

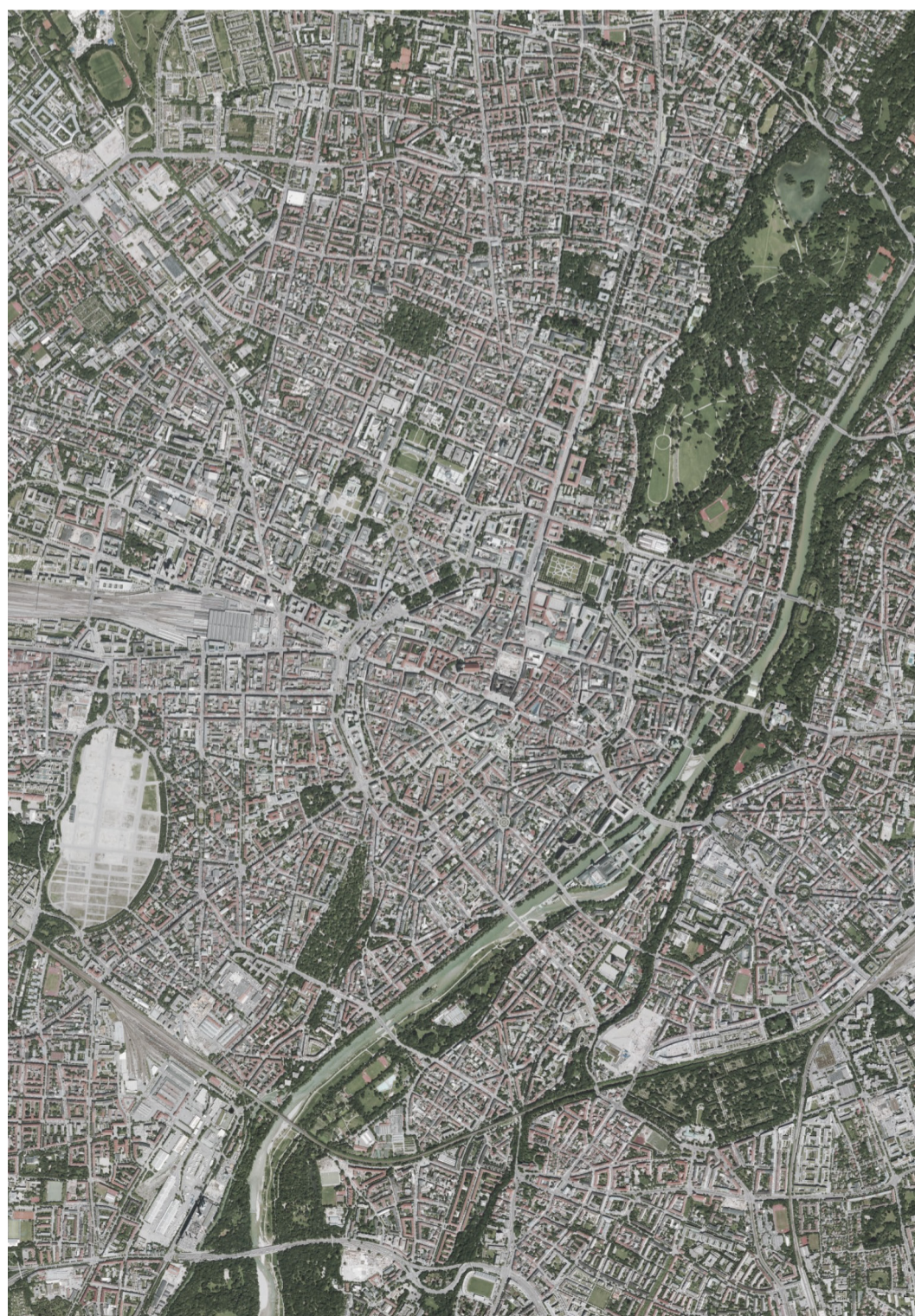
In the Studio's continuing research to explore the sustainability of the European City and to seek definitions for a sustainable architecture, we now divert our gaze 'inside the block' - to the inner spaces of the urban blocks that define so many cities including Munich. They offer good potential for an intensification of use and inhabitation while minimising the need for an expansion of the city or its infrastructure. While inner city blocks provide opportunities, they also require a sensitive approach addressing privacy and daylight and to the cultural aspects of residents' expectations. Projects located within the block are often distanced or invisible from the street, as only a limited facade expression is possible in relation to their scale. Accessed through passageways or courtyards these projects unfold to reveal their scale and it is only from the inside that they can be fully perceived. The interior elevations are often the primary public face of the project. They are primarily experienced as 'inner worlds' and it is interesting to consider what this means for their architectural identity.

What would the expression be of these structures? Would they be considered as long-term structures or short-term installations that land lightly on the ground and can be removed or relocated easily? How do we achieve density and proximity while also bringing dignity and the comfort of distance to day to day living? Can we find qualities from the restrictions imposed upon these spaces, governed by building codes protecting rights for light and air?

Within this exploration the consideration of the 'room' becomes paramount. How to bring about a sense of generosity despite close proximity and density. The proportion, scale and interconnectivity of rooms can be a defining aspect of these inner structures. Palladio's villa plans show an artful combination of rooms of different sizes within a rigidly rectangular plan. In his Quattro Libri he wrote that "there should be large, medium-sized and small rooms, one side by side with the next, so that they can be mutually useful." We can learn from this discipline of working with rooms of related proportion and spatial coherence to offer both a transforming scale to the inner block and a flexible long-term use.

This semester therefore we shall explore how a residential development could be organized within a deep urban block. We wish to propose scenarios that offer characterful daylight and special moments of communal engagement. Our motivation is to create a collection of fine rooms and interior spaces that invite rather than prescribe use. In preparation of this work we will travel to the Veneto and pace through the noble villas of Palladio, measuring and speculating as to the usefulness and appropriateness of a collection of well-defined and finely proportioned rooms to modern-day city living. We shall consider the interfaces between the very public character of urban space and the more private domestic space. The role of a courtyard or multiple courtyards, stairways and landings act as catalysts around which a community may thrive. Our task is to offer insights into how to make architecture that is dignified and humane in scale, rooted in place and metropolitan in character, based on an economy of means and an economy of energy, prepared for an unknown future, while at the same time confident with a powerful presence.

## Studio Krucker Bates Inside the block Living "rooms" in Munich



Calendar WS 2021/2022

Week 1

19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> October

*Introduction to the Semester by Studio Krucker Bates*

*Introduction to exercises one and two*

Assistant tutorials (exercises one and two)

Week 2

25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> October

Assistant tutorials (exercises one and two)

*Introduction to exercise three*

Week 3

2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> November

Excursion to Veneto

Week 4

8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> November

Assistant tutorials (exercises one, two and three)

Week 5

15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> November

*Lecture by Stephen Bates, 11.30 am*

Pin Up 1 with SB and BK (exercises one, two and three)

*Introduction to exercise four*

Week 6

22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup> November

Assistant tutorials (exercises one, two, three and four)

Week 7

29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> November

*Lecture by Bruno Krucker, 11.30 am*

Pin Up 2 with SB and BK (exercises one, two, three and four)

*Introduction to exercises five*

Week 8

6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> December

Assistant tutorials (exercises five)

Week 9

13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> December

*Lecture by Stephen Bates, 11.30 am*

Pin Up 3 with SB and BK (exercises five)

*Introduction exercise six*

Week 10

20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> December

no Assistant tutorials

Week 11 and 12

22<sup>nd</sup> December to 9<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Christmas Holidays

Week 13

10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> January

Assistant tutorials (exercises six)

Week 14

17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> January

*Lecture Munich Plan Presentation*

*Pin Up 4 with SB and BK (exercise six)*

Week 15

24<sup>th</sup>/25<sup>th</sup> January

*Lecture by Bruno Krucker, 11.30 am*

Assistant tutorials (all exercises)

Week 16

31<sup>st</sup> January / 1<sup>st</sup> February

Assistant tutorials (all exercises)

Week 17

7<sup>th</sup> February

Final review with SB, BK and guest critic

Production list

Exercise one: Possibilities

The first exercise we wish you to undertake in groups is a speculation about the possible atmospheric character of living 'inside the block'. We ask you to consider what kind of building this could be: what sets of spaces make it work? Is it a situation that you have experience of? There are likely to be multiple thresholds from the street to the inner room and specific solutions will be required to bring light into the depth of the block. The atmosphere within the block is likely to be quite different from that on the street edge. How does a resident or visitor find their way into and through the block? What potential spatial moments could be incorporated in your design: a particular material atmosphere a structural expression perhaps, or multiple scales of spaces?

We ask you to prepare three images or drawings which are speculative and introduce appropriate and intriguing ideas about both the intimate urban condition of living inside the block but may also present the atmosphere of the room within a configuration. This triptych could have therefore an episodic character, each standing on its own but also linked to form a series. The character of the image should be carefully considered; it could be a 3D rendered drawing, a collage or indeed a photograph of a model made an appropriate scale to transmit the potential atmosphere of the place.

An introduction to this exercise will be given in the first week of the semester.

Exercise four: Building organization

At this stage in the development of your project we ask you to study the internal organisation of your building at a larger scale. Study models at a scale of 1:50 should be produced in white foam board to investigate the internal spatial organisation of your project and the interconnection of different rooms and spaces. These models are not intended to be 'complete', but as tools for studying the relationship between floors and across space. An 'open' approach to the rooms and their projected use should direct your thinking in terms of internal planning. The position of doors and windows, the spatial possibilities for linking spaces and moving through them, large and small spaces with varying ceiling heights should be carefully considered.

An introduction to this exercise will be given in week 5 of the semester.

Exercise six: Small moments

This exercise is intended to allow you to present some of the special situations that you have developed in your design: 'small moments' which reveal the special qualities of your project. These should be described by two to three models made from foamboard and other materials, including coloured paper and precisely detailed models of objects. You will then photograph each 'small moment' model – only a small amount of Photoshop allowed! The view should be taken at eye level and all vertical lines should be precisely vertical – wide angles or distorted views are not acceptable! A high standard of composition and technique is expected, and the image should convey the atmosphere and character of the project within the city fabric. Great care should be given to the making of the models in order to express the atmosphere that you are seeking to achieve. An introduction to this exercise will be given in week 9 of the semester.

Exercise two: Survey: Palladio

A study trip by the Master's students to the Veneto will take place in the third week of the semester. This will include a number of visits to the rural houses designed by Palladio between 1540 and 1560. Each of the 6 villas will be surveyed by the studio working as a team and under the guidance of an individual group. That group will then be responsible for preparing a carefully drawn plan at 1:100 and to agreed graphic guidelines. Ceiling heights are required to be added to the plan. The exercise will give us the opportunity to test out the proportional systems of Palladio and learn from their scale, apportioning and relationship between each other. In parallel to this survey work the Bachelor students will reproduce plan drawings of the same villas from information published in Palladio's Quatro Libri which represented Palladio's idealised versions of the houses. As a collective we will then be able to compare the two plans and appreciate the difference between the drawn and the as built. An introduction to this exercise will be given in the first week of the semester together with a lecture by an expert historian on the theme of Palladio's approach to proportion and planning.

Exercise three: Urban strategy

This exercise requires you to make a 1:200 block model of your given site in Munich and of the wider surrounding area in foamboard and grey card. The model will be produced as a group work and requires both accuracy and careful coordination, so that each site model can be seen as a cluster formed by the models produced by all the groups in the studio. The model can then be used as a tool to help develop a concept for your project. Painted foamboard study models should explore the scale and form of the proposed intervention and its relationship with the immediate context. Having established the formal character of the urban massing, you should make a grey card version of the project to be placed precisely within the site model. While priority will be given to an extensive exploration of different massing options, you will be expected to produce drawings in the form of sketches and schematic plans, sections/elevations. An introduction to this exercise will be given in week 2 of the semester.

Exercise five: Facade

With the knowledge you now have, you will investigate the design of the facades of your project in greater detail. Studies should be made of the 'inner' (courtyard side) and, if it exists, the 'outer' (street side) aspects of the project, so that a particular relationship between the two can be established. Following these studies, you will construct a model of the complete building in foamboard and thick card, with a focus on the detail of the facades at 1:200. One area of detail of the building should be made at a scale of 1:20 so that a deeper understanding of materials and junctions can be established. The manner in which this model is made, and the techniques employed to give detail and texture should be considered very carefully. An introduction to this exercise will be given in week 7 of the semester.

Final review

The final review in early February will consider all the work produced during the semester. In addition, you will be asked to prepare a PDF presentation of your project. It is important that you are able to describe the development of your work accurately and precisely and include models of your final project at 1:200, 1:100, 1:50 and 1:20, the survey plan and initial speculative images. In addition to the material you have already produced you are required to present a 1:200 site plan and plans and sections at 1:100/1:50.

Present / *Digital* / Assistant tutorials Hybrid

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Cover image: N. Davies, M. Peter, B. Mahon