

Call for Participants | Brussels Research by Design MASTERCLASS 2015

] BRIDGES [



The Brussel's canal between the inner city and the quarter of Molenbeek
[<https://hobbitabroad.files.wordpress.com/2012/11/ter-5696-121111-hdr.jpg>]

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Urban Culture and Public Space invites 5 students to participate in this year's Brussels Masterclass] **BRIDGES** [jointly organized by ULB, Faculté d'Architecture, Laboratory on Urbanism, Infrastructure and Ecologies (Louise) <http://archi.ulb.ac.be/> and VUB, Cosmopolis research centre, Master of Urban and Regional Planning (STeR) www.cosmopolis.be .

Research by design is increasingly important in both academic and practicing environment. Because of the increasingly complex spatial challenges, various scenarios need to be checked through design research to lead through iterative processes to a project definition, development, partnership and concrete design. The discipline of research by design bridges the gap between academic knowledge and policy making. The design and research policies can be powered with visions that are open to debate.

The topic of this masterclass is embedded in the general theme of the progressively more densely populated city, which has to cope with the needs of new housing and working spaces. Nevertheless, the theme of the Masterclass focuses on fractures and disconnections. In Brussels a number of large fractures exist in different forms: they are often infrastructures that not only separate two shores of one another but entire neighbourhoods, or overlooked connections between densely used urban places that require necessary interventions linking important economic areas, social facilities and various infrastructures.

The necessary connections can be more than a connection from A to B, but a full-fledged sociospatial intervention that can construct or re-construct the sense of an urban place stitching neighbourhoods, bringing dialogue, opening to discussions and social engagement. In Brussels only few connections are real public spaces. Most of the bridges over the canal in the centre are unattractive, dominated by traffic and often without inviting facilities. The Pentagon also seems completely separated from the first crown by the gates, tunnels, bridges and complex intersections. Therefore there's a need for making new connections in Brussels.

02-13.November 2015

Accommodation and lunches will be provided, transport is to be paid by the students (Flights from Bratislava are available from ca. 50€ both ways)

Please send your letter of motivation (English, 1 page) until **September 30th 2015** to both elina.kraenzle@skuor.tuwien.ac.at and info@skuor.tuwien.ac.at