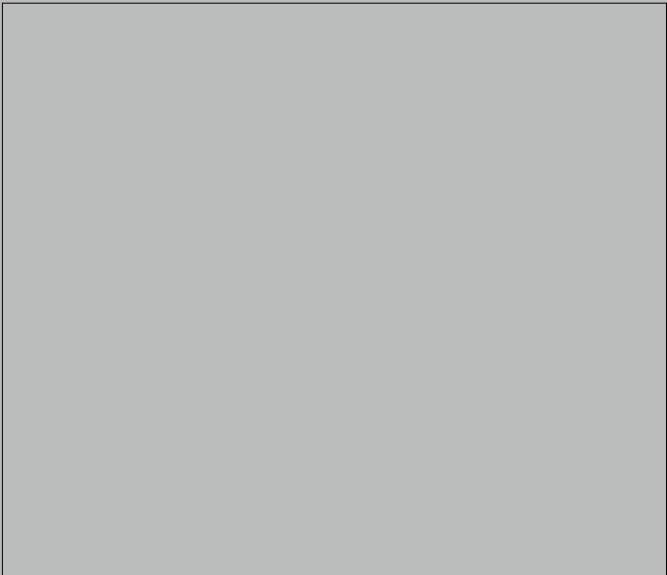


# WELCOME GUIDE

Faculty of Architecture  
Graz University of Technology



Graz is located in the heart of Europe. Four European capitals – Vienna, Ljubljana, Zagreb, and Bratislava – can be reached from Graz in just over two hours, while Budapest, Munich and Venice are also only a few hours away. This ideal geographic location has led to strong networking with other Central European universities as well as with South-Eastern Europe. Since the accession of Austria to the Erasmus programme in 1992, which enabled the start of institutionalised exchange programmes, the scope of this network has been steadily expanded.

Currently, the Faculty of Architecture at Graz University of Technology has around 56 partnerships with universities both in the EEA and on other continents. These partnerships bring about 85 foreign students of architecture to Graz University of Technology each academic year. In addition to the contractually agreed partnerships, which enable a regular international exchange of students and teachers, numerous cooperations with foreign universities and research institutes by the individual institutes take place in joint courses and research projects.

The high degree of internationalisation is also reflected in the background, professional careers, and international teaching and research activities of the faculty's professors and teaching assistants, who enrich the courses with positions and perspectives that extend far beyond Austria and Central Europe.

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Welcome!

# Welcome to the Faculty of Architecture at TU Graz!

Petra Petersson, Dean



We are excited that you have joined us at TU Graz, one of Europe's leading universities. My name is Petra Petersson. I am an architect, a professor and the Dean of the Faculty of Architecture. Once a year we gather together at the summer exhibition and celebrate the great work, projects, thoughts and creative potential of our faculty. All 13 institutes, the three working groups, the architecture drawing studios (*Zeichensäle*) and student unions use this opportunity to showcase the diversity of the education and the research projects. With over 900 registered students and approximately 100 staff members, the summer exhibition takes over most of the main university building on the old campus. The Faculty of Architecture offers a holistic education approach that emphasises sustainability and the practical application of design principles. Architectural design studios, as well as construction orientated courses, are at the core of

the curriculum, which underlines their tight interrelationship. In the architectural design studios, a wide range of projects are offered. These cover themes such as large-scale territorial design, urban design, new buildings, existing structures, technical design and interior detailing. As the studios are organised and taught by up to seven different institutes, we are also able to provide the students with the possibility to learn and practice different design methods and presentation styles. Knowledge-based, theoretical and specialised design courses are taught in seminars, workshops and lectures. Major topics include: interdisciplinary working methods and design processes; innovation in building technology and building performance; application of the latest developments in information technology; art and cultural studies, and the investigation and guidance of changes in urban structures. The international and interdisciplinary research projects at our faculty are committed to a close relationship between research, teaching and professional practice. All architecture departments (institutes) and associated infrastructure are located around the old campus as well as in the Kronesgasse building. We provide working spaces for the master studios on the top floor of the main university building, as well as studio spaces for the first-year course located in Kronesgasse. Further studio space is available in connection with the institutes. This is combined with a long tradition of studio spaces that are organised by the student body itself – the architecture drawing studios (*Zeichensäle*). Here, students from different semesters share a communal space. Places are reserved for exchange students. All students have access to model making workshops and a wood workshop, including infrastructure for digital fabrication methods. Graz's architecture, Styria region's proximity to Southeastern Europe and the faculty's many international contacts – all contribute to a diverse and creative environment. We hope that this guide provides you with useful information about the Faculty of Architecture at TU Graz, and we look forward to welcoming you to our community and providing you with an exceptional architectural education!











**Matthias Castorph**  
Dean of Studies

## Study Path

**Addressing Architectural  
Challenges**

**Bachelor's Degree  
Programme Architecture**

**Master's Degree  
Programme Architecture**

**Double Degree  
Master's Programme  
with Politecnico di Milano**

**Doctoral School of Architecture**

**How to find courses?**

# Addressing Architectural Challenges

Matthias Castorph, Dean of Studies



## How would you describe your role as Dean of Studies?

As Dean of Studies, I am responsible for ensuring that the bachelor's and master's degree programmes at the Faculty of Architecture are well-structured and manageable for students. This means overseeing the implementation of the elements outlined in the curricula, such as content, programme structure, exam regulations or the recognition of credits. Together with the Dean's Office – where the actual organisational work takes place – I aim to create an environment where students feel as supported as possible, and where all questions and inquiries are dealt with in a highly professional and empathetic manner. We maintain close communication and consistently work together to find the best possible solutions and answers for individual questions and concerns. More generally, we try to make

the programmes easy to manage for students, for example through relatively small group sizes and a low student-to-faculty ratio. Providing enough places in courses offered in English and ensuring that incoming students find a place in the courses they want to take are also part of this effort.

## What can students look forward to in the master's degree curriculum, which came into effect in 2022?

The three design studios form the main focus of the master's programme, but other skills which are important for an architectural education are not neglected. Through the different specialisation modules, which offer topics in architectural theory, as well as social, cultural or even purely technical subjects, the core design competencies are deepened and diversified. The focus on design and construction may be a classic idea of architecture, but by combining it with other electives or specialisations, it is possible to tailor the master's programme to individual interests. This could be particularly interesting for incoming students, who have a broad choice of design studios with different topics.

In contrast to other architecture schools, we are organised in thirteen different institutes, each specialising in one area of architecture and offering a range of approaches, teaching concepts and formats. However, one area of focus is not limited to one specific institute – for example, at my institute, we specialise in the design of existing structures, but that does not mean that I am the only one at the faculty working on this; other institutes and colleagues may also work on existing structures or heritage protection, but through a different lens. This organisation of different approaches and objectives is reflected in the lectures of the master's programme, where all institutes are represented. This gives a good initial overview of the various study topics offered and ensures that students can make a more informed decision about their choice of electives later on.

**What characterises the bachelor's degree programme curriculum?**

The structure of the bachelor's programme is slightly stricter, but there are still free electives allowing students to select their topics of interest. One of the key components is the Beginners Workshop, offered in the first year at KOEN, where students work intensively in groups. This is a great introduction to the programme, as students get to meet people early on, exchange ideas and find their way around. Additionally, the activities and events organised by multiple drawing studios at the faculty can also help students make connections at the very beginning of their studies, even if they are coming from another university.

**What skills should the graduates of our faculty have acquired by the end of their studies?**

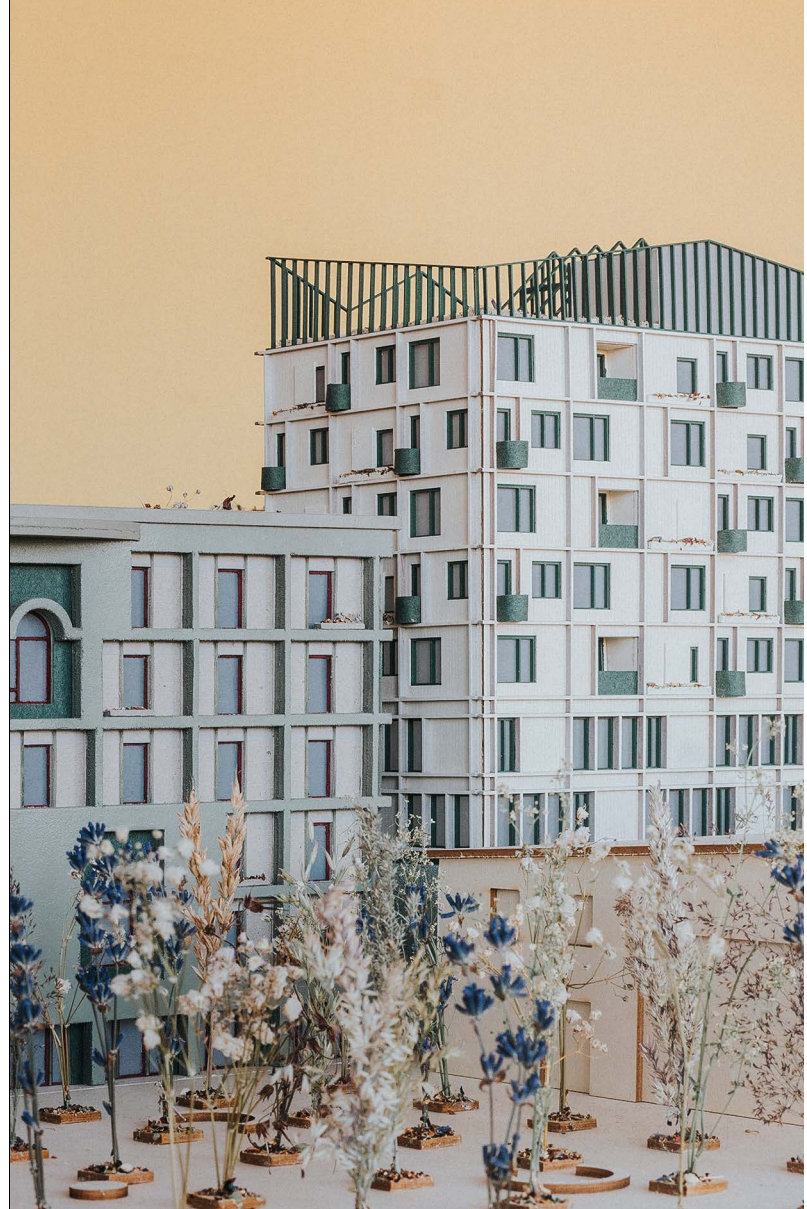
My vision is for graduates to develop the ability to think independently and address architectural challenges effectively by utilising the principles and tools of architecture. Students at TU Graz are free to choose whether to graduate with a design thesis or a theoretical thesis. For this reason, developing personal strengths and interests during their studies is just as important as collecting ECTS credits. Therefore, a student's individual approach to architecture should play a role in their choice of subject combinations or the thematic focus of their master's thesis. The temptation to take the path of least resistance should be resisted.

**You are also Professor of Design in Existing Structures and Architectural Heritage Protection and a successful practicing architect in Munich. How would you evaluate the architectural landscape of Graz?**

I think the fascinating thing about Graz is that, between the almost intact realm of the World Heritage Site and the rather bleak outskirts with logistics centres and highway junctions, there is a very lively, heterogeneous city. You have the old town, the *Gründerzeit* blocks, neighbourhoods with a high percentage of immigrants,

single-family housing estates and well-planned residential complexes, such as the "Terrassenhaussiedlung" by *Werkgruppe Graz*. Additionally, there are buildings that clearly demonstrate why good architecture is necessary.









## Bachelor's Degree Programme Architecture

The Bachelor's Degree Programme Architecture begins with a two-semester orientation phase followed by a four-semester phase focusing on basic principles. The teaching content consists of four thematic groups: (1) Core competence in architectural design; (2) construction, technology and materials; (3) architectural history, architectural theory, arts and cultural studies; (4) architectural representation and artistic practices.

Core Competence Architecture Design
Construction, Technology, Materials
Arch. History, Arch. Theory, History of Art, and Cultural Studies
Architectural Representation and Artistic Practices
+ Free Electives
= 180 ECTS

Graduates of the bachelor's degree programme are awarded the academic degree "Bachelor of Science" (B.Sc.). With a bachelor's degree alone, students do not yet have the sufficient professional qualifications for working as architects.

## Master's Degree Programme Architecture

The four-semester Master's Degree Programme Architecture comprises 120 ECTS credits and builds on knowledge acquired in the six-semester bachelor's degree programme. Besides the core task of designing, the master's degree programme includes possibilities for specialisation on various topics through specialisation modules and electives. Each specialisation module concludes at the end of one semester, which allows students to study abroad or at other

Lectures	Master Design Studio	Specialisation Module
4 ECTS	12 ECTS	8 ECTS
4 ECTS	12 ECTS	8 ECTS
4 ECTS	12 ECTS	8 ECTS
Electives + Free Electives 12 + 6 ECTS		
= 90 ECTS		
Master's Thesis + 30 ECTS = 120 ECTS		

universities in Austria for parts of the degree programme without losing time. The degree programme is concluded with a master's thesis in the fourth semester. Graduates are awarded the academic degree "Diplom-Ingenieurin" or "Diplom-Ingenieur", which corresponds internationally to



a “Master of Science” (M.Sc.). After completing the master’s degree programme successfully, students may begin their doctoral studies.

## Double Degree Master’s Programme with Politecnico di Milano

In cooperation with Politecnico di Milano, the Faculty of Architecture at TU Graz offers five master’s degree students per year the opportunity to participate in the Double Degree Master’s Degree Programme and carry out part of their studies at Politecnico di Milano. Participants in the double degree master’s programme attend two design studios and two specialisations in Graz and at least two design studios in Milan, as well as the related electives (a total of 150 ECTS points). The languages of instruction at Politecnico are English and Italian. The Double Degree Master’s Programme provides opportunities for both international networking and intercultural exchange and is concluded with a master’s thesis presented at both universities. Politecnico di Milano is one of Italy’s leading architecture schools and is ranked internationally as a first-class institution for the teaching of architecture and urban planning.

## Doctoral School of Architecture

The Doctoral School of Architecture imparts the methods and knowledge required to carry out independent architectural research at a high scientific level. Through research-based study, students gain in-depth knowledge in various architectural fields. The Doctoral School of Architecture offers doctoral students the opportunity to carry out individually supervised scientific work in both fundamental and applied research on current architectural issues. Twice a year,

the PhD Day presents ongoing PhD projects at their current stage of development in a seminar-like setting that is open to the public.

## How to find courses?

With the exception of the design studios from the master’s degree curriculum and the specialisation modules (for master’s degree students only), exchange students are free to choose courses from both our bachelor’s and master’s degree curricula. Every course has a course ID for clear identification. Please note that two courses may have the same name but be two different courses: e.g., “Construction 3” (149.524) is a lecture, but “Construction 3” (149.525) is a practical course. The first three digits of the course may also change depending on the institute.

For example:

145.507: Design 4 (507) at the Institute of Urbanism (145)

149.507: Design 4 (507) at the Institute of Architecture Technology (149)

157.507: Design 4 (507) at the Institute of Housing (157)

You can find the code for each institute in pages 116 to 125 of this booklet.

**Bachelor Design Studios****(Entwerfen 1/2/3/4/spezialisierter Themen)**

Most design studios (e.g., “Design 1 to 4”, “Design of Specialised Topics”) are offered each semester by many institutes of the faculty. Depending on which institute you choose, it might place emphasis on a certain subject area (e.g. urban planning, technology, landscape, theory, etc.), or may have more of a theoretical or research-based approach. During the first week of the semester, there will be a presentation of all the studios offered. At this event, you will receive all information (design task, teaching staff, schedule) relevant to make your choice. During the academic advising meeting, the date and place of the presentation will be announced. Registration opens one day after the presentations. There is a limit to the number of participants for each group, so we cannot guarantee a spot in a certain studio. However, there will be enough groups to choose from, so if you want to participate in a design studio, you will be able to do so.

**Master Design Studios (Entwerfen – Master)  
and Specialisation Modules (Vertiefungsmodule)**

If you are enrolled for a master’s degree programme in architecture at your home university, you will have access without restrictions to the master design studios and specialisation modules. If you are studying in a four or five-year bachelor’s degree programme in architecture, you have access to the design studios and specialisation modules from the master’s degree curriculum if you have already earned  $\geq 180$  ECTS in architecture-related courses before your stay. Please bring an updated transcript of records from your home university so we can check this requirement.

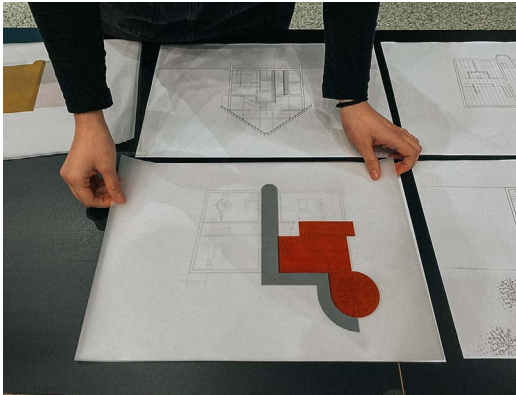
**Electives (Wahlfächer)**

The electives offered vary from semester to semester, so by the time you sign your first learning agreement, we might not yet know which ones will be offered during your stay. Please be flexible and keep an eye on alternatives

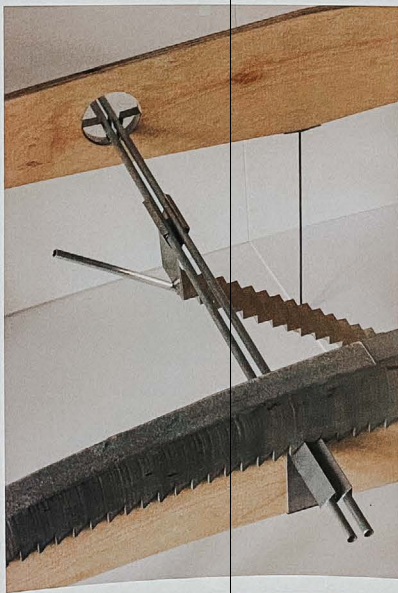
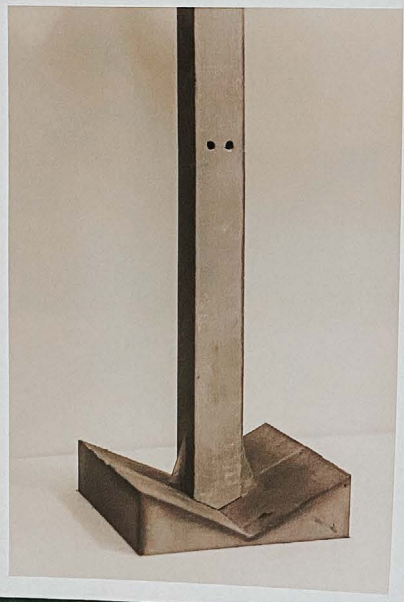
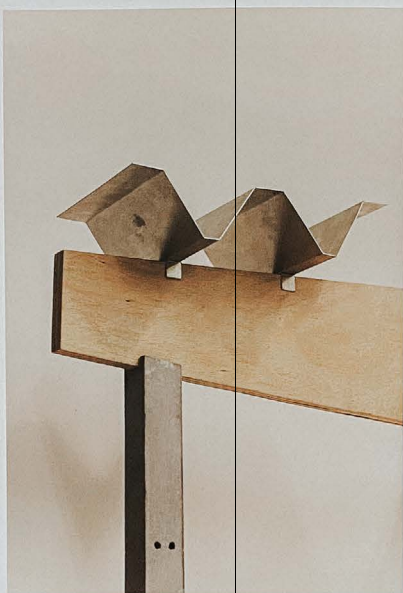
in case some of them happen to not be available. If necessary, you can make changes to the original learning agreement once you are here.

**Language of instruction**

Our curricula are officially in German and at first glance, most courses appear to have German as the language of instruction. However, we have an increasing number of courses offered in English and a lot of courses (mainly design studios and seminars) become bilingual as soon as exchange students enrol. You will find out if your choices belong to this last group by attending the academic advising meeting. See you there!













## Exchange

**Marisol Vidal**

Coordinator for International Affairs

**Aart Holtrop**

ERASMUS+ Programme

**Yenthe Meeus**

ERASMUS+ Programme

**Diego Corona Tornel**

OverSEAs Programme

**Rebecca Dell'oro, Martina Marangoni**

Double Degree Programme

**Martin Kern and Dorotea Josić**

Students in the Master's Degree Programme



## International Exchange

Marisol Vidal, Coordinator for International Affairs



**In your role as Coordinator for International Affairs, you have visited different architecture schools around the globe. What is unique about the Faculty of Architecture in Graz?**

I think it is the variety of choices within the curriculum. We offer many courses (design studios, workshops, specialisation modules...) that are provided simultaneously by several institutes. This means students can choose which institute they want to study at – hence the thematic area they want to focus on for a semester. In my experience, incoming students really appreciate this, as it allows them to delve into new topics during their stay.

**What are the faculty's initiatives to ensure that international students have a great start at the university?**

The so called “onboarding phase” is key, not only for the students but also for us teachers. It really pays off to invest time during the first few days of their stay to get the semester off to a good start. That is why TU Graz’s

International Office – Welcome Centre organises welcome events, including a campus survival tour, orientation sessions, an intercultural awareness session and many other welcome activities. During these events, incoming students get crucial advice on administrative issues such as health insurance and registration forms, practical info like bike rental and public transport work and university related topics like how to register for German classes and sports courses. After that, the coordinators of the faculties take over and we continue the onboarding with faculty specific information within the frame of the so-called “academic advising sessions.”

**You mentioned the academic advising sessions, what exactly happens there?**

The academic advising sessions, where the coordinators meet the incomings for the first time, are designed to make the first weeks of the semester much easier to navigate. First, we welcome the incoming students on a faculty level and explain how the faculty is organised, who is who and what is where. Then we go into academic matters: how to choose courses, how to avoid common problems and what to do in case something does not work out as planned. There is an initial advisory session covering these common topics, followed by a one-on-one counselling where more individual questions can be addressed. Through the student assistants, they also get valuable peer-to-peer support, as well as an introduction to the local student community, the *Zeichensäle* (drawing studios), etc. All of this happens a few days before the semester starts, so by the time the courses kick-off they are all set.

**When do these initiatives take place?**

The welcome events take place usually approximately two weeks before the semester officially starts. However, students are also invited to join voluntary activities even earlier. For example, they can book an intensive German language course (via *Treffpunkt Sprachen*), participate in an intercultural awareness

course, or take part in socialising activities organised by the International Office. The International Office will provide dates and schedules as soon as students are nominated by their home universities. But activities continue during the entire semester. The welcome reception for incoming students is a big event that marks the official starting point of all academic activities. From then on, they organise seasonal events such as Christmas or carnival parties and sport activities like skiing trips or hiking tours.

**What would you say is a must-see spot for every incoming student in Graz?**

The farmer's market at Kaiser Josef Platz! It is a very good way to get to know Graz, its people and local culinary products. It is also a very peculiar example of how to use public space, I think this is quite distinctive.

## Top Five Tips for Choosing Courses

by Marisol Vidal

### 1 Do not compare our curriculum to yours at home.

I know it seems like the natural thing to do, but if you are only looking for one-to-one equivalences, it is going to get frustrating. After all, if there was a perfectly equivalent course, you would not need to go abroad to try something different, right? In the academic advising sessions, you will find out how our system works and how to navigate it with ease.

### 2 Be open to improvisation!

At the beginning of the semester there will be a lot going on: you have to choose courses, check their schedule compatibility, etc. Sometimes you just need a plan B. This can feel a little overwhelming at first, but we are here to help. From students' feedback I know that after a few weeks, as they start classes and settle in, their perception changes, and everybody becomes more relaxed.

### 3 Use formal (but also informal) communication channels.

CAMPUSonline is the main administrative online tool where you can find all courses, schedules, directions and contacts. The faculty's newsletter also gives you a good overview of upcoming events. Beyond that, there is plenty of additional information available such as on the Social Media channels of the institutes. On top of that, I always recommend strolling through the hallway exhibitions of the institutes before choosing courses, because this can give you an idea of the topics they cover and the kind of output they expect from students.

### 4 Do not panic if a course is fully booked.

We try to keep the student-to-teacher ratio low – which is actually a good thing – but this also means that groups are small and the available places fill up fast. When that happens, we can usually help. The Dean's Office is the first point of contact in cases like this. Usually, we have a few aces up our sleeves, so we can probably help you to still get into courses or find suitable alternatives.

### 5 Take it easy!

We hope you will learn a lot in the seminars and lectures, but an exchange semester goes far beyond that. It can be challenging at times, but it will surely be rewarding on multiple levels. This is going to be one of the best soft skills trainings of your life, so do not lose sight of the big picture.













## Flexible Curricula

Aart Holtrop, Erasmus+ Programme



**You are usually based in Delft and came to Graz with Erasmus+ for one semester to study architecture in the bachelor's programme. Why did you choose Graz for studying abroad?**

I wanted to stay in Europe, so that I can have a new experience in a foreign country which, at the same time, is not too different culturally; and because I speak a bit of German and I like hiking a lot, so the mountains were another plus.

**What was it like when you started studying here?**

I had some difficulty understanding everything which was required of me while I was still in my home country. However, as soon as I arrived in Graz, everything became quite easy we had a few lectures organised by TU Graz about how to apply for subjects, about what you can do here in Graz and so on. The Faculty of Architecture also organised a get-together to explain all things relevant to study in the architecture programmes. We were also given a tour through the campus and I was introduced to a student from the faculty who was advanced in their studies and whom I could ask

questions. When applying for courses it was helpful to ask other students, so it became easier and clearer what to choose. But I mostly chose courses that were available in English.

**What courses do you take?**

I have chosen a lot of courses at the Institute of Contemporary Art and the Institute of Urbanism because I wanted an academic exchange and so I opted for courses and contents that are different to those at my home university. TU Delft is quite technical, so I thought I wanted to do something more creative. At the Institute of Contemporary Art, for example, the approach to architecture is more abstract. It is a lot of text work, but it is really interesting. The courses I take at the Institute of Urbanism focus on the local context here, so I also get to learn about a different context of the built environment.

**In what way is the bachelor's degree programme similar or different to the one at your home university?**

Similar to my home university, the bachelor's programme here is quite structured, you have fixed courses which you are meant to take. But as far as the design subjects go, you are quite free to choose from a broad range of courses offered at different institutes and from the bachelor's and master's degree programme. I have put together my own curriculum and that makes it less structured. I am taking a lot of master electives that easily fit into my schedule. A good thing is that even though courses are fully booked, you still have a good chance to get in when you are an Erasmus student.

**Your favourite lunch spot around the campus?**

The Mensa in Stremayrgasse. Good prices and good food! You can also go there with a larger group of students and you have a great view from the rooftop terrace.

**Your favourite study spot?**

I really like Tribeka, it is a nice place to share ideas and have a cup of coffee. For a more quiet and focused study session, I enjoy the library of Uni Graz.

## Diverse Design Fields

Yenthe Meeus, Erasmus+ Programme



**You are a master's student at the University of Antwerp and came here with Erasmus+. What intrigued you most about the master's degree programme offered by the Faculty of Architecture here in Graz?**

The school and the programme intrigued me because of the extensive range of subjects offered. I really admire that you have all these institutes specialising in different aspects of architecture. After finishing my bachelor's degree, I wanted to find out what interests me the most in architecture, and with these different institutes, I can figure it out for myself. Also, I am very interested in the social and urban dimension of architecture and there are institutes at this faculty that also integrate that in their teaching.

**What courses did you enrol in and in what way are they similar or different to the courses in Antwerp?**

For my design studio I chose a course offered by the Institute of Architecture Technology where we do site

analyses, plans, sections and concept development. We also went on a study trip to Slovenia to study the building for which we had to develop a reuse design and we also met the community there so I felt really involved. It is the first time that I can design in a real setting for people. For my specialisation module, I am doing a course at the Institute of Architecture and Media, where we learn how to do a photorealistic render of a fragment of a local project here in Graz, the "Terrassenhaussiedlung". The task is to develop a vision of that fragment 100 years into the future.

**What was it like when you started studying here?**

I felt really welcomed by all the fellow students. Also, the first welcome lecture held by Marisol Vidal was helpful to understand how the curriculum at the faculty works. She introduced the different institutes and the weekly schedule. I am also really grateful there were so many events where I got to know many people, especially in the drawing studios.

**You joined the drawing studio AZ3 right at the beginning of the semester. How did you get a place there?**

I visited the *banale potenziale* event, where I met Tea, a fellow student who just got back from her exchange semester in Milan. She invited me to the AZ3 meeting and her friends there invited me to join the studio. In Belgium we also have drawing studios, but here they are autonomously organised by the students. They take a lot of responsibility in it and feel very involved with the school. It is more than a space provided by the university; it is truly loved by the students.

**What free-time activities in or around Graz would you recommend?**

I would recommend to spend time in nature. A visit to Schöckl, the local mountain, is a must. A trip to Grüner See is still on my list. Graz is also the perfect starting point to go to other cities, like Vienna or Munich. I am also planning to visit Venice for the Architecture Biennale.



**What advice would you give to an incoming student?**

Be open to meet new people and places. Stay curious during your stay. Graz is a small city but you never get bored of the vibrant cultural life that is going on. Look beyond the touristic hotspots and get in touch with locals to get to know the hidden treasures, such as the beautiful courtyards of the *Gründerzeit* building blocks.

## Efficient Designs and Educational Activities

Diego Corona Tornel, OverSeas Exchange Programme



**Before you decided to participate in the OverSeas Exchange Programme, you studied in the master's programme at Tec de Monterrey in Mexico. What is the main difference between studying architecture at your home university and at TU Graz?**

The liberty when working on projects. In Mexico, we have to be physically present in all our courses, whereas at TU Graz, we have more freedom to choose when and where we want to work, as long as we present our progress every week. Having this flexibility is quite new to me, and it relies a lot on individual responsibility. In terms of content, all subjects back home revolve around a single project, which is then worked on from different perspectives – in terms of design, illustration, construction, building technology and other important aspects. All of these are combined to fully develop one project, for example, a multifunctional building. This is

different at TU Graz, where my master studio project, for example, is not related to the project that I am doing in my specialisation module, so I am able to explore different areas of architecture in a single semester.

**What is your study focus here at TU Graz?**

For my Master Design Studio, I chose the Institute of Urbanism, because I wanted to learn more about architecture in the urban and human scale, which includes things like mobility and the influence of urban design on locals. I also want to explore this for my master's thesis I will write in Mexico. In the design studio, we are working on the municipality of Oberwölz, famous for its ski tourism and the idea is to try to bring more people to the area not only in the winter season, but also in spring and summer. Our focus is mostly on different educational activities and the re-connection to nature.

In the specialisation module at the Institute of Architecture and Media we are working with a building in the northwest of Graz, analysing its solar capacity, carbon footprint and energy efficiency. We are mainly using Rhino, Revit, and combining it with Grasshopper to try to make designing more efficient. I chose this course because I wanted to explore working with BIM programmes, but also to learn new ways of evaluating a project.

**Do you have a favourite study space on the campus?**

The Master Studios are one of my favourite places to work in, because I can interact with students from other design studios and exchange ideas and advice. It is also a very flexible big space with different working areas and where tables and chairs can be rearranged depending on if we have lectures or presentations there. Also, the terrace in the Kronesgasse building is a place I go to if I want to work alone or just relax.

**Whenever you want to unwind from your studies, where do you go?**

I usually go to Augarten because it is close to where I live. I also like sitting on the Murinsel just to draw or have a coffee break.

## Milan–Graz: Double Degree Adventures

Rebecca Dell'oro and Martina Marangoni,  
Double Degree Master's Programme



**You are two out of five students who take part in the Double Degree programme with Politecnico di Milano. What do you find attractive about the programme?**

**RD:** For me, the most attractive thing is that I can study at two different universities for a longer period of time, not just six months like in a regular exchange programme, but one year or longer. This way I have more time to improve my German skills and also to get to know the city and the country. It feels like being a local student rather than an exchange student.

**MM:** I love travelling and I want to gain more and new experiences in my architectural education, especially discovering new methods and getting in touch with different points of view. Most offices prefer to hire people with broad experiences. Learning German is

another plus, so I think this degree could open many doors in Europe.

**What was the application process like?**

We needed to hand in a letter of motivation and a portfolio that included the work we did in the bachelor's programme. After that we had an interview with our Double Degree Coordinator in Milan.

**How many courses do you take this semester and in what way do they differ to those at the Politecnico?**

**RD:** We are both taking six courses. One design studio, a specialisation module, a lecture and three elective courses. Master students are quite free to choose what to study, so you can develop your personal direction. Also, the design approach in the design studios we take is very interactive, we have presentations on a regular basis and discuss our projects during the semester with our professor and fellow students in class, not only in the final review. It is also interesting to see and learn how other students approach the same task.

**MM:** What I find interesting is that professors or staff often encourage you to not only develop the skills and tools but also your own design idea. But this is maybe characteristic of the master's programme as such. As far as the teaching content is concerned, it is interesting that the design tasks here also involve projects in the periphery or even in other countries. In Milan, we mostly focus on existing buildings located in the city, probably because the city is much bigger. Here, the campus is also much smaller and compact so you will easily run into fellow students.

**What was the most challenging thing so far?**

**MM:** So far it was not challenging at all, because we got so much support from TU Graz's International Office.

**RD:** Maybe deciding on a master's thesis project. We talked with many professors at different institutes and they gave us many different options that we could work on. The next step will be to align the topic with our coordinator in Milan.

**MM:** But we already have an idea about what we want to do. We would like to work with parametric design and 3D printing. The Institute of Structural Design specialises in this approach in teaching and research.

**Do you have a favorite study spot at the campus?**

**RD:** I feel very comfortable working in the Master Studios in the attic, because it is an open, bright and flexible space, and it is never too crowded.

**MM:** We often work there the whole day. There is a kitchen where you can cook or store your lunch in the fridge. When you look out the window you get the most beautiful view of the city's roofs.



## Zeichensäle and Student Collectives

Martin Kern and Dorotea Josić,  
Students in the Master's Degree Programme



**From your local perspective as students based in Graz, how would you describe your academic experiences at the faculty?**

**DJ:** I really value the opportunity to explore different fields of architecture through the different institutes. The flexibility of the master's curriculum is also a major advantage because it allows you to balance other activities with university, so you can, for example, work in an office to gain experience, take a break when feeling overwhelmed, or focus on other activities, related to architecture or not. When choosing a design studio or specialisation module, I am particularly drawn to the Institute of Housing for its focus on collective forms of living and representation of minorities. The Institute of Design and Building Typology also resonates with me because of its emphasis on the emotional

power of space; the Institute of Architecture Technology sparks my imagination the most in terms of design. Also, another institute I often return to is the Institute of Architectural Theory, Art History and Cultural Studies, as they teach architecture from a theoretical and historical point of view, which enriches my approach to design.

**MK:** I am currently doing the Master Specialisation Module "Life Cycle Assessment" at the Institute of Structural Design (Sustainable Construction). I find this course especially interesting because not only does it give insight into sustainability within the building sector, but provides you with a tool that helps when making decisions in the design process. Life Cycle Assessment is becoming increasingly important, as it will be mandatory in the next few years in the EU, so this course really prepares you for work after university and provides you with profound knowledge on sustainable construction. It is also taught by experts in the field who are very passionate about their work and the subject, which I always find appealing when choosing courses.

**The master's degree programme offers a lot of electives to choose from. Which of them would you recommend incoming students to take?**

**DJ:** There are so many electives I would recommend, but if I had to choose just one, it would definitely be "*Handwerk*" at the Institute of Spatial Design. It is incredibly rewarding to create a physical, functional product as tangible proof of your hard work. Plus, learning how to build furniture is such a valuable skill to have.

**MK:** Not any specific ones – but I urge everybody to not only look at the ones being taught in English – otherwise you will miss out on a great offer!

**During your studies, you both joined a drawing studio (Zeichensaal, AZ). What would you say is the most beneficial thing about being part of a drawing studio?**

**MK:** When I joined AZ4, I expected it to be a workplace only. However, I was surprised to learn that is much

more than that – it is a community and a space for collaboration among students, where we can work together, help each other and discuss our projects and ideas. Apart from this, AZ4 introduced me to many colleagues who have become friends that I have had great experiences with – within and outside of architecture.

**DJ:** Being part of a drawing studio greatly expands my architectural knowledge beyond the formal framework of education. In AZ3, for example, we organise *einWERK* events where we invite architects, artists, or photographers to share their workflows from start to finish. It is invaluable to see what architects actually do beyond drawing at a computer. These events are incredibly inspiring for students and often spark great discussions with our more experienced colleagues – the guests. Additionally, the drawing studio community has given rise to various working groups and initiatives, such as *banale*, *Institut Vierzehn*, and *raum\*f*.

**What academic activities or events should not be missed?**

**DJ:** A highlight is definitely the Graz Open Architecture summer exhibition, which feels like the perfect cherry on top at the end of the summer semester. I love seeing the work from other institutes and colleagues from throughout the year, and the closing party is a great way to unwind, dance, and relax afterward.

**Martin, you are a founding member of the student collective *Institut Vierzehn*. Can you tell us a bit more about it?**

**MK:** The student collective *Institut Vierzehn* was founded because we wanted to create space for independent architectural discourse among architecture students. Together, we organise workshops, lectures and different activities for students throughout the semester which aim to enrich our knowledge and skills, covering topics which may not be covered in the curriculum. One of our main projects is DINA14 – a small magazine in which we provide space for articles and voices of the student body. But beyond that we organise film

evenings, try to experiment with different creative types of architectural representation and so much more.

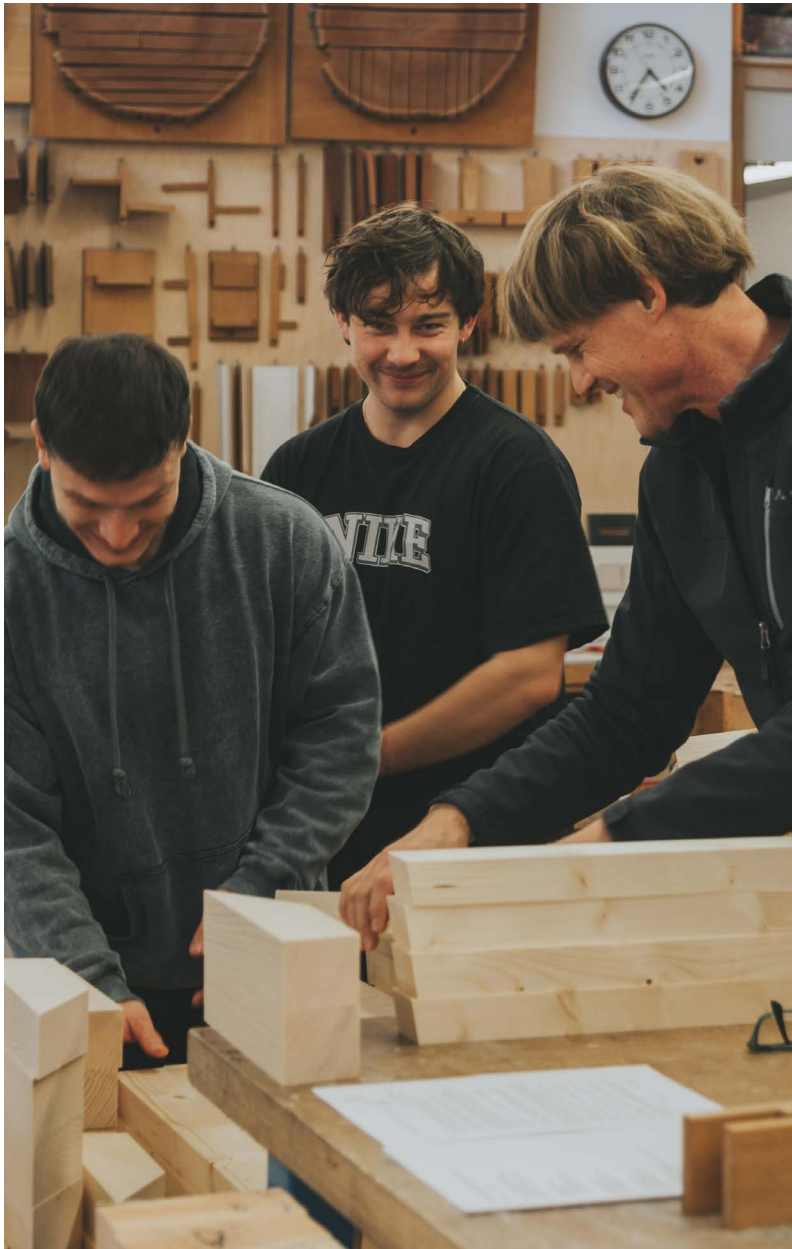
**Dorotea, you are part of the student collective *raum\*f*, which aims at creating space for underrepresented voices and perspectives and to promote and support diversity at the faculty. What initiatives or activities have you realised and to what can students look forward to?**

**DJ:** *raum\*f* is a student collective which aims to challenge outdated one-dimensional perspectives and the lack of intersectionality, parity and diversity in urban planning, architecture and architectural education. Some of our projects include the workshop “Claiming Graz” as part of the Graz Design Month 2023, the “*Kanon Kontext Kontroverse*” podium discussion at the faculty, as well as various collective learning sessions, film screenings, and reading circles. Currently, we are preparing for the *banale potenziale* exhibition at HDA.

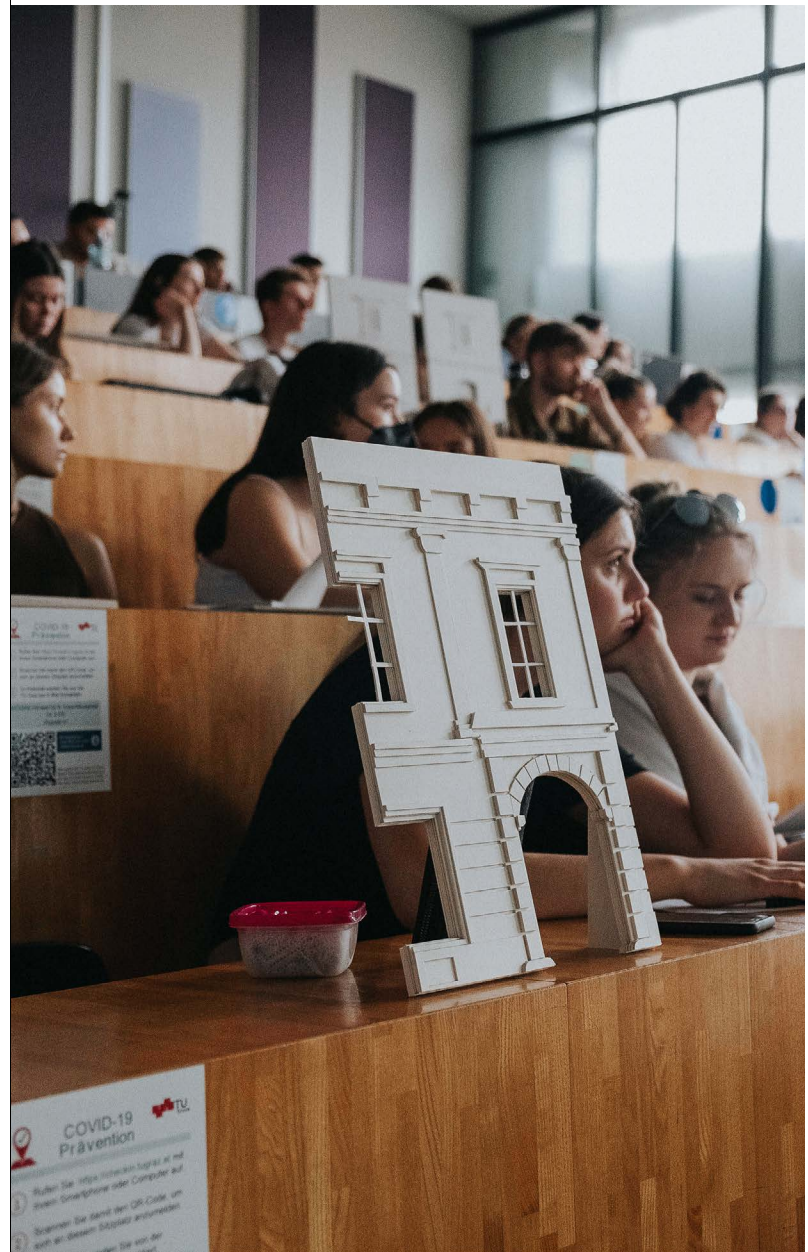
**If someone wants to apply for a drawing studio, what is the best way to get a place?**

**MK:** I know it is easier said than done, but just go there and talk to someone. All the drawing studios have a very welcoming community – especially when it comes to incoming students – but do not expect clear answers or instructions on how to use the room or where to work specifically – there are available places in all the studios, you just have to use them and find out about the hidden rules of the drawing rooms while doing so. If you want to take the “official” route, have a look out for the Refill posters at the beginning of the semester and get to know everybody there.

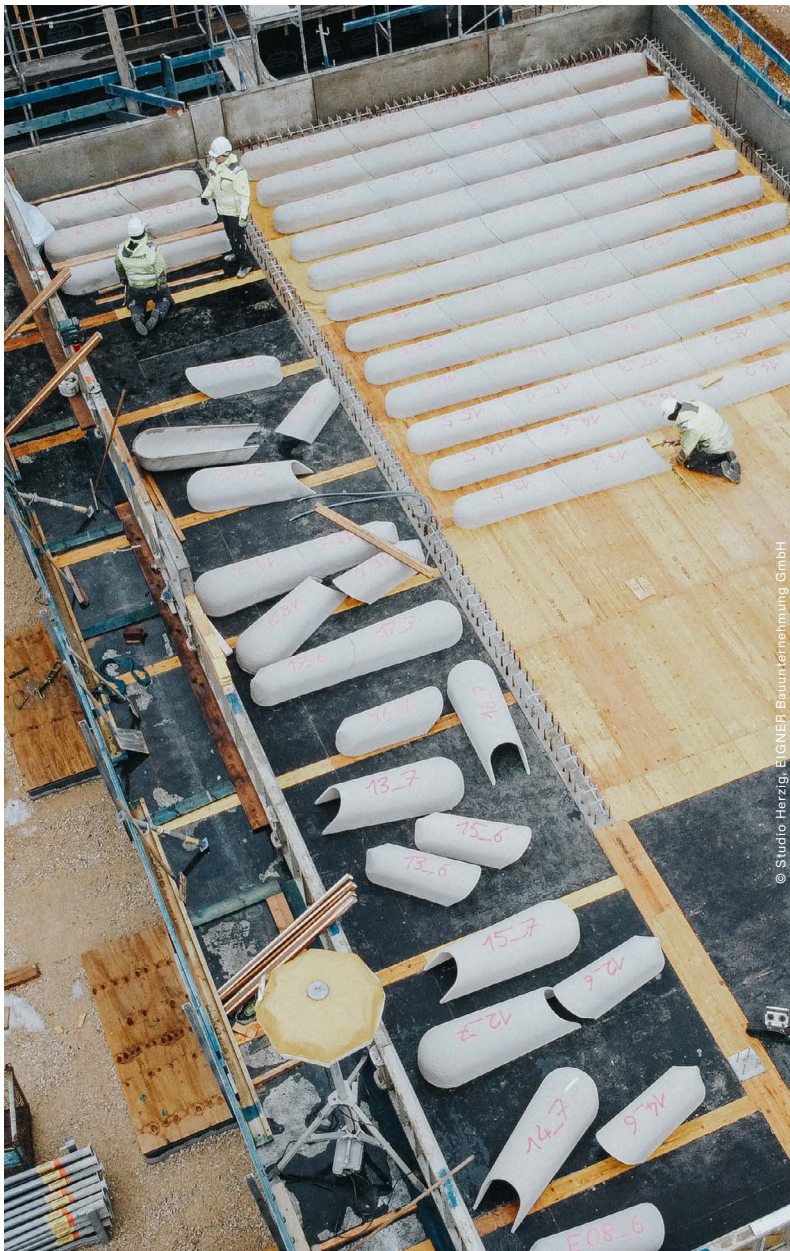
**DJ:** You do not necessarily need a “membership” to be part of AZ3 – we have free tables available for everyone, both exchange and regular students. If you are interested in AZ3 in particular, feel free to stop by – we are located on the third floor of Rechbauerstraße 12 – or reach out to us on Instagram @az\_drei.





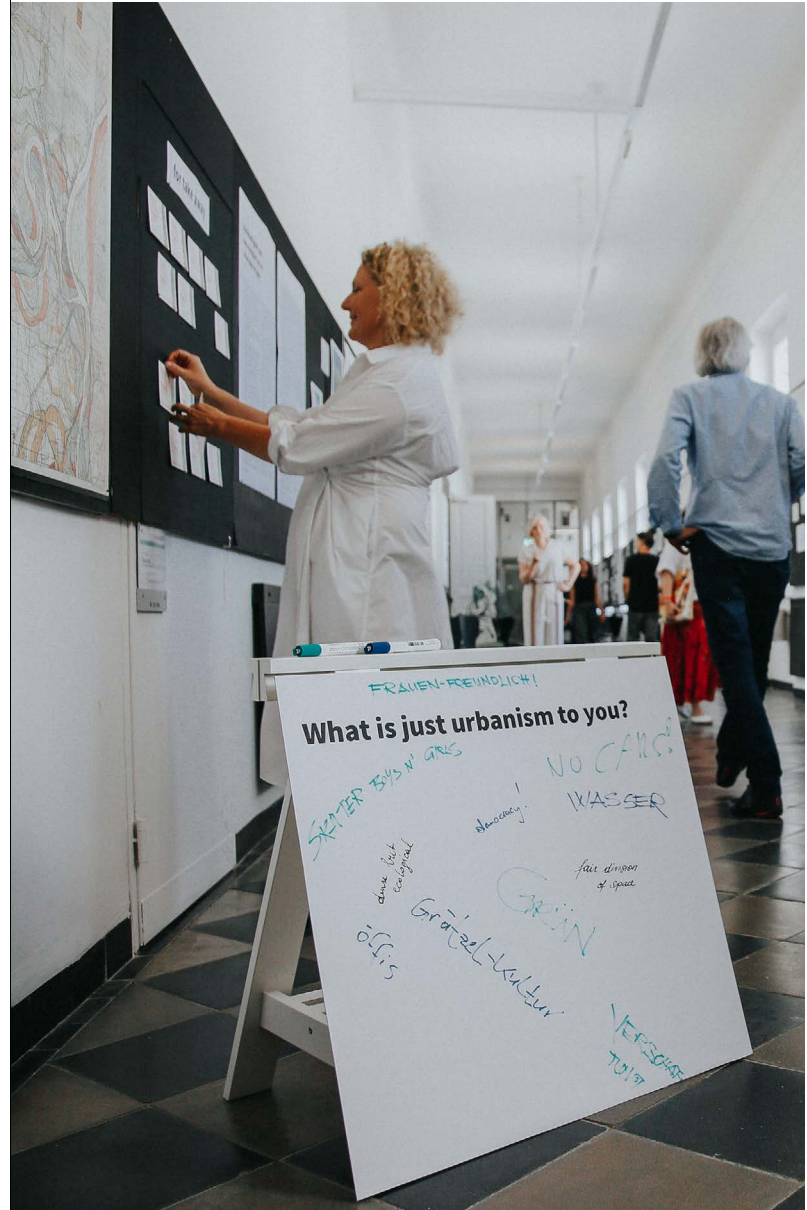
















© Helmut Tezak, TU Graz

## Context

**Anselm Wagner**

Professor and Chair of the Institute of Architectural Theory,  
Art History and Cultural Studies





Michael Szyszkowitz + Karla Kowalski, Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, TU Graz, 1985–1991

## The Grazer Schule

Anselm Wagner

Professor and Chair of the Institute of Architectural Theory,  
Art History and Cultural Studies

Although Graz has significant buildings from all periods since the late Middle Ages, it owes its reputation in the world of architecture mainly to a generation of architects known as the *Grazer Schule*, who attracted a good deal of international attention between the 1970s and 1990s. What its members have in common is that, with the exception of Karla Kowalski, they all studied at Graz University of Technology and most of them also maintained their own office in Graz. Apart from that, hardly a common denominator can be identified, let alone a common programme or manifesto. Unity can only be found *ex negativo*, for example in that almost all of its representatives rejected the postmodern movement that was predominant in Vienna at the time, and, of course, also the term *Grazer Schule*. “No one wanted to be part of it, but everyone wanted to be there”, as Eilfried Huth once summed it up. After all, the *Grazer Schule* had become an exceptionally successful brand in the 1980s, helping to establish Deconstructivism internationally – even though this term was, of course, also rejected.

### Structuralist Beginnings

The term *Grazer Schule* was coined in 1967 by the Viennese architecture critic Friedrich Achleitner, who at the time used the term to refer to a group of architecture students in Graz, especially those surrounding the young theoretical mastermind Bernhard Hafner. The group was characterised by a structuralist approach, reaching into urban planning and the collective; their designs were situated in the context of the international architectural avant-garde from Archigram to Yona Friedman. The fact that a student and not a professor acted as the head of the *Grazer Schule* was due not least to the system of autonomous drawing studios managed by the students themselves, which to this day represent a unique

feature of the Faculty of Architecture at TU Graz. As a result of the so-called “Drawing Studio Revolution” (*Zeichensaalrevolution*) – disputed by some contemporaries and invoked by others – the students are said to have practically taught themselves, or at least informed themselves collectively about international architectural projects and events through studying the latest architectural journals. Their impulse to “rebel” – against the professors, against reactionary post-war Graz, against the Viennese scene, and often also against their own fellow students – was probably the most important revolutionary aspect, internalised by the members of the *Grazer Schule* to such an extent that it could later become a style-defining characteristic. Even today, Kjetil Thorsen, co-founder of Snøhetta and a member of one of TU Graz’ drawing studios in the 1980s, says that the most important thing he learned there was to break rules. In the drawing studios, each of which had (and still have) an identity of their own, joint offices were (and still are) established and lifelong friendships were (and still are) made.

Bernhard Hafner’s circle included, among others, Konrad Frey, Heidulf Gerngross and Helmut Richter, but also the elder Friedrich St. Florian, who had already graduated in 1958 but who was counted as a member of the *Grazer Schule* in the beginning (while his fellow student Raimund Abraham, who like St. Florian later lived and made a career in the USA, was only posthumously placed in the context of the *Grazer Schule* in 2012). At the time of this first, purely student-led *Grazer Schule*, several other fellow students of St. Florian and Abraham were already active as architects: First and foremost, the office partnership of Günther Domenig and Eilfried Huth and the *Werkgruppe Graz*, consisting of Eugen Gross, Friedrich Groß-Rannsbach, Werner Hollomey and Hermann Pichler. Domenig/Huth and *Werkgruppe Graz* succeeded in parallel to the *Grazer Schule* with designs of megastructures such as Domenig/Huth’s housing development project ‘Neue Wohnform Ragnitz’ (1967–1969), which even won the *Grand Prix International*

*d’Urbanisme et d’Architecture* in Cannes, or *Werkgruppe’s* “Terrassenhaussiedlung” housing scheme planned from 1965 and implemented from 1972 to 1978 in Graz St. Peter.

### (De-)Constructive Expressionism

However, neither theoretical nor practical Structuralism was to become the trademark of the *Grazer Schule*. Though deriving from structuralism, a highly subjective and sculptural concept of architecture emerged with which Domenig attracted attention after separating from Huth: Domenig’s ‘Schulschwester’ multi-purpose hall in Graz (1977) and his Zentralsparkasse bank branch in Vienna (1979). These two projects in particular were unprecedented in the truest sense of the word (while Structuralism represented a broad international trend), and it was under the impression of these two buildings that Friedrich Achleitner completely redefined the *Grazer Schule* in 1981. There was, he wrote, “generally a strong aesthetic subjectivism, expressive in the language of forms and gestures, individualistic even where it seems to be a matter of collective planning processes.” From the perspective of reception history, it was this definition and the direction that characterised it, that eventually established itself as the *Grazer Schule* while the structuralist beginnings of the 1960s gradually fell into oblivion and were only rediscovered in the past decade.

It was also Domenig who most strongly cultivated the rebellious in his design work, making him the best known deconstructivist architect in Austria along with Coop Himmelb(l)au. This approach seems most plausible in the ‘Documentation Centre Nazi Party Rally Grounds’ in Nuremberg, which Domenig completed in 2001. Here, a huge steel lance, more than 100 metres long, slits through the massive, dull Nazi walls and at the same time serves as a way of opening up the exhibition rooms and granting access across the entire building. Domenig’s design, which reflected his own coming to terms with his childhood in a



© Archiv der TU Graz, Diasammlung Institut für Gebäudelehre

Günther Domenig with Eilfried Huth and Volker Giencke, Schulschwestern multi purpose hall, Graz-Eggenberg, 1974–1977

Nazi home, also provided a rationale for the mostly aggressive, brute, but at least detached attitude towards handling of historical building stock that characterises the *Grazer Schule*: In Graz, the former “City of National Uprising” contaminated by German Nationalism since the mid-19th century, the Old is generally suspected of being involved in fascism, perceived as burdened and burdensome. Hence, the brown demonic spirit can only be expelled from it, if at all, by grand gestures such as symbolic castrations, skinnings and slaughterings. This is why the classicist version of Postmodernism never played a role in Graz, while Deconstructivism seemed to be the ideal instrument for exorcism.

Domenig’s Nuremberg Documentation Centre also points to another characteristic of the *Grazer Schule* that is shared by practically all of its members: the pivotal importance of accessibility. While modern and contemporary buildings are often characterised by the fact that it is difficult to find the entrance, entrance situations in the buildings created by the *Grazer Schule* are always put in the limelight in an oversized way. Stairs, ramps, bridges, elevators and corridors are seen not just as functional necessities, but as sculptural possibilities that often play a crucial role in determining a building’s exterior appearance. This is also related to the machine-like, industrial character of these buildings that emphasises their construction: their “Constructive Expressionism” (Marie-Hélène Contal), as well as the preference for the materials steel and glass.

### School Echo

The experimental and manifold results of the “Styrian architecture phenomenon” caused a strong international echo. The renowned British architecture critic Peter Blundell Jones, a Scharoun specialist and proponent of organic architecture, published numerous articles about the architecture scene in Graz in both *Architectural Review* and *Architectural Journal*. In 1998, he was commissioned by the



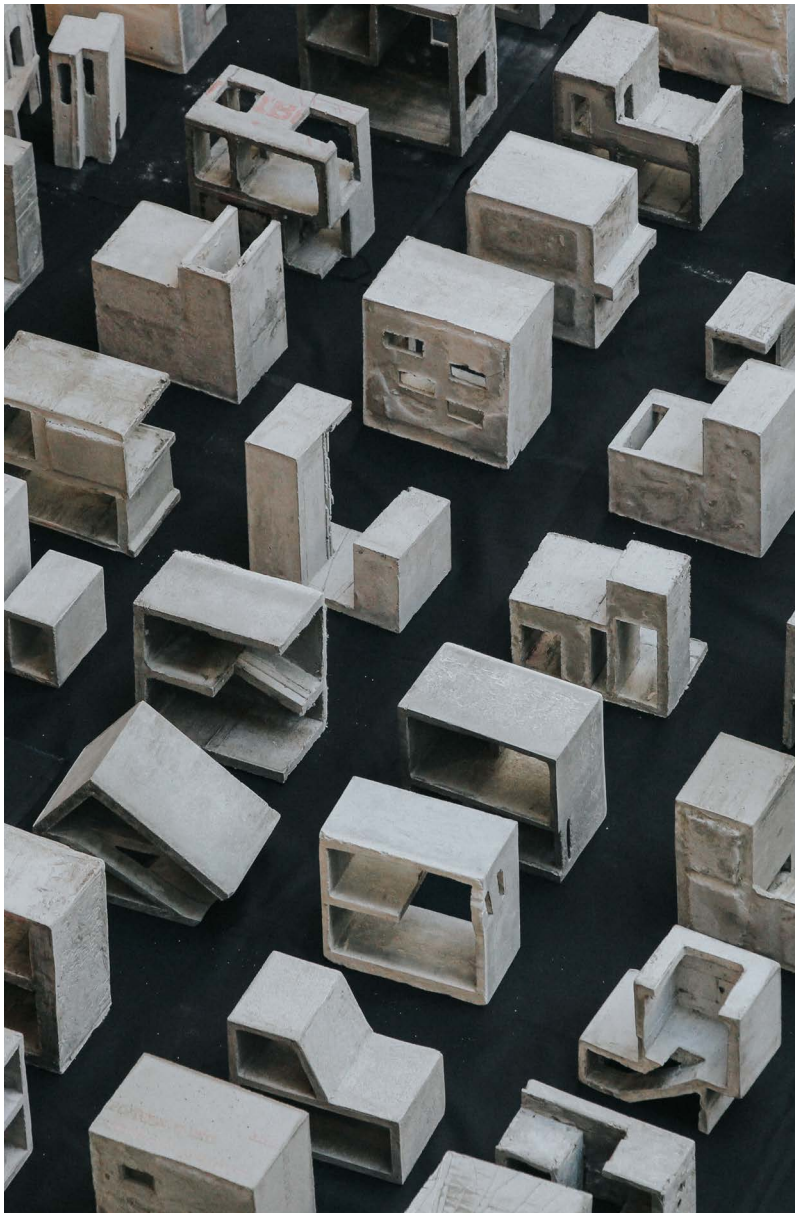


© Walter Kuschel, 1977–78, Archiv der Terrassenhaussiedlung

Werkgruppe Graz, Terrassenhaussiedlung Graz-St.Peter, 1972–1978

regional architectural centre Haus der Architektur (HDA) in Graz to publish the monograph *Dialogues in Time: New Graz Architecture*, which to date is the most comprehensive and best depiction of architecture in Graz in the late 20th century. However, the architects beat the big drum for themselves: In 1984, for example, the cultural institution Forum Stadtpark launched the international travelling exhibition *Architektur-Investitionen. Grazer "Schule": 13 Standpunkte auf Reisen*. Avoiding the canonical number of 12, the 13 standpoints, however, still amounted to a canonisation of the *Grazer Schule*, offering a "group portrait with a lady" featuring Günther Domenig, Hermann Eisenköck, Konrad Frey, Volker Giencke, Ernst Giselsbrecht, Bernhard Hafner, Eilfried Huth, Klaus Kada, Gerhard Kreutzer/Günther Krisper, Fritz Matscher/Irmfried Windbichler, Helmut Richter/Heidulf Gerngross, Michael Szyszkowitz/Karla Kowalski and Heinz Wondra. Not least due to the nationwide recognition of the *Grazer Schule*, an exceptionally large number of its protagonists were appointed to renowned Chairs in Germany and Austria, so that the so-called "Schüler" were able to generate an educational effect themselves: Eilfried Huth at the Berlin University of the Arts; Michael Szyszkowitz at TU Braunschweig; Karla Kowalski at the University of Stuttgart; Klaus Kada at RWTH Aachen; Hubert Rieß at the Bauhaus-Universität Weimar; Manfred Kovatsch at the Akademie der Bildenden Künste in Munich; Volker Giencke at the University of Innsbruck; and Manfred Wolff-Plottegg and Helmut Richter at TU Wien; only Günther Domenig received a Chair at his home university, Graz University of Technology, where he taught from 1980 to 2000.

Excerpts from: Wagner, Anselm/Walk, Sophia (eds.): *Architectural Guide Graz*, Berlin: jovis 2024, pp. 258–263.













## Off-Campus







## HDA – Haus der Architektur



Founded in 1988, the Haus der Architektur (HDA) is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the promotion of architecture, urban planning and building culture. It focuses on current challenges such as resource-efficient building, climate change, inclusion, education, culture and economy. The broad spectrum of event activities at the HDA includes exhibitions, lectures, workshops, discussions, symposia, educational events, excursions and publications. To promote animated and ambitious discourse, the HDA actively cooperates with other associations and institutions as well as with representatives from science, the arts, politics, administration and business.

Mariahilferstraße 2, 8020 Graz

*hda-graz.at*





## Café KORK



© KORK

Nestled between the buildings in the centre park of the Alte Technik campus, Café KORK is well suited for an early beer, a study session or an evening-get-together with friends. Vegetarian and often even vegan lunch is served during the week, but of course carnivores can

also find a snack or two to their taste. The huge terrace outside is just about the perfect place to hang out in the summer, and the interior of the cafe takes up the park vibe with a lot of greenery. To see the weekly menu or upcoming concerts, follow us on Instagram: [@cafe.kork](https://www.instagram.com/cafe.kork).

Lessingstraße 25, 8010 Graz

[cafe-kork.com](https://www.cafe-kork.com)





## Feinkost Mild



Busy. Hungry. Mild. Feinkost Mild is an institution in Graz that has been inviting guests to eat, drink and unwind in the heart of the old town since 1956. Featuring its famous sandwiches and an impressive assortment of beers, this cosy bar has been winning over both young and old for three generations, while remaining one thing above all else: flexible. Over the decades, the

former delicatessen store, where grandma used to shop, transformed into the sandwich club it is today, thus bridging the gap between its traditional past and the contemporary vibe of Graz. In addition, art and culture have always been important and highly valued at Feinkost Mild and are lived nowadays in the form of vernissages, book readings and DJ sets.

Stubenberggasse 7, 8010 Graz

*feinkostmild.at*





## Rossian



Since Rossian was founded in 2009, local ingredients from the adjacent farmers' market have been thrown into pots and pans and stirred without restraint to serve dishes from all over the world – like a small holiday island on a plate. The menu changes daily, offering soup, two dishes (one of them

vegetarian) and cake, depending on seasonal products and our mood. Still, if you are more the breakfast-type or the I-don't-eat-at-all-I-rather-drink-type: Rossian also serves scrambled eggs, Tribeka coffee, Tegernseer beer and everything in between.



## Tribeka



Tribeka TU is your friendly neighbourhood coffee shop. Whether you need wifi, a delicious snack or a strong dose of caffeine for those long nights – there is always a place for you here. Come sit at our tables, study in peace or chat with fellow students

and teachers alike, while enjoying a hot cup of artisan coffee, roasted right here in Graz, and made by a lovely and hilarious crew of baristas. No matter how rough of a day you had, it's hard not to leave Tribeka with a smile on your face.

Technikerstraße 13, 8010 Graz

*tribeka.at*



Academic Services,  
Workspaces, Workshops and Labs,  
Institutes,  
Quicklinks

Infrastructure





## Dean's Office *Dekanat*

As the administrative unit of the faculty, the Dean's Office is the initial point of contact for all questions regarding study-related issues. The Dean's Office supports and assists (international) students with course selection, (online) registration for individual courses and examinations, recognition of courses and study achievements, degree progress and theses. It administers scholarships

and supplies information and advice on university law, study law and curricula. The Dean's Office plans, assigns and surveys courses and teaching assignments. It supports the development and introduction of curricula. The Dean's Office is also in charge of the coordination of the faculty budget, personnel matters and internal committees.

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Rechbauerstrasse 12/KG

+ 43 (0)316 873 6101  
dekarch@tugraz.at

Mon–Fri

8 am–12 am

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**Andrea Schmallegger**  
*Dean's Office / Dekanat*



**Michaela Prazsky-Eichinger**  
*Dean's Office / Dekanat*



**Gudrun Tockner**  
*Dean's Office / Dekanat*





## Workspaces, Workshops and Labs



### Drawing Studios

#### *Zeichensäle*

The architecture drawing studios at TU Graz are spaces for creativity, learning and teaching where students organise themselves autonomously and where self-organised learning processes are welcomed. These spaces are located on the Alte Technik campus and in Münzgrabenstraße and are managed and maintained by their own collectives. Membership in one of the TU Graz drawing studios is at the discretion of the organisers of each individual studio. Refill events will be announced via the faculty homepage, newsletter and via posters displayed in the Alte Technik.

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AZ 0	Münzgrabenstraße 11/3–4.OG	az0null@gmail.com
AZ 1	Rechbauerstraße 12/2. OG	az1@mlist.tugraz.at
AZ 2	Rechbauerstraße 12/2. OG	az2@mlist.tugraz.at
AZ 3	Rechbauerstraße 12/3. OG	az3@mlist.tugraz.at
AZ 4	Rechbauerstraße 12/3. OG	az4@mlist.tugraz.at
AZ Turm	Münzgrabenstraße 11/1. OG	az.turm@gmail.com
AZ Plus	Münzgrabenstraße 11/2. OG	az.plus.tugraz@gmail.com
AZ Blume	Lessingstraße 24	architekturzeichensaalblume@gmail.com

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### Master Studios

The studio spaces located on the top floor of the main university building (Alte Technik) cover a total area of 800 m<sup>2</sup> and are made available to master's students as working spaces for one semester. Up to eight courses for a total of 160 students can be held in the studios at the same time.

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Rechbauerstraße 12 / DG, 8010 Graz  
 dekach@tugraz.at

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© Lunghammer, TU Graz

### TU Graz Library

The main library at Graz University of Technology specialises in architecture, construction, and civil engineering. It is a place of learning and a modern service department, which is open to the public and supports students in their research activities. The library also keeps a large collection of architecture journals, daily newspapers, and magazines on architecture and engineering. Students can read these in the library or make copies or scans of individual pages. The library also provides quiet spaces for reading, studying, and working. Free WiFi is available for all students via Eduroam.

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Technikerstraße 4/3, 8010 Graz  
 service.bibliothek@tugraz.at

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### Model Making Workshops

The model making workshops, which are located in the basement and ground floor of Kronesgasse 5, are independent workshops which can be used at any time to work with glue, foamboard, styrofoam, etc. The use of the small machine workshop is only possible after completed machine evaluation (sawing, grinding, drilling, etc.). The CNC milling machines on site are only to be operated by our trained technical staff. Here, an appointment or agreement with the Institute of Construction and Design Principles (KOEN) is necessary.

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Kronesgasse 5/KG, 8010 Graz  
 koen@tugraz.at

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### Robotics Design Lab

The lab is operated by the Institute of Structural Design and the Laboratory for Structural Engineering as a grinding, milling and printing robot system. The research and test facility – built by ABB AG Austria – is designed for wet and dry machining of large components. Furthermore, the installed Baunit printing head allows 3D printing with fine-grained concrete. Both hard and soft materials can be processed by grinding and milling. The processing laboratory is also available for external courses and can be used for various diploma and master theses. The lab can be found on the ground floor of Inffeldgasse 24.

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Inffeldgasse 24/EG, 8010 Graz  
 andreas.trummer@tugraz.at

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### Wood Workshop

The Wood Workshop is operated by the Institute of Spatial Design. Here, we explore the eccentricity of architecture as craft – we search for structural expression, whether it is a model, a piece of furniture, or a building element. Thinking and doing become one with the help of all essential woodworking machines. A lab for the understanding of how things are made and how architecture gains physical presence through the process of its making. The workshop is led by a master carpenter.

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Lessingstraße 25/EG, 8010 Graz  
 rainer.eberl@tugraz.at

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### Digital Workshop

In the digital workshop, students have four laser cutters and several 3D printers at their disposal that can be used for making architecture models of all kinds. There is also a clay 3D printer and a six-axis industrial robot available for use in student projects. The workshop is managed by the Institute of Architecture and Media (IAM). While the laser cutters are available to anyone that has done the introduction course, the clay 3D printer and the industrial robot can only be used with help from institute members.

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Kronesgasse 5/KG, 8010 Graz  
iam\_info@tugraz.at

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### Laboratory for Visual and Sonic Practice

The lab is a space providing both digital and analogue equipment to be used for the production of photographs, as well as for the recording of video and sound. The space also offers all equipment necessary for analogue postproduction as well as individual workspaces with desktop computers for fast and easy editing. The space is also equipped with a Canon plotter suitable for printing large format HQ photographs and posters.

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Kronesgasse 5/EG, 8010 Graz  
barbara.rauch@tugraz.at

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### Architekturarchiv Steiermark (ASt)

Academically supervised by the Institute of Architectural Theory, Art History and Cultural Studies, the ASt is intended to raise awareness of the special significance of Styria's architectural heritage. It comprises 70,000 image documents, 55,000 plans and around 100 architectural models. The majority of documents originate from the holding of the TU Graz Archive, including the estates and bequests of architects such as Herbert Eichholzer, Anna Lülja Praun, Hubert Hoffmann, Ferdinand Schuster, Michael Szyszkowitz + Karla Kowalski, Konrad Frey, Team A, Ingrid Mayr and Hubert Riess.

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Münzgrabenstraße 36/EG, 8010 Graz  
bernhard.reismann@tugraz.at

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### GAM Lab

The GAM Lab is responsible for public relations and academic communication of the Faculty of Architecture of Graz University of Technology. It creates, administers, and coordinates the content and editorial processes of *GAM – Graz Architecture Magazine*, the faculty news, the faculty website and social media channels. Furthermore, it provides information on upcoming events, such as lecture series, exhibitions, and award-ceremonies held at the Faculty of Architecture. Thus, the GAM Lab forms the intersection of communication between faculty members and the public.

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Rechbauerstraße 12/KG, 8010 Graz  
gam.lab@tugraz.at

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Institutes

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ITE

**Institute of Structural Design** 140

Prof. Stefan Peters

At the Institute of Structural Design (ITE), we recognise that the load-bearing structure lends any building structural stability, creates its form and spaces, and enables the building to achieve its designed appearance and character. Structural design is thus a fundamental part of the general design process. The prerequisite for a suitable and logical structural design is a thorough understanding of possible types of structure, their load-bearing characteristics and their functional mechanisms.

NHB

**Sustainable Construction**

Prof. Alexander Passer

Sustainable Construction (NHB) offers a broad spectrum in the field of sustainability assessment of buildings, life cycle assessment (LCA), life cycle costing (LCC) and systemic sustainability modelling including digitalisation and multi-criteria decision models to support the sustainability and climate targets agreed at on a European level.

EnBeDe

**Institute of Design  
in Existing Structures and  
Architectural Heritage Protection** 141

Prof. Matthias Castorph

At the Institute of Design in Existing Structures and Architectural Heritage Protection (EnBeDe), we are concerned in research and teaching with the built environment and take care of existing structures. Looking both to the future and the past, we regard existing building stock as a reference space for future action and as a space of possibilities for practical design. Our attention is focused not only on the masterpieces of architectural



history in their respective architectural, historical and social context, but above all on the rather inconspicuous architecture of everyday life. We understand architectural heritage protection beyond the preservation of material heritage as a proactive approach to today's structures – the monuments of tomorrow.

akk

## Institute of Architectural Theory, Art History and Cultural Studies

Prof. Anselm Wagner

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The akk represents three subjects that are closely linked: architectural theory, art history and cultural studies. Architectural theory attempts to answer the question according to which aesthetic, social and political principles we should design architecture. Architectural theory is therefore always oriented toward the future and to a certain extent normative. However, architectural theory itself has a history going back to antiquity, the central texts of which we also teach in our courses. In art history, architecture is treated as part of the history of art. It shows that architecture as “Baukunst” (the art of building) is, on the one hand, an artistic discipline and, on the other hand, has always been interrelated with the visual arts. Finally, Cultural Studies enable us to better understand the cultural techniques, media and forms of communication of architecture and its relation to everyday and popular culture.

stdb

## Institute of Urbanism

Prof. Aglaée Degros

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The Institute of Urbanism (stdb) is responsible for training students in all areas of urban development and spatial planning, at the Bachelor's, Master's, and doctoral levels. The institute promotes an urbanism that gives priority to what has been neglected by the urbanism of the Anthropocene: the territory is

no longer speculated upon, but inhabited. The systems that support our (human) lives are organised and spatialised in such a way as to leave space for (non-human) nature. The institute is creating a body of thought that is based neither on a high-tech future nor on a regressive return to the 50s. The method, research, and design taught at the institute propose a better, healthier environment designed within the planet's boundaries: territorial urbanism. The institute's main themes are: territory, transition, land use frugality, building re-use, building obsolescence, ecological innovation, space for water, social inequalities, and active mobility.

IGL

## Institute of Design and Building Typology

Prof. Hans Gangoly

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Building use changes – architecture remains. The Institute of Design and Building Typology (IGL) thus focuses on the study of building typology, asking questions about the aspects of buildings that shape their use, morphology and spatial design. The history and evolution of these aspects provide precedents and analytical foundations for both designing new buildings and conversion, new use and re-use of existing buildings. After all, the most ‘sustainable’ building typologies are undoubtedly those that have proven themselves over centuries. The institute is interested in the architectures that exhibit this lasting success and looks at how they can be reinvented and developed further in contemporary ways.

## Integral Architecture

Every two years the faculty awards a new guest professorship for Integral Architecture to practicing architects with an innovative profile, who introduce current trends and methods into the curriculum. The position spans over a period of two years and is focused on the teaching of architectural design studios. Former guest professors were Lisa Yamaguchi (dreisterneplus\*\*\*+, München) who held the professorship from 2022 to 2024 and Florian Summa und Anne Femmer (summacumfemmer, Leipzig) who held the professorship from 2020 to 2022.

## Institute of Architecture Technology

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**Prof. Lukas Imhof**

The aim of the Institute of Architecture Technology (IAT) in teaching and research is to conceptualise and develop buildings and constructions that transcend mere materialisation of primary functions – we strive to design with consideration for the social, ecological, technical and cultural factors for which we, as architects, bear collective responsibility. Above all, our objective is to raise awareness of new construction methods to address the challenges posed by climate change. This includes promoting a circular economy, decarbonising building materials and operations, reusing and recycling of building components, and creating durable, adaptable constructions with sustainable design principles. Therefore, the Institute of Architecture Technology focuses on the relationship between design, technology and construction. This is taught through lectures, seminars and exercises in didactically carefully designed teaching formats aimed at preparing architecture graduates for sustainable architectural practice.

## Architecture and Timber Construction

**Prof. Tom Kaden**

Architecture and Timber Construction combines fundamental theoretical principles, practical applications, new research topics, and strategic collaborations, which aim to prepare graduates for the challenges of the building industry in terms of design, technology and construction. In times of global crises that undermine the stability of international supply chains and planning processes, the professorship relies on regional resources and local value creation. Through an emphasis on sustainable forestry and the strategic use of timber as a building material, sustainability is seen as a core element of an ecologically and economically future-oriented building culture. The interdisciplinary collaboration within TU Graz and the close cooperation with external specialists enable us to integrate and combine topics from structural design, building technology, and building physics, thereby providing comprehensive insight into modern timber construction.

## Institute of Spatial Design

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**Prof. Alex Lehnerer**

At the Institute of Spatial Design (IRG) we are interested in architecture as a practice of designing and redesigning buildings. The work on a building is proof of one's architectural thinking. The thought of construction defines the essence of architecture. A house is physical expression, structure, detail, material, history and theory. It is materialised interdisciplinarity. Building is the core task of our subject. Houses make up our built environment. Houses are cultural expression. They are *Nebenmenschen*.



## Institute of Architecture and Landscape

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Prof. Klaus K. Loenhardt

The Institute of Architecture and Landscape (i a&l) is one of the pioneering academic settings that fundamentally redefines architecture's relation to the living world. The invitation and inquiry of the i a&l is to forge novel alliances between human and more-than-human agencies with vast consequences. In doing so, it is to cultivate imaginaries or thought spaces that engage *entangled thinking* and probe a possible planetary future where *culture and nature* are no longer a dialectic pair of opposites. By addressing processes and consequences of current ecological, energetic and societal challenges, the purpose is to develop 'a cultural ecology' of our future society. We offer transdisciplinary collaboration with national and international academic partners, policymakers, industries, activists, etc., to develop unique project constellations that elevate teaching, design, discourse and societal innovation.



## Institute of Contemporary Art

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Prof. Milica Tomić

The Institute of Contemporary Art (IZK) promotes critical thinking and new forms of artistic and intellectual engagement at the intersections between art, science and society. Contemporary art is examined and expanded on the basis of artistic research, art theory and individual creation. Students learn to create works on their own initiative and reflect on conditions, media and instruments of contemporary art while acquiring the necessary skills. Projects are not only developed theoretically, but are always designed to be implemented. We thus place particular value on the acquisition of skills in dealing with a wide variety of materials as well as digital and manual production techniques.



## Institute of Housing

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Prof. Andreas Lichtblau

Teaching at the Institute of Housing (i\_w) encourages students to develop a cultural-historical perspective on the spatial composition of dwellings and residential buildings in their evolution from individual tools and functional elements – stove, table, bed and bathroom etc. – which over time developed into distinct rooms. Understanding this functional assignment of rooms and how they are codified differently in different sociological and geographical cultures is the foundation for a critical and comparative assessment of significant residential buildings from Austrian and international traditions.



## Institute of Buildings and Energy

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Prof. Brian Cody

Architecture is energy. In addition to expressing the cultural values, priorities and aspirations of a society, architecture must provide answers to an existential societal challenge – the equitable sharing of available resources. Buildings are responsible for approximately 40 % of global CO2 emissions. At the Institute of Buildings and Energy, energy-efficient architecture is understood as a triad of minimised resource consumption, optimal indoor climate and high architectural quality. Sustainable development cannot go hand in hand with a loss in the quality of our built environment. Research focuses on maximising the energy performance of buildings and cities and developing architectural and urban design projects that are inherently energy efficient by optimising their form and construction. In teaching, the focus is on architectural strategies to maximise energy performance. In the design process, the parameter of energy influences the form finding and configuration of the design from the very beginning – form follows energy.





## Institute of Architecture and Media

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Prof. Urs Hirschberg

The Institute of Architecture and Media (IAM) is dedicated to the research and application of digital media in architecture and design. The digital era fundamentally changes all aspects of architecture: how we design it, how we communicate it, how we construct it, how we experience it. At IAM we see this as an opportunity to work towards an “Augmented Architecture”: to use the digital repertoire to find innovative ways to design, to collaborate, to fabricate and to visualise, mindful of societal challenges such as climate change or biodiversity collapse. Parametric and algorithmic methods, digital fabrication and material experiments, architectural geometry, animation and visualisation, BIM, AI and machine learning as well as VR/AR and interactive installations are part of the broad and colourful spectrum of topics that IAM deals with and that students can learn about in our classes.



## Institute of Construction and Design Principles

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Prof. Petra Petersson

The Institute of Construction and Design Principles (KOEN) introduces the many facets of architecture through a number of construction-oriented as well as design subjects. The integration of the two main courses “Construction” and “Design” within one department emphasises their tight interrelationship. Throughout the first year the course focuses on the essentials, with the goal of teaching a basic understanding of architecture, three-dimensional space, and the contextual connections in the built environment. We ask the primary questions “Why?” and “How?”. In addition, the students are given tools with which to further develop and communicate their ideas. These include

sketches, technical drawing (by hand and computer), layouts, and model making, as well as verbal and written presentations. Together with the sketching, the model making reflects one of our main concerns: understanding the making of architecture as a process.

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Petra Petersson, Marisol Vidal, Petra Eckhard

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Petra Eckhard

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Petra Eckhard, Anđela Marinković

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Faculty of Architecture  
Graz University of Technology

## Quicklinks

## Institutes

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**ITE Institute of Structural Design** Technikerstrasse 4/4, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 6211  
tragwerksentwurf@tugraz.at

**NHB Sustainable Construction** Technikerstraße 4/4, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 6213  
office.nhb@tugraz.at

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**EnBe De Institute of Design in Existing Structures and Architectural Heritage Protection** Lessingstraße 27/EG, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 6271  
office.enbede@tugraz.at

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**akk Institute of Architectural Theory, Art History and Cultural Studies** Technikerstrasse 4/3, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 6276  
office.akk@tugraz.at

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**stdb Institute of Urbanism** Rechbauerstraße 12/2, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 6286  
urbanism@tugraz.at

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**IGL Institute of Design and Building Typology** Lessingstraße 25/4, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 6291  
christina.walcher@tugraz.at

**IA Integral Architecture** Lessingstraße 25/4, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 6291  
christina.walcher@tugraz.at

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**IAT Institute of Architecture Technology** Rechbauerstraße 12/1, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 6301  
office.iat@tugraz.at

**AHB Architecture and Timber Construction** Rechbauerstraße 12/1, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 6301  
office.iat@tugraz.at

# Institutes

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**IRG** **Institute of Spatial Design** Rechbauerstraße 12/2, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 6481  
r.krueger@tugraz.at

153

**i a&l** **Institute of Architecture and Landscape** Technikerstraße 4/5, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 6311  
ial@tugraz.at

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**IZK** **Institute of Contemporary Art** Kronesgasse 5/2, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 4721  
izk@tugraz.at

157

**i\_w** **Institute of Housing** Mandellstraße 11/1, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 4261  
trendafilova-lammer@tugraz.at

159

**ige** **Institute of Buildings and Energy** Rechbauerstraße 12/2, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 4751  
ige@tugraz.at

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**IAM** **Institute of Architecture and Media** Kronesgasse 5/3, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 4736  
iam\_info@tugraz.at

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**KOEN** **Institute of Construction and Design Principles** Kronesgasse 5/2, 8010 Graz  
+43 (0) 316 873 – 1631  
koen@tugraz.at

on a mellow  
morning

a glimpse over  
the campus

wandering

an angle,  
a good view

counting birds  
on a wire

taking notes

Faculty of Architecture  
Graz University of Technology



