

lifelong dwelling: one side of sustainability

WORKSHOPS GHENT – GRENOBLE – BRATISLAVA

OIKODOMOS Workshops: exploring the European dimension of contemporary housing

A series of three workshops will be organised in 2008 and 2009 as part of the learning activities of the Oikodomos virtual campus project. The first workshop will take place at the Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst, School of Architecture, Campus Sint-Lucas, in Ghent, Belgium, the second at the Université Pierre Mendès, Institut d'Urbanisme, in Grenoble, France and the last at the Slovak University of Technology, Faculty of Architecture, in Bratislava, Slovakia. These workshops will be integrated into, prepared and followed by on-campus learning activities.

The goal of these workshops is to identify and discuss the determinants of the forms of housing in Europe. These determining factors are located at different levels, from sociological, architectural, urban, technological and economical. Seminars and lectures delivered on-site and on-line, will address critical issues that could influence the way architects conceive our way of living and plan housing. Design studios will be dedicated to analysing and proposing innovative housing solutions. These learning activities are designed to engage students, professionals, and citizens in a collective reflection about European contemporary forms of dwelling.

Objectives

The aim of the first workshop is to formulate, from a European perspective, the characteristics of contemporary housing, attending to social demands, functional requirements, spatial qualities, construction methods, and urban models, among others. This survey, elaborated during the workshop, will form the basis for continued development during courses and seminars in the home institutions. The three workshops interlock in that the first furnishes information for the second, and the second for the third. Each workshop has its own finality and is in itself a rounded learning activity. The workshops are scheduled thus that each one concentrates on a different stage of the design process. Workshop One concentrates on the pre-design stage of information gathering and analysis. Along this process – collaborating with peers and teaching staff from different institutions of higher education – the students will develop their capacity to work in multinational teams and experience the multi-cultural character of housing in Europe.

Through these workshops, the meetings at the participating Institutions and the on-going work on the virtual studios, students and faculty will learn to combine physical and virtual mobility. Students and faculty will interact with local stakeholders – professional developers, public housing organizations, representatives of tenant organizations and of the city administration, etc. – to discuss housing proposals. Local practitioners will participate in the design studios as tutors and critics. They are instrumental in introducing the professional point of view and in passing on their intimate knowledge of the housing issues specific to the region. In this way they will be helping the participants in understanding and in further developing the multi-cultural character of housing today.

Dates

The workshops are scheduled in Ghent (October 2008), Grenoble (March 2009) and Bratislava (October 2009).

The first workshop will run from September 29th to October 3rd 2008 in Ghent at the Hogeschool voor Wetenschap & Kunst, School of Architecture, Campus Sint-Lucas, Ghent, Belgium

Sint Lucas is situated in the city center of Ghent (for further information: www.sintlucas.architectuur.wenk.be). For further information on Ghent and accommodations please visit www.visitgent.be

Workshop One: "lifelong dwelling: one side of sustainability"

The workshops form a chain of interlocking learning experiences that focuses on the status quaestionis of housing in Europe, and probes into the development of housing concepts. Each workshop focuses on one stage of the design process and is organised as think tank delving into the future of housing in Europe. The workshop forms a focal point for the on-going research into housing at the participating institutions.

The aim of lifelong dwelling is to design a built environment adapted to young and old, to the inhabitants in their youth and later on in their old age. The aim is to develop the architectural and urban conditions that support inhabitants throughout the different stages of their life. Lifelong architecture is supportive, not restrictive.

The first workshop will focus on developing housing (in new or existing structures, communal and individual housing) that is sustainable at different levels and degrees: Lifelong living as structural element for new housing for young people (affordable and accessible for all); redefinition and redesign of existing houses and housing blocks for young people, elderly and people requiring help.

These items will be developed in design studios that contribute to the conceptual thinking regarding housing in Europe. The theme of the workshop will be introduced through lectures, visits of interesting sites, small design experiments, graphical analysis of examples and through theoretical papers. The workshop can stand on its own but can also form a steppingstone towards a more comprehensive design project.

A variety of topics which will be touched upon: housing modelling cities versus cities modelling housing; liquid lives and flexible housing; the spatial impact of an aging society; technological aspects of housing rehabilitation; ecological aspects of the reuse of existing structures; the development of new spatial organisations for new social structures; strategies for improving the quality of social housing; ...

Contact

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