



Credits: IAAC MAA, The House of the Future, C. Zapulla and S. Amorelli with A.Sharma, N.Khaloain, A.Mhamunkar, M.Darabi, 2020

# Designing for Cross-cultural Urban Societies

## International Architecture- and Design Summerschool at IAAC Barcelona



This Summerschool marks the start of a new international study program between [Zurich University of the Arts \(ZHdK\)](#), the [Institute for Advanced Architecture](#) in Catalonia (IAAC) Barcelona and the [Akademie der bildenden Künste Stuttgart](#) (abk). It invites international students for a 2-week workshop at IAAC Barcelona to investigate creative and cross-cultural design for urban futures through the viewpoint of different disciplines.

The Summerschool intends to provide students with competencies in intercultural collaborative work practices as well as transdisciplinary and design-based methods to develop unique narratives around pioneering urban future solutions and actions. Venue and Infrastructure We will work in the wonderful and ancient ateliers of IAAC Barcelona, Spain. The Summerschool has access to the main IAAC infrastructure, which includes an open design space, an advanced digital fabrication laboratory equipped with state-of-the-art machinery (3D printers, robots, and CNCs), a material laboratory, and an AR/VR laboratory.

### Content and topic

No doubt: we inhabit multicultural cities around the entire globe. As the urban population grows, cultural diversity in cities grows in parallel, presenting huge challenges and opportunities for the design of the future urban milieu. Unlocking the potential of diversity calls for creating new urban forms, functions, and services that can enhance innovation and productivity, while satisfying common needs and defining novel ways of collective living. With our notion of "Designing for Cross-cultural Urban Societies", we touch on the question of how a future sustainable, human- and environmentally friendly urbanity shall be designed where a global society thrives while enjoying participating and living.

Within this context, this Summerschool lands on the specific relation between Asian and Western culture and gathers students from Asia and Europe to inspire each other and exchange ideas about the future of urban life. We are looking from different creative disciplines such as Design, Architecture, Urbanism and Communication that are part of the process of shaping our environment.

During the Summer School the participants will analyze issues of diversity, culture, species, and related policies while they develop urban interventions, illustrating future scenarios for a global cultural life as a future narrative. The outcome focuses on pioneering radical proposals that range from the object to the building, neighborhood, and city scale. The design processes, tools, and methods emerge from the creative use of technologies. This includes architecture, urban-planning, interaction design, product- and communication design with the goal of responding to current environmental and social challenges, forming a dialogue between different cultures and actors.

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### Participants

We look for international students who are interested in experiencing an intercultural exchange. We together create environments in an applied or even theoretical way as a method. We are pleased to invite applicants from different creative backgrounds, desirable from: Architecture, Urbanism, Design, Interaction Design, Communication, Technology, or Cultural Studies. We aim for a half-half Asian and European student group. After submission, we select the most suitable participants to join the Summer School. Participants shall be curious, open-minded, and determined to add their knowledge and culture as part of an intercultural process.

### Lectures and work on projects

The Summer School oscillates between theory inputs, analysis, best practice, own research and mentored individual project work in small interdisciplinary and international groups. Barcelona excursions are also part of the Summerschool. Beforehand, some reading and basic studies are recommended. The Summerschool draws a new line for a thematic field, whose core is the design of a cross-cultural urban milieu. Digital tools, as well as hand based skills, will be used for rapid prototyping and for producing materialized artifacts.

### Opportunities

The Summer School marks the start of a new study program on MA level between Architecture, Design, Communication, Urbanism and the use of Technology and shall be pursued in the next years. For talented participants there will be the chance to be part of the faculty.

### Faculty

International experts from Architecture, Urbanism and Design from IAAC, abk and ZhdK and external experts. Supported by assistants.

### Credits

5 ECTS

### Tuition fee

800 Euros

### Language

English

### Applications

The call for applications is now open until **July 1st**. Please contact us for further information: [alejandra.pinggeracrook@zhdk.ch](mailto:alejandra.pinggeracrook@zhdk.ch).

### Admission

Candidates should send us a letter of motivation and a CV. Upon that, we select the participants.

### Duration

4. - 15. September 2023.

### Accommodation

Booked on your own. IAAC can support by sharing an accommodation guide and suggestions for the city of Barcelona.

