

Urbanism and Landscape Studio

Teachers: Ania Öst, Hanna Erixon Aalto, Måns Tham

Artificial inhabited islands, growing reeves, or eiderdown farming?
What will the future habitats and practices of Stockholmers be?

Field of study
The Urbanism and Landscape Studio focuses on cities, landscapes and territories in the broader context of the environmental crisis. How can we imagine a sustainable and resilient city of the twenty-first century? What can the role of designers be in addressing Agenda 2030, including urgent and interconnected problems such as rapid urbanization, biodiversity loss, social inequity and severe global climate changes effecting our cities? Drawing on the nexus of ideas within landscape/ecological urbanism, resilience theory, and the environmental humanities, the studio challenges the modernist idea of the city as a fixed, delimited territory contrasting the ‘natural’ world around us. Instead, we explore landscape and ecology as organizers of urban space; as providers of catalytic urban strategies that can embrace complexity, multi-functionality and change over time.

Teaching methodology
We empower students to develop a critical and systematic outlook to the urban and global problems we face though the study of hands-on, “live” problems grounded in real-world challenges. Urban design is an inclusive, reflective and, by necessity, transdisciplinary practice and we work closely with decision makers, activists, local organizations, and experts. Learning from history, we will study how forces of nature, culture and infrastructure have shaped city life. Through combining the critical and the suggestive; analysis and innovation, we develop bold scenarios that reframe the human-nature relationship. We see outcomes that reveal unexpected potentials ranging in scale from the territorial, the neighborhood, down to the detail of a home.

Ania Öst
AÖ is a multidisciplinary with a master in architecture. AÖ combines practice with research and has taught in higher education since 2010 at KTH and at TU Graz, Austria. She is starting up the practice GAIA ark, with like-minded, focusing on reconnecting human habitats with our living environment through innovation.

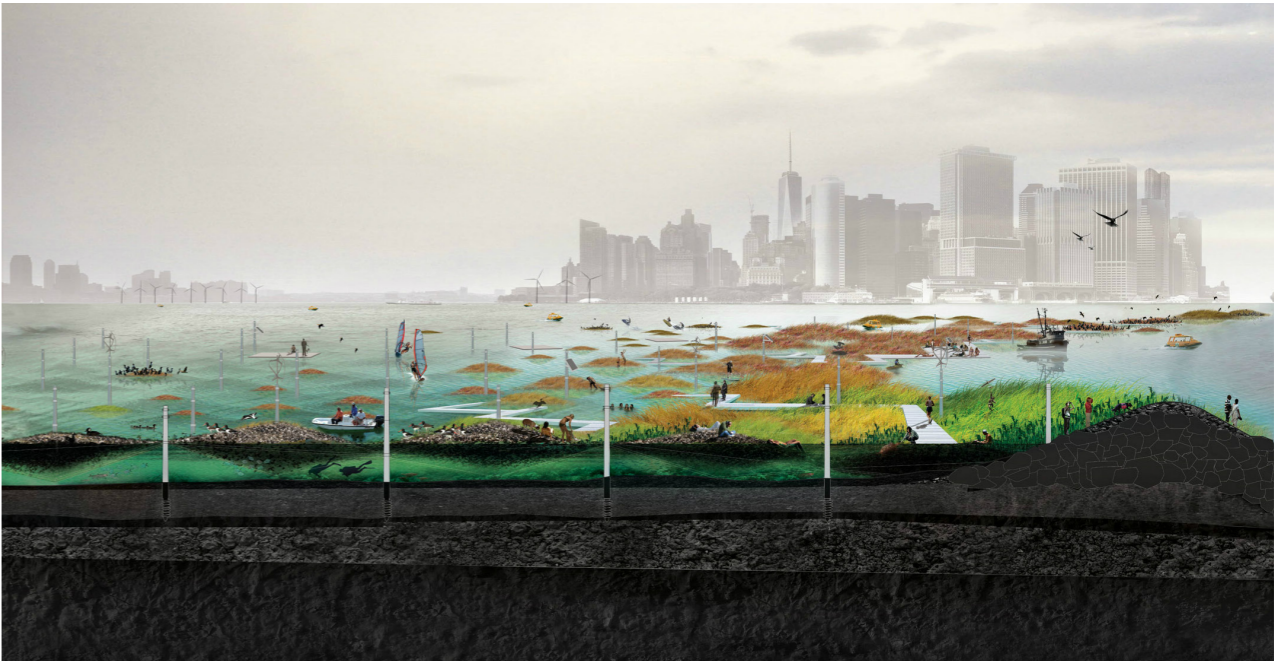
Hanna Erixon Aalto
HEA is an architect and urbanist, writer and lecturer. She holds a doctor in Philosophy with the thesis *Projecting Urban Natures* and has taught since 2005 at KTH. The core of her interest revolves around finding new ways of involving a multitude of actors in the development of resilient future strategies for sustainable landscapes.

Måns Tham
MT is an architect and urban strategist. He got his education at Lunds School of Architecture, UC Berkeley and Mejlan-ARC in Stockholm. He has taught at KTH since 2014 and runs his own practice Måns Tham Arkitektkontor (manstham.com) that focuses on urban planning, proactive strategies and built architecture.

Project 3 & 4 - Mass and Water
In the spring of 2021, the studio is part of an ongoing collaboration between the City of Stockholm, KTH and a studio of practitioners. We investigate how millions of tons of stone generated during the expansion of Stockholm’s subway can be the catalyst for new resilient urban environments. Historically, land rise and the conjunction of fresh water and saltwater is the raison d’être of Stockholm. Considering the effects of climate change, such as rising sea levels and increased water flows—as well as the rapid growth of Stockholm—the studio sees the opportunity to take a holistic approach to the potential that 7 million tons of rock brings. The challenges are severe: The Baltic ecosystem is collapsing and by 2050, the sea level rise is estimated to exceed the land rise. In 2100 Lake Mälaren could once again become part of the Baltic Sea and the city would lose its drinking water supply. The studio will work with a number of sites ranging from the inner city to the peri-urban archipelago.

Project 3
A communicative strategic general plan for the development of new relationships between Stockholm and its water boarders is developed. The masses excavated for the subway is the main agent of change. Through the lens of art and architecture we will test and project scenarios for where and how new relations with water could develop.

Project 4
P4 is a stand-alone project. Each student will develop a proposal for how a new habitat of Stockholm can develop in a resilient way. Designing a habitat include shaping physical structures and environments for humans as well as other agents that are grown out of sustainable practices and cultures. Our aim is to compare vastly different outcomes and trajectories. P3 and P4 will include guest lectures and seminars with renowned scholars such as Nina-Marie Lister at Ryerson and Klaus Loenhardt, at TU Graz, and the work will result in an exhibition.



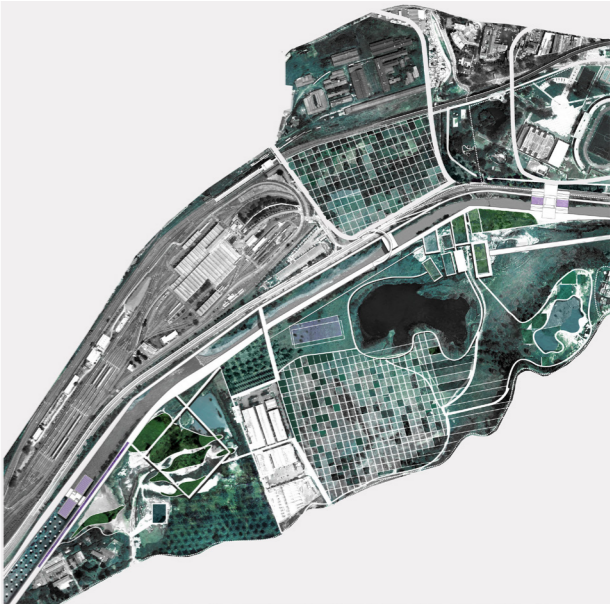
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1. Oyster-techure, Brooklyn NY. Kate Orff, SCAPE, 2016.
2. Rethinking happiness, curated by Aldo Cibic at the Venice Architecture Biennale. 2010
3. Agnes Denes, Wheatfield—A Confrontation. 1982. Photo by John McGrall.
4. LCLA Office, MEDELLIN.The river-that-is-not. Zona Norte, 2014.
5. Högdalstippen, Svenska Dagbladet, Blomquist, Åke. 15 april 1957.