

SPACE^Z

Zollverein School Master of Architecture (MArch)

SPACE^Z

Structural concept

Facts & figures

SPACE^Z

>SPACE^Z< – the name

As the name of the programme indicates, it is not oriented towards predefined professional fields, but rather at problem areas: Shaping - Politics - Architecture - Culture – Economy. The English word space has multiple meanings: it can just mean an 'area', but also has other meanings, such as 'gap', 'interstice', 'distance between', an 'interval' or 'pause'. It is clear, then, that the basic issues here are interfaces, what lies between. It is this space between that is the essential area of study to be researched, designed and maximised on this programme.

Internationalisation

The new SPACE^Z programme confronts the globalised conditions of a society where for some considerable time now change has not been confined to the purely economic level. All areas of society, including politics, culture, and forms of communication are being drawn in to this paradigm shift. Dramatic processes of erosion and a decline in the ability to communicate are the consequences. For this reason, design must be debated, developed and taught in a new and wider context. SPACE^Z is therefore emphatically oriented towards addressing issues at an international level.

Strategy – maximise the fringes

This new programme does not occupy the classic middle ground of architectural training, or of a design programme, but instead maximises the potential at their periphery. These 'fringes' become its central foci – thus extending the area of the field of reference in a time when architecture and design debates are still being conducted within narrowly restricted boundaries.

Two aspects play a significant role in this strategy: expertness and cross-over. Specialisation is an essential requirement for occupying the fringes. We are breaking free from the apparently dogmatic perception of architectural training as a generalist area of study. The competence required to become a generalist can only be achieved through the acquisition of strategic expertness. It is specialisation in depth that first enables recognition of interfaces and areas of potential, and the development of resilient, innovative structures.

Of necessity, the fringes of any discipline interface with adjoining disciplines. The cross-over that results has already become a significant distinguishing characteristic of the Zollverein School in Essen, one which will be reinforced by the aspirational structure this programme aims to establish. Ultimately, the areas of overlap at the fringes will themselves form new centres, thus enabling new perspectives on current and future issues.

Target group

SPACE² is an innovative programme aimed at architects, urban planners and structural engineers, as well as designers in a wide range of creative disciplines. The research and creative work of its multi-disciplinary teams will profit from both the specific experience of individual team members, and the interfaces with other disciplines.

Structural concept

Programme modules

The 'maximise the fringes' strategy is implemented through a range of modules, the 'fields' of the programme.

- Field 1: Lecture series / symposium
- Field 2: Research
- Field 3: Slow projects
- Field 4: Fast projects
- Field 5: Seminar / workshop
- Field 6: Thesis / presentation / publication

A total of 90 credits is awarded, distributed across these modules. The lecture series / symposium modules and the presentation / publication module are not relevant for credit purposes.

Field 1: Lecture series / symposium

An annual series of public events, in the form of a symposium and a linked lecture series, is to be initiated: these will be open to interested parties not participating on the programme, as well as to its students. Lecturing staff, members of the School's advisory bodies and other guests will be invited to participate, and to deliver lectures on the special theme chosen for each specific year. The lectures will take place at weekly intervals, and will be collected and published annually in book form. In October, a larger symposium, that will serve as a concentrated form of exchange and input for that semester, will be held. This symposium has been conceived in the medium term as a significant public event, and will also be accompanied by / followed up with an associated publication. It is intended that sixteen lectures, each delivered by one speaker, will take place over the course of a year.

Field 2: Research

Small expert teams will work under the guidance of one lecturer on a specific research project, for example in the fields of programming, urban space, economy, materials, or media. Students will be able to join 2–3 of these research teams during their course of study. In terms of both human input and content, the 'research' field is directly related to the 'slow project'. The research topics will be derived from current issues such as migration, sport, shopping, and mobility, and will be related to specific questions arising from the 'slow projects'. Project-specific research areas, which will serve as preparation for the 'slow projects' will be initiated, each led by one lecturer. Experts, both external and from other Zollverein courses, will contribute any additional content requirements - 'maximise the fringes'.

Field 3: Slow projects

Project studies, aimed at linking, interconnecting and intensifying knowledge gained through research, will be carried out by larger groups. During their time on the programme, students will participate in three of these projects, each of which will be led by 1–2 lecturers. The size of each project team and the specifically delimited field of investigation of each individual student guarantees the degree of depth required for the project. Excursions, data collection, and discussions with those involved in the processes under investigation lead to the development and implementation of ‘progressive practice’. The competence and complexity of these projects thus clearly differentiate them from conventional student projects. The depth of detail and period of time required for each project may vary, but a duration of 3–6 months should be assumed.

Field 4: Fast projects

Participation in short projects, action campaigns, interventions and competitions will ensure the necessary balance of the course. Spontaneity, creativity, group dynamics and the skills to deal with the unexpected form the background for the ‘fast projects’. It is in this context that reflexes will be improved, and intuition and reactivity fostered. In this way, the Zollverein School can react to external current problems, and make an active contribution to their resolution. Students can choose one or more options from a range of ‘short projects’.

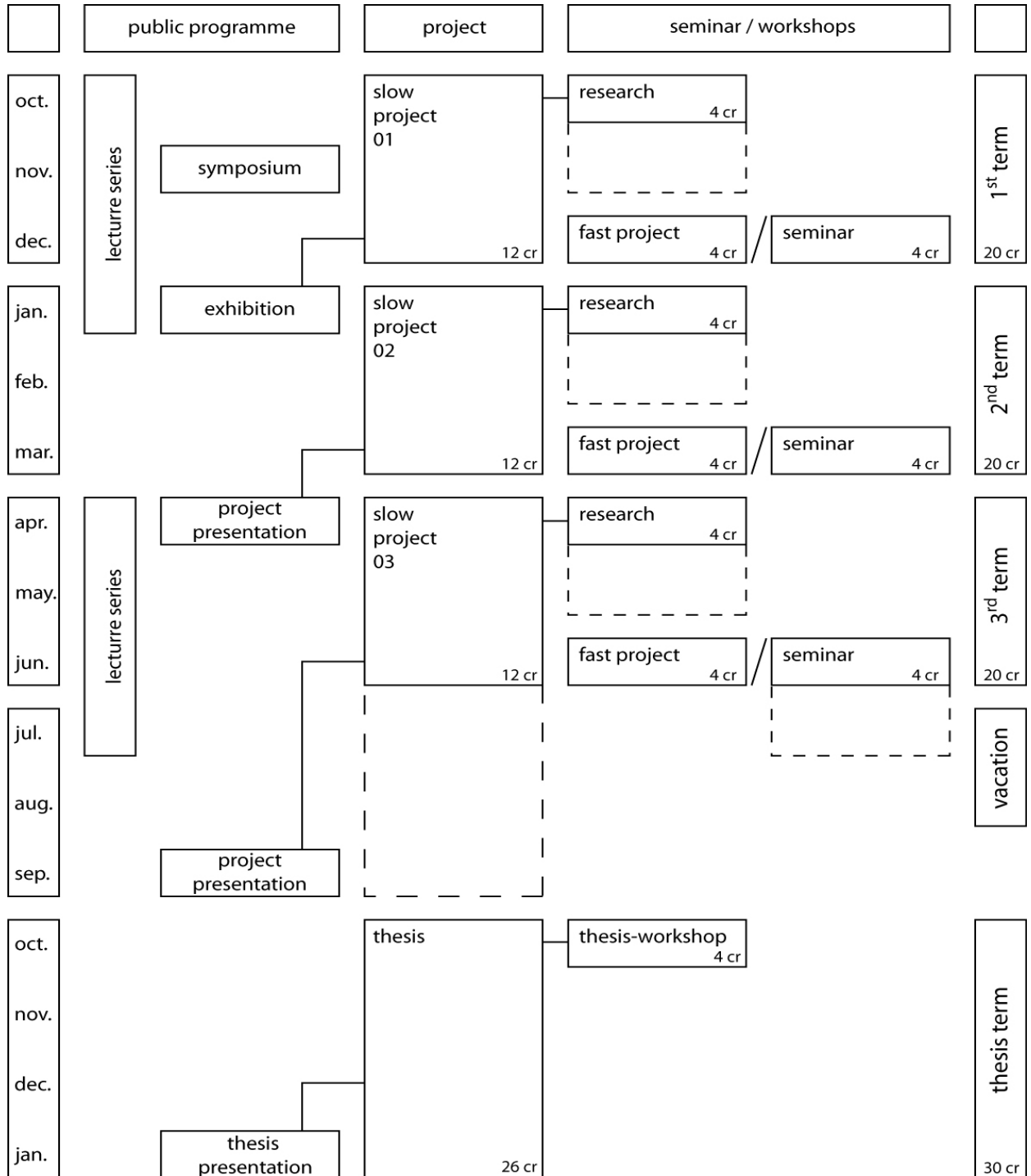
Field 5: Seminar / workshop

As with the ‘fast projects’, students select one or more seminars and workshops over the course of their studies. These differ from the ‘fast projects’ in terms of their content, in that they do not have a specific design or project base, In terms of structure, they have a different staff–student ratio.

Field 6: Thesis / presentation / publication

The theses and the research results associated with them, will be subject to an internal review process, and then presented to the public in the form of exhibitions, publications or other means. This phase enhances the profile that the Zollverein School presents to the world outside, while at the same time fulfilling its commitments to other parties involved as partners in the programme projects. In addition, the lecture series and symposium will be accompanied and followed up by linked publications.

Programme structure



Lecturers

Lecturers

Students taking the new Master's degree programme will be taught by internationally renowned architects and designers. The team of lecturers includes, among others:

Ben van Berkel, UN Studio, Amsterdam
Bjarke Ingels, BIG, Kopenhagen
Momoyo Kaijima + Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, Atelier Bow Wow, Tokyo
Anne Lacaton + Jean Philippe Vassal, Lacaton+Vassal, Paris
Duncan Lewis, Scape, Bordeaux
Jürgen Mayer H., Jürgen Mayer H. Architekten, Berlin
Patrik Schumacher, Zaha Hadid Architects, London
Kazuyo Sejima + Ryue Nishizawa, SANAA, Tokyo
Peter Swinnen, 5iN4E, Brüssel
Werner Sobek, Werner Sobek Engineering and Design, Stuttgart

Advisory Board/Lecturers

An Advisory Board is responsible for the continual development of the Master's programme:

Ruedi Baur, intégral, Zürich/Paris
Reinhard Binder, visions2form, Berlin
Christopher Dell, Köln
Bernhard Franken, Bernhard Franken Architekten, Frankfurt
Bernd Kniess, Köln
Ilka Ruby + Andreas Ruby, textbild, Berlin

Head of department

Ulrich Königs, Königs Architekten, Köln

President Zollverein School

Andrej Kupetz

Facts and figures

Degree and academic title

- Master of Architecture (MArch)
- The degree is awarded by the Bergische Universität, Wuppertal
- Accreditation by AQAS e.V (Agency for Quality Assurance through the Accreditation of Study Programmes) is pending

Overview

- Full time, 16 month post-professional programme in architectural design
- Start: October 2008
- The programme is structured in four phases:
Phases 1–3 consist of seminar courses and studio teaching during the first three terms (October to December, January to March, April to June), followed by design research in each term.
- Phase 4, from October to January of academic year 2 of the programme, is focused on the production of the design thesis (for the MArch).
- Student work is assigned by academic term, but extends into the vacation periods. Thesis presentation takes place in January.
- During preparation and production of their theses, students can continue to use the infrastructure of the Zollverein School after the start of the new academic year.
- The compressed time-scale of full-time study and the phased overlap of old and new student intakes in each academic year ensure that the critical mass of young people necessary to generate the ‚Zollverein spirit‘ will be present on site at the School.
- The programme language is English.

Admission requirements

- Submission of complete application documentation
- A degree (bachelor level) in architecture, an engineering discipline, design or other appropriate discipline
- For applicants whose first language is not English, evidence of proficiency in English (TOEFL)
- Successful completion of a selection interview focused on applicant’s motivation and objectives

Application documentation

- Completed application form (see attachment)
- CV in tabular form
- Evidence of a degree in accordance with § 4 para. 1 a) in connection with § 4 para. 2 of the Prüfungsordnung (Examination Regulations)
- For applicants whose first language is not English, evidence of sufficient English language skills by means of a TOEFL test with a minimum score of 180 points on the computer-based test

- A declaration that the applicant has not previously failed a master's degree final examination, a diploma examination or any similar final examination on a comparable degree programme at a college or university within the Federal Republic of Germany (§ 12 para. 2 no. 2 PO)

Fees

- As a non-profit institution, the Zollverein School relies on income from tuition fees to fund its courses. Fees for the 16-month full-time SPACE² programme are 15,000 Euro.