille that has witnessed a process of urban transformation in recent times. The increase in visitor numbers has resulted in the familiar symptoms of overtourism: the withdrawing of residential buildings from the housing market to feed the increasing demand for short-term accommodation (Airbnb) has led to a shortage of affordable housing for local residents and the erosion of permanent communities. Especially in the city centre, the result is the emptying of residential neighbourhoods, despite continuing population growth.

The sites selected are similar in character and quality. While the main focus of the exercise will be the development of strong concepts for apartments, it will also be necessary to consider other programmes, particularly at ground floor level on each site. Attention should be given to the urban character of projects and their form of construction, which should prioritise low-cost, sustainable solutions.



Ensemble la Tourette, F. Pouillon and R. Egger, 1948-1954

Sustainable housing in Marseille
Jonathan Sergison

In previous semesters we studied housing programmes and considered how they can support sustainable forms of urban development. This semester we are interested in exploring what 'normal' housing might look like in Marseille, and we will do so by studying the image and plan organisation of buildings and investigating appropriate forms of construction.

The semester will begin with two survey exercises: the first will focus on the elements of housing, such as windows, doors, entrances, kitchens and bathrooms, while the second will look at some helpful reference buildings in Marseille. From the lessons learnt in the process, you should develop initial ideas that test the manner in which a building can add to a specific site and to the wider neighbourhood. The positioning of the building should be carefully determined by testing various options.

The character and quality of shared amenity in a building should be given careful consideration, together with the impact of the project on its immediate neighbourhood and wider urban setting.

Subsequently, we will focus on the design of a building as a type, and on the internal organisation of apartments, as well as the form of construction to be adopted.

We invite you to consider the following questions throughout the course of the semester:

- How can architecture be reconciled with climate change?
- How do we find appropriate and sustainable approaches in construction?
- How can we preserve and transform the existing built environment?
- How can communities be densified while maintaining high standards of architectural and urban quality?
- What can we learn from local building practices?

Rue Tapis Vert, Marseille

overleaf
around the Vieuy Port of Marseille

A Brief History of Housing and Migration, 1800-1975
in Marc Angélil, Charlotte Malterre-Barthes, and Something Fantastic (eds.),
Migrant Marseille: Architectures of Social Segregation and Urban Inclusivity.
Berlin: Ruby Press, 2020, pp. 28-53

MIGRATION, PUBLIC POLICIES, HOUSING

The Construction of Marseille's Uneven Geography 1800s-2000s

In the second-largest French city—a trading port founded in 600 BC by Greeks from Phocaea—harbor activities and constant migratory flows have shaped the physical, social, and economic geography, particularly the successive immigration waves of the past century. France has long been a country of immigration, and authorities long considered this permanent condition as temporary. Housing programs reflected this, paving the way for an ethnic segregation which was to greatly affect the socio-spatial geography of French cities, Marseille in particular. Chronicling migration waves and the public response to housing sheds light on the socio-spatial landscape of the city today, and why Marseille presents such a divide between the wealthy southern districts and the impoverished northern neighborhoods-stigmatized under the name Quartiers Nord, of which the city's central artery, La Canebière forms a blurred but unequivocal border.

Nineteenth Century to World War I: Italians and Kabyles

Starting in the 1830s with the colonization of Algeria and the construction of the Paris-Lyon-Marseille railway, Marseille became the leading port for colonial businesses in France. As the harbor expanded north of the city for industrial activities (i.e., sugar, soap, tile factories), this economic boom attracted migrant labor, mainly from Italy. These migrants, along with modest French workers, settled in the northern peripheral areas of the city. Here, workers were either offered simple provisional housing by their companies or they lived in overcrowded, self-built bidonvilles. On the opposite side of the city, the bourgeoisie established itself in the southern districts, as wealthy traders bought plots of land to build luxurious homes away from the factories' dirt and labor forces. Meanwhile, workers unionized and formed inter-ethnic social groups, supporting strikes and protests for better wages and working conditions. Around 1910, these recurrent confrontations led Marseille's industries to turn to France's North African colonies to recruit workers, mainly from the Algerian region of Kabylia. They were hired as strikebreakers, fueling conflicts among the working class to weaken its contractual power, and resulting in their marginalization from their fellow laborers.

The Interwar Period: Ethnic Diversification

At the outbreak of World War I, as many Italians were leaving and the French labor force integrating into the military, public authorities urgently engaged in the recruitment of workers from the colonies. As the war ended, Marseille experienced a second wave of migration, this time fueled by political conflicts; Russians fleeing the October Revolution, Armenians escaping genocide, Spaniards leaving Franco's dictatorship, all in search of safety and employment. To cope with the humanitarian emergency, the municipality set up transit camps and barracks that could house hundreds. During the 1930s, the French government and private companies established a recruitment program and institutions responsible for housing and medical care for foreign workers. The guest workers' regime was based on differential exclusion: foreign workers were accommodated only temporarily as

economic subjects, and excluded socially, culturally, and politically. Isolated forms of housing were preferred, such as workers' villages or *cités-jardins*, where workers could retain their cultural, religious, and social practices during their temporary stay in France — an isolation intended to facilitate return to their home countries. Further workers from neighboring nations also settled in Marseille and gradually assimilated into French society. Arrival neighborhoods, such as Le Panier, Belsunce, and later Noailles were crucial to that process. Here, immigrants could rely on social networks based on kinship and national affiliation to find accommodation and employment.

At the time, workers from the colonies were treated more harshly, having to comply with stricter rules. Their stay was administered by organizations such as Service de Surveillance, Protection, et Assistance des Indigènes Nord-Africain (SAINA) and Service de Organisation des Travailleurs Coloniaux (SOTC), which subjected them to disciplinary control under the guise of assistance. Segregated from local society, these workers —mostly single men — remained an isolated population with limited rights, subjected to the tight control of authorities.

Post-World War II: North African Migration

After World War II, Marseille, like the rest of France, engaged in physical reconstruction and the revival of economic activities, a period later known as the Glorious Thirty (1945-1975). To gather the necessary workforce for this national effort, another guest-worker scheme was established, one that would last until the 1973 oil crisis. At first, workers overwhelmingly arrived from Algeria and other colonized North African countries, like Morocco. No housing facilities were constructed for these laborers and their families, and informal Algerian bidonvilles sprouted up, clustering around the industries that employed them, largely on the northern side of the city close to transport infrastructure. After the beginning of Algeria's war of independence in 1956, these migrant workers were considered a threat. In order to contain political unrest, the government established the Société Nationale de Construction de Logements pour les Travailleurs Algériens (SONACOTRAL), an institution intended to build and manage shelters exclusively for Algerian workers.

When Algeria gained its independence, thousands of *pieds-noirs* — French natives, *colons*, living in Algeria — arrived in Marseille. They settled first in hotels, and then found housing in the private market in some of the large — scale housing projects (*grands ensembles*), like La Rouvière. However, most of the newly built residential complexes that both state and private developers constructed were primarily intended to house the growing population of the French metropolis and solve the postwar housing crisis, rather than accommodate newcomers. In parallel, native Algerians continued to arrive, and racial tensions arose across the city. As colonial biases infiltrated the political apparatus, these populations were portrayed as uncivilized and ill-prepared for the cohabitation of social housing. Authorities thus decided *émigrés* had to prove their sociability before being eligible for a subsidized apartment, creating basic residential estates for them, known as *cités de transit*. After two years in a *cité*, families were to be rehoused in flats in an *habitation à loyer modéré* (rent-controlled housing); however, this was seldom realized. Many stayed for over a decade in such emergency camps, located at the periphery of the city.

During these years, ethnic segregation was exacerbated by the poor political and economic choices of the city's administration.

On the one hand, favoritism and corruption became prevalent practices; for decades, Marseille's mayors administered the city by exchanging municipal employment for votes, resulting in an increase of public jobs still palpable today. On the other hand, after the national independences of the 1960s, the city's port economy suffered a steady decline. Marine traffic-related industrial activities were relocated to a neighboring city, Fos-sur-Mer. The combination of an overinflated public sector and the disappearance of industrial activities hindered the economic development of the city and the well-being of its local and foreign population. During this time, large amounts of municipal funds were allocated to develop the southern districts and improve the vehicular-traffic network. Middle-class residents in the inner city and the north were encouraged to move to newly built single-family properties in the south and east. The northern neighborhoods, already home to industries, the working class, and immigrants, saw the construction of 90 percent of the city's social housing projects. This is where migrants from Morocco, sub-Saharan Africa, and the Caribbean were to move into long-coveted HLM apartment blocks, such as La Castellane and Parc Kallisté. Some *cités* over time became home to a homogeneous community, like Félix Pyat, whose residents are overwhelmingly from the Comoros — a French colony until 1975. As French lower-class citizens gained financial stability and accessed homeownership, they vacated the *grands ensembles*, and migrants moved in. After the oil crisis of 1973, the French economy entered a recession period, forcing migrant workers to return. Following the phasing out of the guest workers' regime, immigration flows dried up, only to be fueled again by family reunification policies, a legal right since 1976. The combination of these forms of continued immigration into the large public housing projects in the northern districts was to have a tremendous and long-lasting effect on the social and physical landscape of Marseille.

Current Situation

During the 1980s, 1990s, and 2000s, France was shaken by urban unrest in these neglected neighborhoods. The state decided to implement a series of measures called Politique de la Ville. This new bureaucratic apparatus relied on two administrative instruments. The first was the Contract de Ville (1989), a three-year agreement between central government and municipalities, instituted with the purpose of transferring funds to troubled neighborhoods (*quartiers en difficulte*). The second tool was the Pacte de Reliance Sociale (1996), which defined three geographical levels of intervention at a municipal scale: *zone urbaine sensible* (ZUS), *zone de redynamisation urbaine* (ZRU), and *zone franche urbaine* (ZFU). These measures were set up to tackle poverty and unemployment, and became a cornerstone of indirect immigration-targeted policies, emerging from French republican universalism in which all citizens are equal regardless of their social, cultural, or political background. Today, while the number of ZUS have decreased nationally, in Marseille and its region the ZUS population has increased, and 18.3 percent of the city's entire population resides in one.

In October 1995, a new urban renewal project called Euroméditerranée, located on and around the harbor area, was initiated and funded by the French central government, the municipality, the department, and the region (later the urban community of Marseille Provence Métropole). Capitalizing on the postindustrial urban fabric, its main purpose was to attract investments and lay the basis for a new service-oriented urban economy. Declared of "national interest" in the Opérations d'Intérêt National (OIN), the 310 — hectare project was extended in 2007 beyond its original perimeter to become Euroméd II and include an additional 170 hectares. The contested renovation of the Haussmann — style Rue de la République is paradigmatic of the conflict of interests between locals and decision-makers. A poor neighborhood adjacent to the harbor and Le Panier, Rue de la République was home to modest populations — many of them freshly immigrated. With public policies aiming to bring in wealthier populations, inhabitants were expelled and were not able to relocate in the city center: Meanwhile, apartments and shops remain empty as the anticipated population stays away, pointing to a miscalculation of Marseille's economic situation, somehow a limitation to gentrification.

The second phase of Euroméditerranée is an even more blatant speculative real estate scheme, with new construction on a budget and maximum profit as a goal. As the project moves north, the scale of construction increases with the completion of the Ilôt Allard, a.k.a. Smartseille, a 24,000 m^2 so-called connected-ecological project with 385 housing units — including 100 for social housing. Meanwhile across the street, for the ancient village of Les Crottes, home to a wild mix of newcomers and an impoverished local population, the developer foresees housing, the transformation of the *marché aux puces* via the enormous Les Fabriques project and the extension of the tramway. This only means inhabitants will be compensated and expelled, exemplifying Euroméd as an exclusion machine. This parallel account of migration, housing, and state policies attempts to uncover spatial economies within neoliberal logic, demonstrating how the social landscape of the city is deeply intertwined with the housing situation, and results in a consolidated unjust situation between north and south, poor and wealthy, and resource-rich and deprived areas.

GRAND ENSEMBLES: DOMESTIC SOLUTION, COLLECTIVE PROBLEM

Early Housing Solutions (1930s-1950s)

In the aftermath of World War II and its massive destruction, housing became a critical issue. The rapid population growth and subsequent housing shortages initiated a major shift in the French government's reconstruction policies. The state began to promote mass production of publicly funded housing, especially on the outskirts of existing cities, resulting in what could be described as a postwar urbanization frenzy. This unprecedented public involvement in social housing can be credited to a general change of mentality. As scholar Kenny Cupers explains, "Architecture undertook a whole new role — a social project. In those years modern architecture did not belong solely to an avant-garde; it was shared and shaped by government officials, construction companies, residents associations, real estate developers and social scientists alike." The rhetoric surrounding these projects was largely consistent and signals an effort for universal access to housing and public services, regardless of social background. Radical changes came about not only with new building techniques (e.g., prefabricated construction) but also regarding the modus operandi of construction companies and financial groups (i.e., unions, co-operatives). Some of the ideas developed in these projects were not pursued fully, while others became the norm for new cities across France in the form of *grands ensembles*.

Of the four housing precedents presented here, it should come as no surprise that those aimed at housing middle-income classes (Unité d'Habitation, SOGIMA) are in the southern area of Marseille, while the ones targeting lower-income classes are located in the northern districts (Saint-Barthelemy, Saint-Just), where 60 percent of the city's social housing will emerge and various migrant populations settled in the subsequent decades.

Grands Ensembles and Demolition Policies

The term *grand ensemble* was used for the first time in 1935 to describe La Muette, a *cité* in Drancy at the gates of Paris. This neologism, and the term *cité*, refer to a specific urban form that became popular in postwar France as a solution to the acute housing crisis. Postwar reconstruction was seen as an opportunity to rebuild French cities according to modern principles that would eventually create a more just social order. Two groups of actors were responsible for this domestic revolution: on the one hand, officials of the Ministry for Reconstruction and Urbanization (Ministère de la Reconstruction et de l'Urbanisme), and on the other, architects from the modern movement which, together, sought to mobilize new design, materials, and construction techniques to reframe the relationship between housing and the urban fabric. Large-scale prefabricated concrete housing projects were hence the result of a civic mission intended to guarantee high standards of living to the whole population regardless of social class. Perhaps it is important to mention that these thousands of new public apartments, *habitation à loyer modéré* (HLM), were not to house the poor or the immigrant population, but were simply considered the most efficient response to the national housing crisis. Their decline started in the 1970s, when the most affluent families vacated the HLM stock to access homeownership. Slowly, these residential complexes became home to poorer populations marginalized by the labor market and unable to afford the costs to maintain the property.

Policies to improve these dilapidated suburbs were devised in the 1990s with the agenda known as Politique de la Ville. Based on a set of socioeconomic tools, which included citizens' participation, for local improvements and grassroots investments, its success was limited. At the turn of the century, the authorities decreased funding for these community-centered mechanisms of urban regeneration and instead instituted new policies that relied on territorial remodeling as a tool to solve social problems — and to satisfy construction lobbies. In 2003, the Borloo Law explicitly aimed at preventing the consolidation of ghettos and at facilitating social cohesion in the *zones urbaines sensibles (ZUS)*, previously defined by the Politique de la Ville. Operatively, this ordinance established the national agency for urban renewal, Agence Nationale pour la Rénovation Urbaine (ANRU), which administers the implementation and financing of the national urban renewal program (Programme National pour la Rénovation Urbaine). The great novelty of this institutional framework, compared to past administrative practices, is that it relies heavily on demolitions. Authorities argue that this mechanism can change the image of these neighborhoods and destigmatize its inhabitants. In practice, they are in fact providing opportunities toward some form of gentrification and expanding the private property market, while sending a critical message to current occupants.

These vicissitudes show the limits of two different and yet similar spatial approaches to socio-urban issues. On the one hand, the modernist dream of the *grands ensembles*, temporarily credited for solving the housing crisis, is the physical base for the creation of large-scale ghettos, linked to design decisions of mass, location, and size. On the other hand, the new demolition policy — which shares with the modernist estates the "grand gesture approach" — is simply a mechanism to literally remove the social problem and provide more space for speculation.

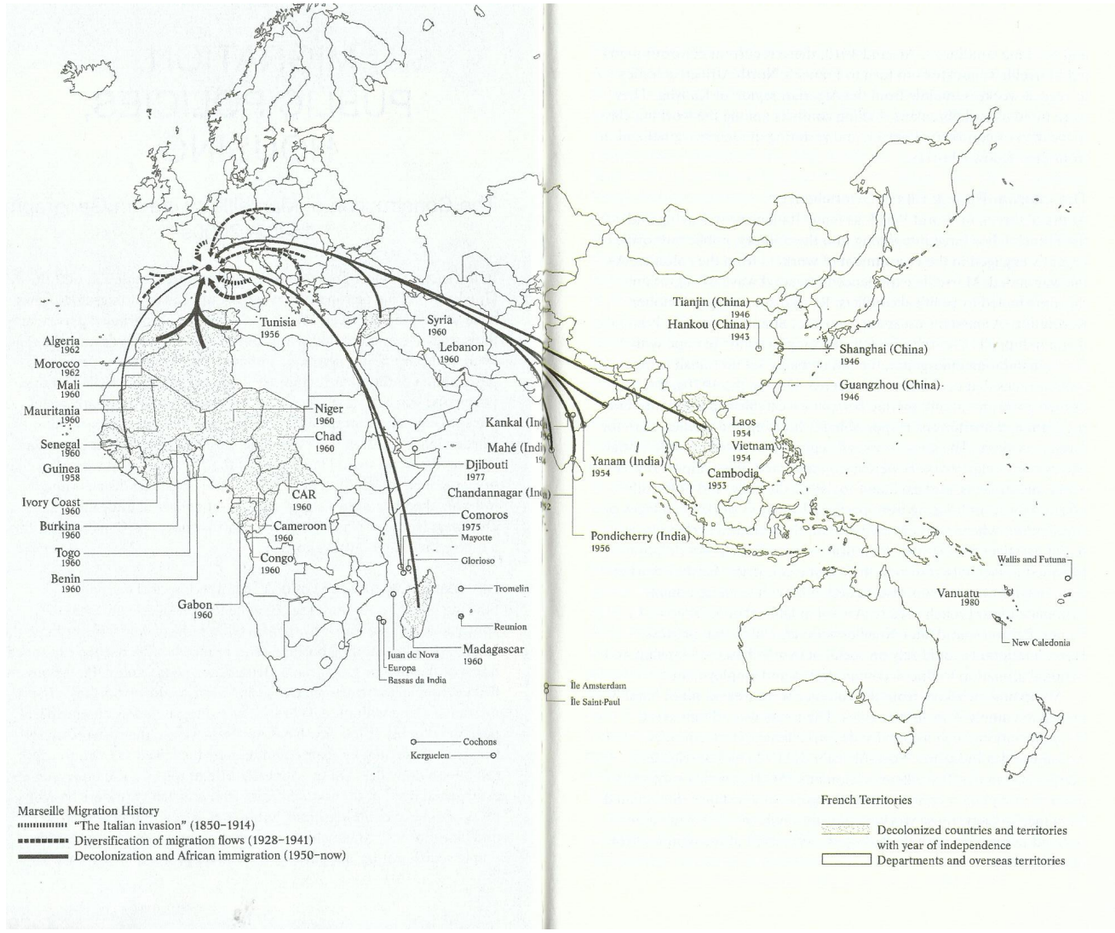
Degraded Co-ownerships (*copropriétés dégradées*): A Matter of National Interest

A misunderstanding often occurs regarding the ownership status of the *grands ensembles*, which can be wrongly perceived as purely social and public housing. This is not always the case. *Grands ensembles* occur in the city in the form of privately owned condominiums (*copropriétés*, or co-ownerships). A co-ownership is basically any building divided into multiple individual properties, containing rights over one housing unit and part of the building's common elements (i.e., facade, roof, common spaces). The first legal framework defining co-ownerships in France was formed in 1936, when this new type of collective ownership was quickly spreading and common legal guidelines became indispensable. Initially, co-ownership laws sought to safeguard both collective benefit and the rights of co-owners, but later adaptations and additions increasingly facilitated the interference of external and public bodies after "condominiums in difficulty" (*copropriétés en difficulté*), or "degraded co-ownerships," started appearing in the mid-1990s. These are unmaintained, decaying housing estates, with a high concentration of underprivileged populations.

There are several reasons why a *grand ensemble* would become a deteriorated condominium. Residents typically belong to the poor working class, the most vulnerable stratum of society. According to scholar Olivier Schwartz, what

defines the working class is “a low professional or social status, limited economic resources — without necessarily meaning precariousness — and the distance to cultural capital, and [...] school.” Additionally, as pointed out by Johanna Lees, these spaces became home to another specific category of the population: people in a migratory, transitory state. Thus, residents of these large co-ownerships are working class, frequently foreigners or people who have acquired French nationality. Kenny Cupers argues unambiguously that “as white middle-class families left collective housing in favor of suburban single-family homes, they were replaced by poor families, many from North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa.” Paradoxically, maintenance costs charged to the owners of these grands ensembles are extremely high, as much as 400 euros per month, while the most basic services are no longer provided. This is because the co-ownership has accumulated debt and is no longer able to pay for suppliers and service providers. Dissatisfied with the lack of maintenance, owners refuse to pay, and the co-ownership debt rises exponentially.

City efforts to solve degraded co-ownerships intensified during the 1990s and have largely resorted to rehabilitation processes and demolitions. When an estate is found in extreme dereliction and its rehabilitation exceeds the city’s means, it can be declared by the state as an intervention of national interest (OIN), at which point a betterment program is launched (Opérations de Requalification des Copropriétés Dégradées, ORCOD). On extreme sites which have already undergone several phases of rehabilitation, state-led rescue plans (*plans de sauvegarde*) mainly focus on formal aspects rather than problematic social aspects, contributing to a questionable stigmatization of the urban form. With demolitions and evictions as their main tools, the real issue of poverty and social inequality is simply deflected rather than addressed.



Marseille Migration History
in *Migrant Marseille*, 2020,
pp. 32–33

Alexander Keith Johnston,
The Mediterranean Basin, 1861



Topographical map of the city of Marseille
and surrounding municipalities,
1879



Institut national de l'information
géographique et forestière
City map, 1950

Project sites

1
Rue Bernard du Bois

2
Rue Maurice Korsec

3
Rue de la Fare

4
Rue Longue des Capucins

5
Rue de la Fare, Rue Nationale

6
Rue Nationale

7
Rue du Camas, Rue Jaubert

8
Rue Jaubert

9
Rue Edmond Dantès

10
Rue Abbé de l'Epée

11
Rue Briffaut, Rue Gillibert

12
Rue Briffaut




1


2


3

1
Site 1
Rue Bernard du Bois

2
Site 2
Rue Maurice Korsec

3
Site 3
Rue de la Fare


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6

4
Site 4
Rue Longue des Capucins

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Site 5
Rue de la Fare,
Rue Nationale

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Site 6
Rue Nationale



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Site 7
Rue du Camas,
Rue Jaubert

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Site 8
Rue Jaubert

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Site 9
Rue Edmond Dantès



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Site 10
Rue Abbé de l'Epée

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Site 11
Rue Briffaut, Rue Gillibert

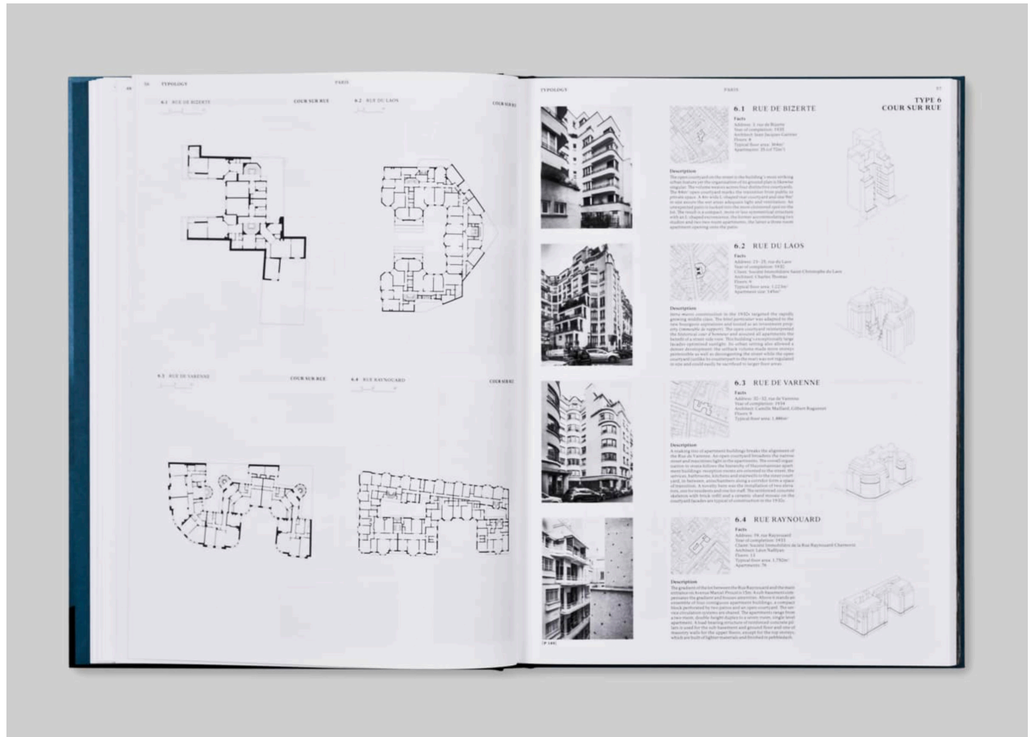
12
Site 12
Rue Briffaut

In this studio we hold the position that invention is a necessary ambition in architecture, but it rarely emerges by spontaneous intuition. Architects can generally develop a truly unique proposal only after many years of study and reflection. In view of the wealth of examples in the history of architecture, it is doubtful whether anyone can achieve true originality.

To help you understand the task you are attending to this semester we would like you to undertake a study of housing references. We ask you to do this because we believe that by gaining an in-depth understanding of the qualities of an existing building you will be able to find ways of relating to what exists, rather than believe that it is possible to invent spontaneously.

The information compiled and recorded should be drawn upon and referred to throughout the semester and you should consider the potential of the study to inform your subsequent work on the plan organisation of projects. You should be able to describe your references clearly and analytically, using diagrams where necessary.

We ask you to concentrate on analysing the quality and arrangement of a facade: this requires you to look very carefully at buildings, to make sketches, and take photographs as a way of recording existing conditions where it is possible to visit the interiors.



Typology 2: Delhi, Paris, São Paulo, Athens
Emanuel Christ and Christoph Gantenbein
2015

First exercise
Part 1: Survey of domestic space, the elements of housing

In 2014 the14th Venice Architecture Biennale curated by Rem Koolhaas was entitled ‘Fundamentals’, and took the elements of architecture as one of its themes. Taking this analysis as an inspiration, we will conduct a rigorous survey of the various elements of housing. This work will be undertaken in pairs and requires the careful drawing of a door, a window, a balcony, an entrance, a kitchen and a bathroom that you consider to be good examples of each particular element.

Each of the elements should be carefully photographed and drawn in plan, section and elevation at an appropriate scale. You will need to refer to them later in the semester, to develop your design for an apartment building in Marseille.



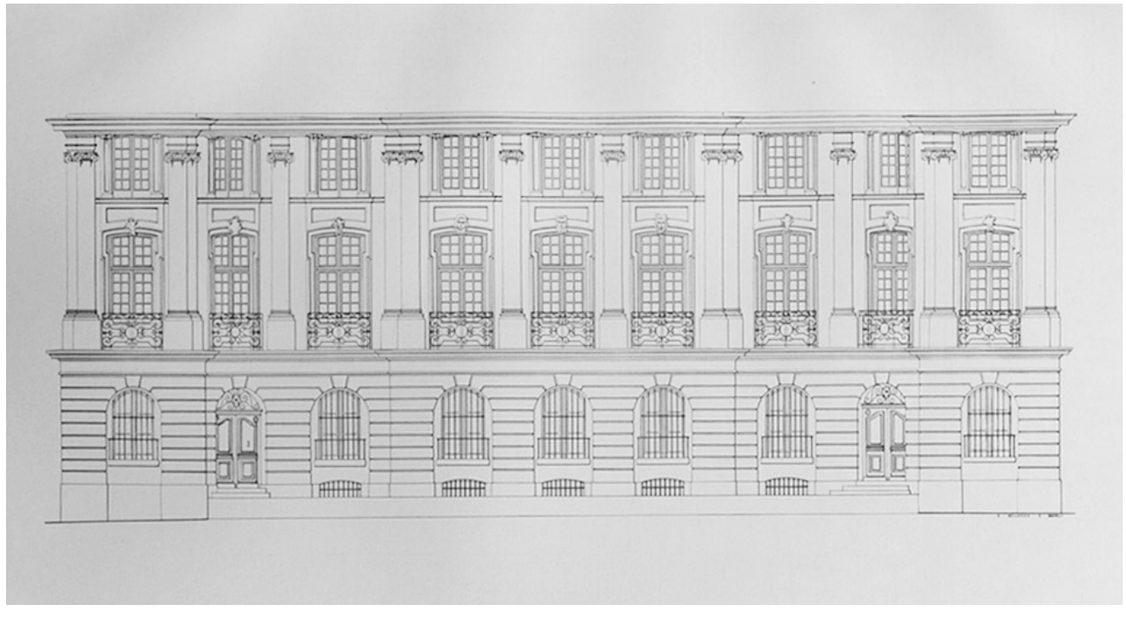
Survey drawing
Housing in Venice
Stefan Alexandru Cristinoiu,
Giselle Gagliano, Anita Luburic,
Emma Mariaclara Marelli
Spring Semester 2026

First exercise
Part 2: Survey of a housing building in Marseille

To help you understand the task you are attending to this semester we would like you to undertake a study of a number of exemplary buildings in Marseille. This should be seen as another form of survey, which in this instance will involve drawing.

You should concentrate on understanding the quality and arrangement of a facade. This will require you to look very carefully at a building, making sketches and taking photographs as a way of recording their existing conditions.

An introductory lecture will be given to assist you in understanding this exercise. Twenty-four notable case studies have been selected and the survey work should be undertaken individually.



Ordonnances,
Aix-en-Provence
Fernand Pouillon,
1949-1953





Survey drawing
Housing in Venice
Stefan Alexandru Cristinoiu,
Giselle Gagliano, Anita Luburic,
Emma Mariaclara Marelli
Spring Semester 2026

1
Ensemble la Tourette, F. Pouillon and R. Egger, 1948-1954

2
Ensemble la Tourette, F. Pouillon and R. Egger, 1948-1954

3
Place du Château Joly 1-5, M. Dallest, 1952

4
Avenue Saint-Jean 33-37, A. Dunoyer de Segonzac, 1950

5
Tour de la Loge, Atelier F. Pouillon and A. Devin, 1946-1952

6
Les Quais du Port 5, F. Pouillon and A. Devin, 1951-1954

7
Rue Caisserie 17-23, Atelier F. Pouillon and A. Devin, 1951-1954

8
Grand Rue 29-35, J. Rozan and E. Chirié, 1956

9
Rue de la Guirlande, A. Devin, 1956

10
Rue de la Loge 2-8, J. Rozan and E. Chirié

11
Résidence du Vieux-Port, A. Dunoyer de Segonzac, 1949-1952

12
Bd Eugène Pierre, '3 windows type'






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1 2
Ensemble la Tourette, F. Pouillon and
R. Egger, 1948-1954

3
Place du Château Joly 1-5, M. Dallest, 1952


4


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Avenue Saint-Jean 33-37, A. Dunoyer de
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7
Rue Caisserie 17-23, Atelier F. Pouillon and A. Devin, 1951-1954

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Grand Rue 29-35, J. Rozan and E. Chirié, 1956

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Rue de la Guirlande, A. Devin, 1956

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Rue de la Loge 2-8, J. Rozan and E. Chirié

11
Résidence du Vieux-Port, A. Dunoyer de Segonzac, 1949-1952

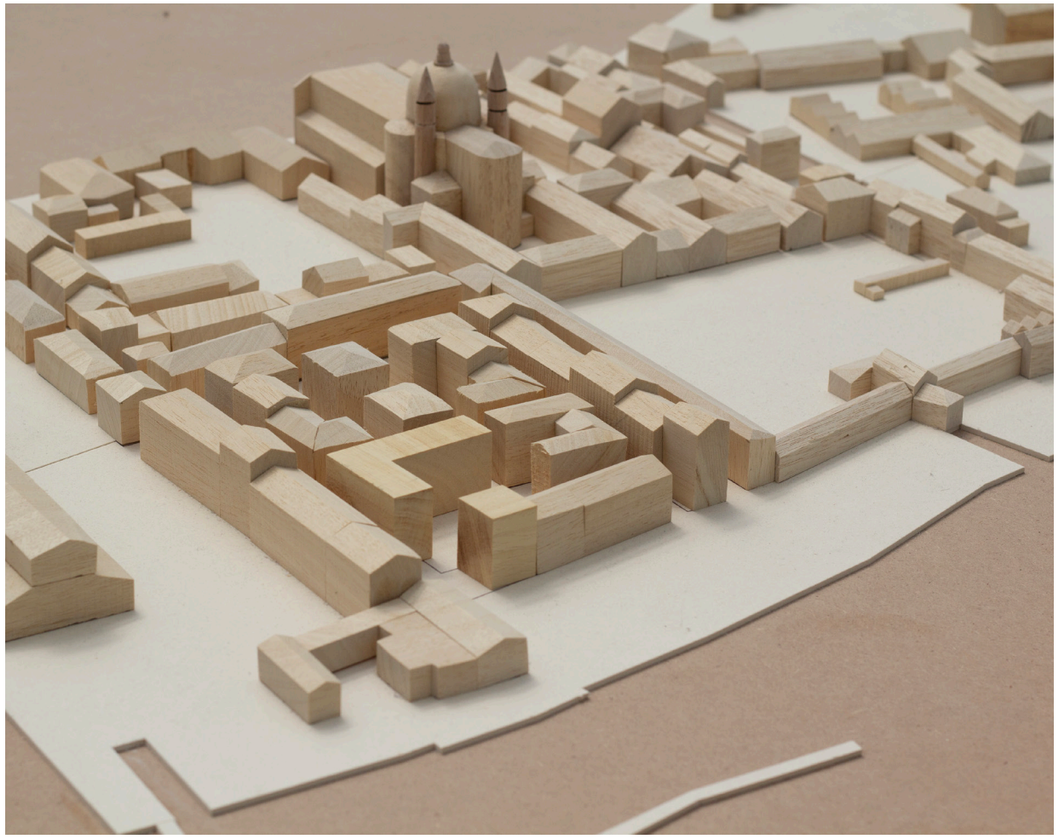
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Bd Eugène Pierre, ‘3 windows’, architect unknown, c. 1950

Second exercise: Urban study and initial concept

The next component of the work to be undertaken this semester requires you to develop an urban strategy and situate proposals within it. This can be understood as a typological and massing study. The principal tool to assist you in this exercise will be a 1:500 model which should encompass a wider area of the neighbourhood in which your site is located. The base model will be made collectively by the whole studio.

We ask you to begin by exploring a number of solutions that would allow the site you are studying to be developed to a reasonably high density through the introduction of new building proposals. The scale of these proposals and the distance and relationship to existing buildings should be carefully considered. Each option you propose should be photographed, tested, and critically appraised, before being developed further and refined, or discarded, as appropriate.

This work should be understood as part of an iterative process for developing the idea for the project you will be working on throughout the semester.

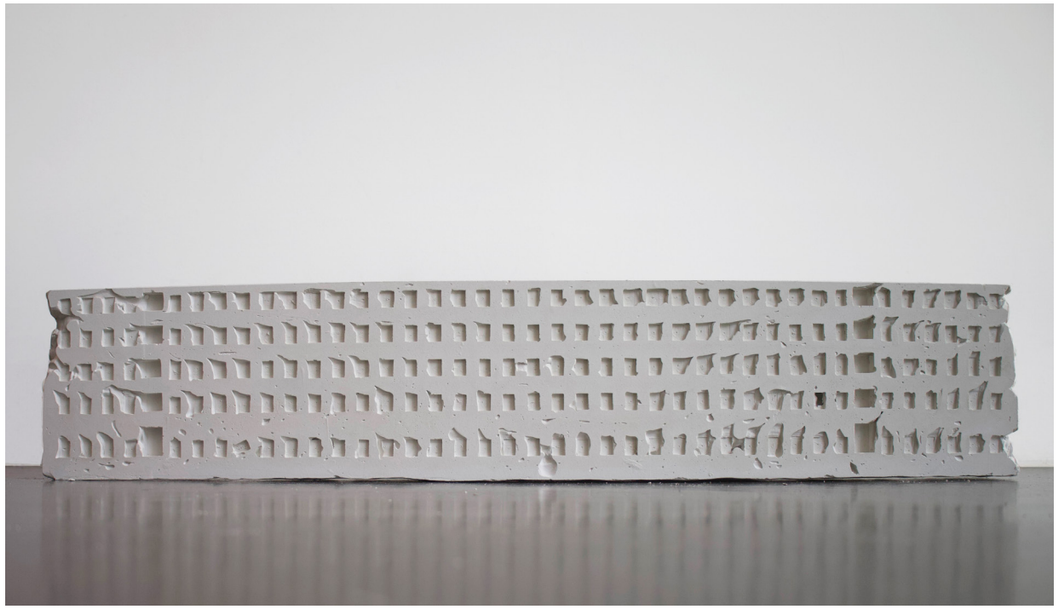


Site model
Spring Semester 2026

Third exercise: Cast model

For the intermediate review you are required to produce a 1:100 cast model of your project. While it will also be necessary to produce plans, sections and elevations, the cast model will enable a more accurate assessment of the formal properties of the project. The model should be made from white, unpigmented plaster and should represent window openings, the roof, and any overhang it might have.

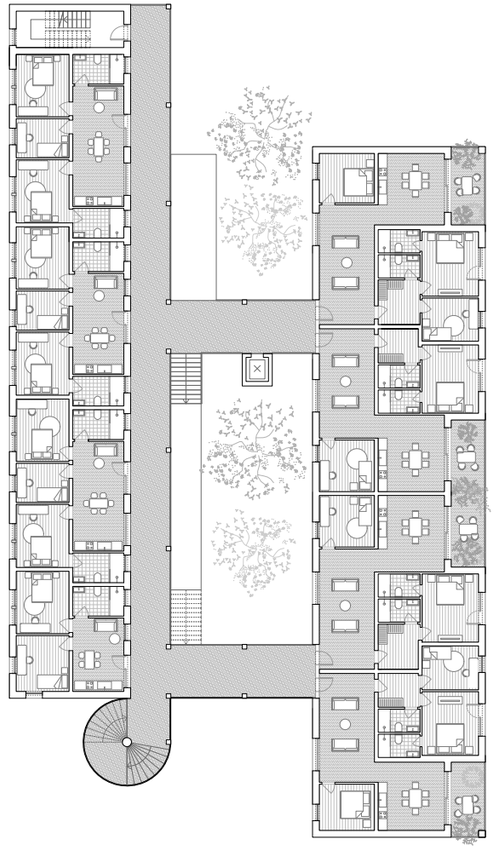
At this stage in the semester your work will be subject to an intermediate review with guest critics.



Spring Semester 2026
Amelie Clotilde Mantovani and
Emma Mariaclara Marelli

While plans will have been developed in relation to nearly every stage of your work, they should now be refined and revised as a clear proposal.

The organisation of the cores, the distribution of different apartment types, the mix and arrangement of apartments should be clearly represented. It is likely that this work will require modifications to the facades and sections.

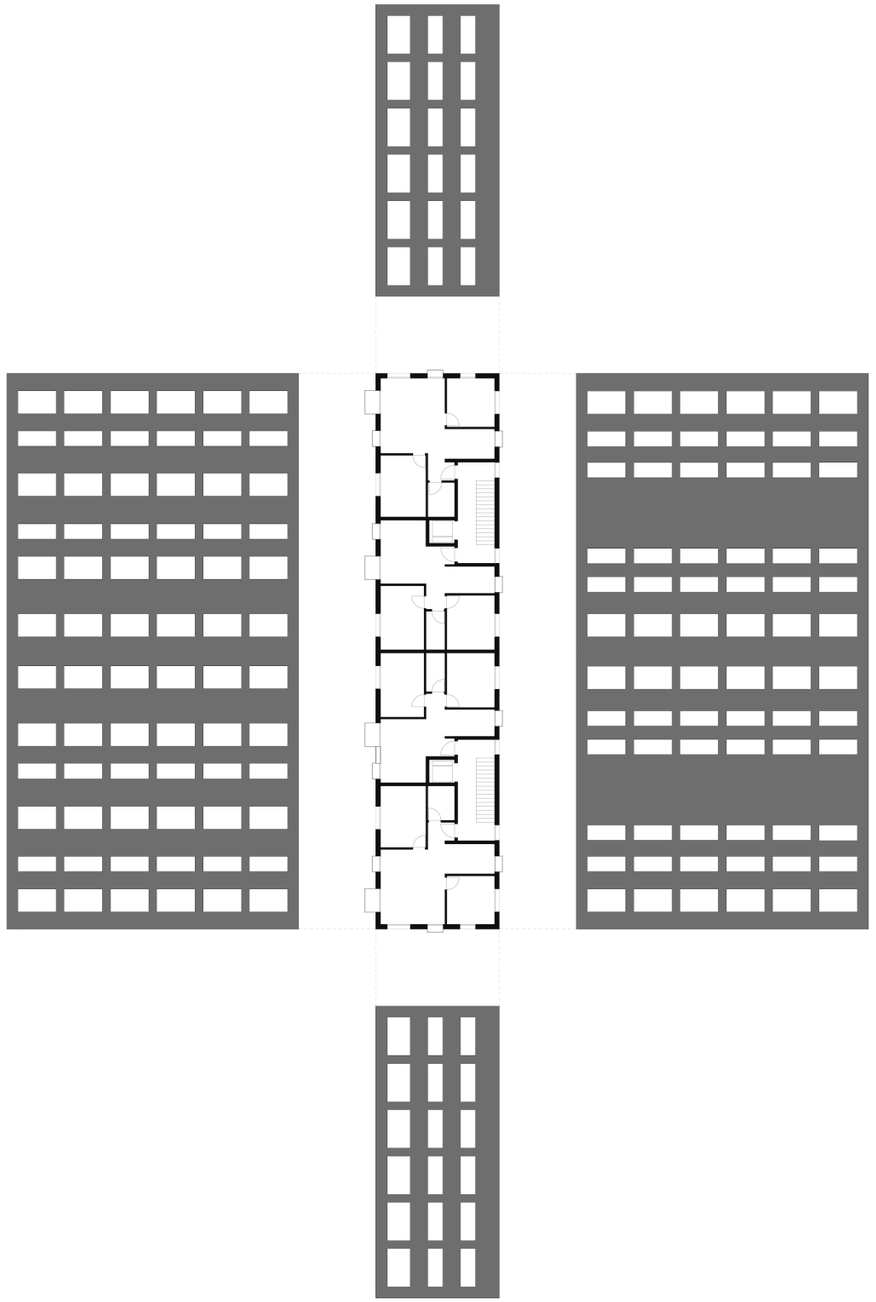


The results of the previous studies should now be reappraised and drawn upon to produce the next instalment of this semester's work. We would like you to develop a more precise concept for the buildings and their relationships to the wider context. The principal tool we ask you to use to represent your project is a 1:100 study or sketch model, which should include an appropriate amount of the surrounding urban context. We are interested in the qualities of the building or buildings you design and the way they are expressed through the organisation of the facades.

You should concentrate on the critical appraisal and further refinement of your earlier studies. While a model will be the principal piece of work produced, we expect your project to be developed through study plans, elevations, sections and sketches. The facades of your buildings should be drawn at 1:100 (as unwrapped elevations where necessary) and translated into three-dimensional models.

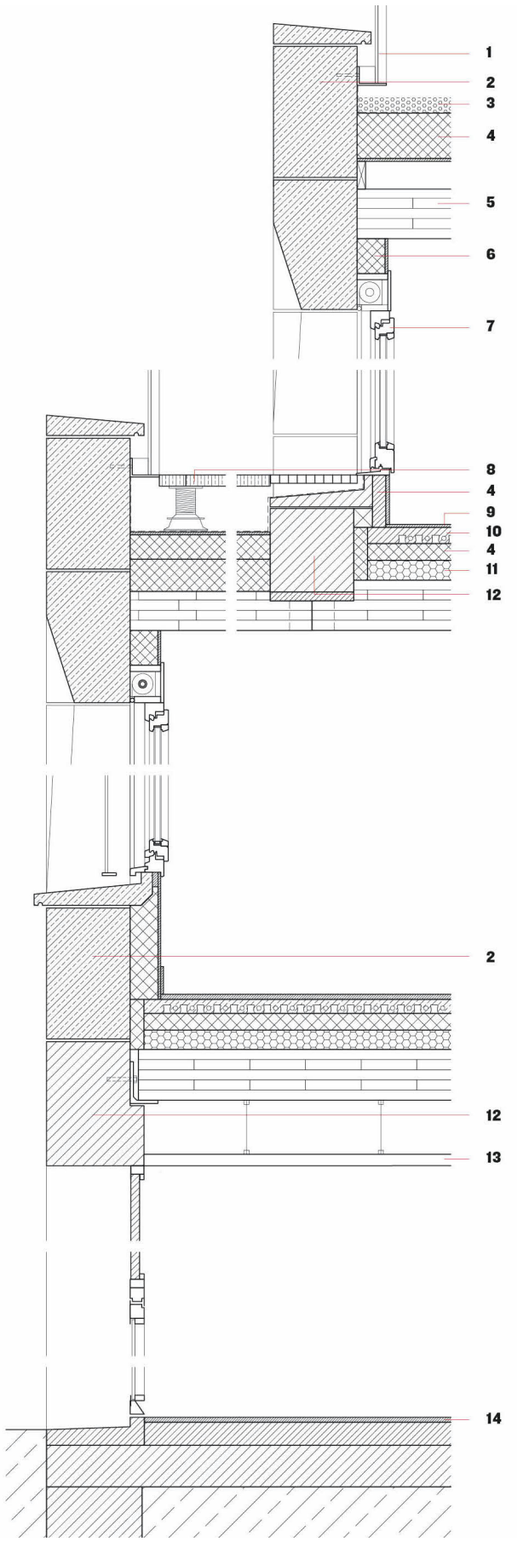
This work should be undertaken with a clear concept of the image of your building in mind:
- What materials is the building made from?
- What is your attitude to the arrangement of window openings?
- How does the building meet the ground and how is the top of the building resolved?

There are numerous additional questions you should be asking yourself about the facade of your building.



While this might have already been suggested implicitly, we now ‚invite you to commit to a form of construction and argue for its appropriateness in relation to its impact on the environment in the process of building, and throughout the lifespan of the building.

The section will be the key drawing for representing the proposals that are being advanced.



1 galvanised steel railing
2 solid loadbearing stone blocks
3 gravel
4 insulation
5 CLT slab
6 hempcrete insulation covered with sand lime plaster
7 oak window frame
8 concrete slab
9 solid oak parquet flooring
10 underfloor heating in screed
11 acoustic screed
12 insulated reinforced concrete beam
13 wood fibre acoustic ceiling
14 terrazzo flooring

0 0.2m

Section detail
Social housing project
Rue Oberkampf, Paris
Barrault Pressaco, 2017

Seventh exercise: Atmosphere and image

The penultimate piece of work you will undertake this semester requires you to produce two images. No specific graphic technique is prescribed, although you should be able to explain why the technique you choose is appropriate.

These images should represent the atmosphere and the presence of your building. One of the images should depict the exterior of the building and its relationship with the existing urban fabric, the site of the project within the city and its immediate context. The second image should represent the interior of a block and its qualities as a partly public, partly private space in addition to the domestic interior of the apartment you are proposing.

Housing in Venice
Alessandra Cimini and
Francesca Tagliabue
Spring Semester 2026

overleaf
Housing in Venice
Eddie Zhichun Guo and
Alfred Edmund James Mowse
Spring Semester 2026





The final piece of work you are required to produce for the semester is a model of the project. This should be at a scale of no less than 1:50. The materials you use and the level of detail included should be carefully assessed to represent your design concept.

A full list of the requirements for the final review is listed in the semester programme (page 60).



Housing in Venice
Gianlorenzo Bertolero and
Karina Kinga Rac
Spring Semester 2026

With the emergence of a convincing set of ideas for your project you will need to produce a careful set of drawings of some of the facades you have developed and a number of sections at scale 1:100.

You should also give due consideration to the plans for the project, which should be developed at 1:200, 1:100 and at a larger scale where appropriate.

You should consider repetition and variation in apartment types, as well as what other programmes might be introduced, particularly at ground floor level.

A landscape plan should be produced at a scale of 1:200 indicating an approach to the landscape surfaces, hard and soft elements and the public realm in general.

Two ‘atmospheric’ perspectives of the final version of your project should also be produced

Finally, you should prepare a pdf or Powerpoint presentation describing your project, its development and the solution you are proposing. This is an important tool for presenting your project at the final review.



Date	Event	Details	Assignments
17-18 September	Studio briefing	Jonathan Sergison (JS) presents studio introduction Lecture by JS Lecture by Leo Fabrizio	Survey drawings 1:500 site model
24-25 September	Study trip to Marseille	Study trip to project sites Survey visits (see separate programme)	Survey and site studies 1:100 elevations and other survey drawings 1:500 site model Initial ideas urban proposals
1-2 October	Tutorials	Survey drawings 1:500 site model Initial ideas urban proposals	Initial ideas urban proposals 1:500 model studies
8-9 October	Review	Initial ideas urban proposals 1:500 model studies Lecture by Barthélémy Reuse	1:500 model studies and other drawings as necessary
15-16 October	Tutorials	Building concept, model, plans, sections and elevations Lecture by JS	1:500 model studies and other drawings as necessary First study models of the facade
22-23 October	Tutorials	Building concept, model, plans, sections and elevations Study models of the facade	1:200 drawings, plans, sections and elevations 1:500 model studies 1:200 model studies 1:100 cast model
29-30 October	Intermediate review	Project reviews with guest critics Symposium with Natalia Petkova, Thibaut Barrault and Marc Angélil	1:500 models and 1:200 models 1:200 plans, sections, elevations Images
5-6 November	Tutorials	Plans, sections and elevations Lecture by Flavia Saggese	1:200 models 1:100 plans, sections, elevations
12-13 November	Review	Plans, sections and elevations	1:100 plans, sections, elevations
19-20 November	Review	Facade, plans, sections	1:100 drawings
26-27 November	Review	Facade, plans, sections	1:100 drawings
3-4 December	Tutorials	Submission of final drawings	1:100 plans, sections and facades 1:200 situation plan
10-11 December	Tutorials	Final models and images	Interior perspectives, Exterior perspectives, Draft Pdf presentation
17 December	Final review	Project reviews with guest critics	Pdf presentation Interior and exterior perspectives 1:200 situation plan 1:100 plans, sections and facades Interior and exterior perspectives 1:50 model

Aldo Rossi
L'architettura della città
Padova: Marsilio, 1966

Anne Lacaton and Jean-Philippe Vassal
Freedom of Use
London: Sternberg Press, 2015

Daniel A. Barber
Modern Architecture and Climate: Design before Air Conditioning
New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 2020

Gaston Bachelard
The Poetics of Space
(1958), Beacon Press, 1994

Georges Perec
Species of Spaces and Other Pieces
(1974), Penguin Classics, 2008

Jun'ichiro Tanizaki
In Praise of Shadows
(1933), Vintage Books, 2006

Philip Rahm
Climatic architecture
Barcelona: Actar, 2023

Robin Evans
Figures, Doors and Passages. Translations from Drawing to Building and Other Essays
Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1997

Sergison Bates architects
Brick-work: thinking and making
(2005), Zurich: gta Verlag, 2007

Italo Calvino
Le città invisibili
Torino: Einaudi editore, 1972

Marc Angélil, Charlotte Malterre-Barthes, Something Fantastic (eds.)
Migrant Marseille: Architectures of Social Segregation and Urban Inclusivity
Berlin: Ruby Press, 2020

Marc Angélil, Cary Siress
A Thousand Cuts: Architectures of Displacement
Berlin : Ruby Press, 2026

Natália Pet'ková
Building in Stone Today: Voices and Commentaries
Basel: Birkhäuser, 2026

Fernand Pouillon
The Stones of the Abbey
New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, 1970

Jean-Lucien Bonillo
Fernand Pouillon, architecte méditerranéen
Marseille : Éditions Imbernon, 2001

Jacques Sbriglio
Guide d'architecture Marseille 1945-1993
Marseille : Éditions Parenthèses, 1994

Jean-Lucien Bonillo
La reconstruction à Marseille, 1940-1960 : architectures et projets urbains
Marseille: Éditions Imbernon, 2008

Jean-Lucien Bonillo, René Borruey, Jean-Marc Chancel
Atlas architectural de Marseille: Types traditionnels et formes urbaines
Marseille: Éditions Parenthèses, 2026

Atelier du patrimoine de la Ville de Marseille, Giovanni Brino, Dominique Brino
Marseille et ses quartiers : Couleurs et traditions en architecture
Aix-en-Provence: Édisud, 2001

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