

space&designSTRATEGIES

master curriculum

at Kunstuniversität Linz
(University of Art and Industrial Design Linz)

Academic degree: Master of Arts,
abbreviated to: MA

Decision of the Art and Design Curricular Committee of 2 April 2003,
not prohibited by § 15 para. 3 of the University Studies Act (UniStG) under the reference
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I. Preamble

The space&designSTRATEGIES Master curriculum is a four semester, interdisciplinary programme. It comprises areas of architecture, art, design and media. Based on an extended, critical concept of space, topics emerge at the intersection of public, physical, medial, social, cultural and political spaces which are explored in a varied, speculative and applied manner. The site-specific consequences of the artistic interventions are examined in relation with the users of these spaces. The development of both critical and innovative questioning abilities is considered to be a priority aspect of didactic competence. The central assignment of the students is to develop projects on various spatial phenomena.

This includes the conceptual designs as well as the artistic or artistic-scientific implementation through an interdisciplinary approach. The space-structuring projects can include the entire operational spectrum of prototypical and artistic works, whose physical and digital results are in the context of new concepts of space, and space utilisation. In the core art subject, students acquire the qualifications required for project development and coordination. An annual and interdisciplinary theme is specified, which is didactically explored by means of project-based studies in the form of specific prioritisation with regard to the various aspects of professional practice. In addition to the supported development of an independent artistic position, work groups and teamwork are part of the learning process. Guest lectures and excursions are of great importance complementing education with external lecturers.

II. Qualification profile

1. Teaching and learning objectives

Objectives of the master programme:

Students of the master programme should develop advanced artistic and professional skills in space-related project development and implementation, deepen their specialist knowledge and also acquire the fundamental artistic and theoretical research qualifications for a subsequent doctorate/ PhD programme or postgraduate studies.

Particular emphasis is placed on innovative problem solving on the basis of sound critical analysis. Great importance is also placed on the student's individual specialisation (in a subject-specific or interdisciplinary sense). In this way, students are given optimal support and encouragement in the pursuit of their individual specialisation. Graduates should have the skills they need to make an independent contribution to the development of their profession in a wide range of fields.

2. Career profile

The space&designSTRATEGIES programme enables graduates to work in a wide range of professional fields. The goal is not to train students for one narrowly defined job profile, but instead to teach them to act in a reflective and professional way in response to constantly changing demands within broader and more open professional fields.

The following list of professional fields/specialist areas available to graduates does not purport to be complete, but rather is intended to represent the broad spectrum of potential job opportunities. Graduates of the programme are capable of doing the job both on the design and the production level.

Professional fields/specialist areas:

Spatial installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - exhibitions - stage design - trade fairs - event design - design and development of digital spaces - design of multimedia spaces - art installations
Space strategies Designs and implementations for complex spatial systems (for example, public space, landscape, spatial continuum)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -urban design development and implementation of: - interactive space designs - room immanent CI and CA space designs - landscape designs - virtual spatial systems - documentation of space-related processes - design strategies - analysis, design, and implementation of design objects up to the prototype stage - event and ephemeral architecture
Design strategies Designs and implementations for complex design systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - eco-design - food design - design of dynamic processes (control systems) - sound design - design of virtual spaces

Material technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - creation of models, objects and prototypes using proven and new materials and technologies - display in analog and digital form as well as different media
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The graduates' craftsmanship and their knowledge of material technologies combined with their experience in using digital media also open up professional fields that are not strictly related to space&designSTRATEGIES.

Potential employment opportunities for graduates include conceptually strategic artistic and/or artistic-scientific work for private and public clients in a freelance or institutionally integrated form (e.g. in museums, galleries, art collections, educational institutions) as well as municipalities, in the private sector, education and cultural mediation, media, service sector and other as yet undefined professional fields.

III. Structure of the programme and modules

1. Structure and course of study

The Master curriculum in space&designSTRATEGIES is designed as a four-semester programme with a modular structure. The courses are offered in German and/or English. The programme can also be completed in the English language.

	MODULES	ECTS 120
a)	space&designstrategies module	45
	space&designstrategies (core art subject) (KO)	30
	Transdisciplinary thematic approaches (AG)	15
b)	Integrated Project Study module	15
	Project Study workshop (WS)	6
	Individual project work (IP)	9
c)	Complementary subjects	30
	Free electives (as available)	12
	Excursion (EX)	5
	Technical/artistic skills (TK)	2
	General theory (as available)	11
	<i>(electives from art theory, architectural theory, design theory, media theory and gender studies depending on the courses offered at the University of Art and Industrial Design Linz and other duly recognised higher education institutions)</i>	
d)	Artistic master thesis project/Theoretical master thesis	23
	space&designstrategies master tutorial (PV)	5
	Theory tutorial (LE)	2

2. Suggested schedule of courses for the space & design strategies master programme

1st Semester

space&design strategies module	15
space&designstrategies master course	10
Transdisciplinary thematic approaches	5
Project Study module	5
Project Study workshop	2
Project Study individual project work	3
Complementary subjects	10
Free elective	3
General theory	5
Project Study technical/artistic skills	2

2nd Semester

space&design strategies module	15
space&designstrategies master course	10
Transdisciplinary thematic approaches	5
Project Study module	5
Project Study workshop	2
Project Study individual project work	3
Complementary subjects	10
Free elective	3
General theory	5
Project Study excursion	2

3rd Semester

space&designstrategies module	15
space&designstrategies master course	10
Transdisciplinary thematic approaches	5
Project Study module	5
Project Study workshop	2
Project Study individual project work	3
Complementary subjects	10
Free elective	3
General theory	5

4th Semester

Master thesis	23
space&designstrategies master tutorial (Privatissimum)	5
Theory tutorial	2

IV. Course types

Lectures (VO)

are courses devoted to presenting and transferring knowledge. They mainly take place in the form of lectures. The space&designSTRATEGIES curriculum distinguishes between introductory lectures, which provide an overview; theoretical subjects, which provide specialist knowledge while focusing on the current state of research; and project-oriented lectures, which offer relevant knowledge from a wide range of disciplines in a project-oriented, problem-specific and transdisciplinary way

Seminars (SE)

are courses with ongoing assessment. They serve the purpose of joint reflection on and critical discussion of artistic and/or theoretical issues. Students' own contributions are an integral part of the course. The seminars in the core art subject of the master programme are specifically devoted to reflecting on the work process and discussing the interim results of the artistic and theoretical project work as part of the space&designSTRATEGIES subject.

Discussion courses (KO)

The art instruction of the core art subject takes place in the discussion courses. They are devoted to discussing projects, particularly on the basis of presentations, as well as examining the specialist discourse on relevant art topics.

Excursions (EX)

serve the purpose of illustrating the material learned in the programme and offer students the opportunity to discuss and evaluate particular examples of art/design work and specific issues on site.

Workshops (WS)

are production-oriented, intensive courses devoted to specific aspects of the current project theme. The workshops in the Orientation module (orientation workshops) serve as an introduction to the focuses of the Project Study later in the programme.

Master's tutorial (PV)

Core subject course in the last semester of the master programme which prepares students through one-on-one talks for the final examination.

Working groups (AG)

are found in the "transdisciplinary thematic approaches" course of the Project Study. As part of a study group¹, students work together on a project theme under the supervision of an instructor. This work includes stating the problem on the basis of research and discussion, developing concepts for implementing solutions, discussing and defining the project scope, collecting data and information on the project theme, elaborating the theoretical foundations, carrying out the project planning and project management, overseeing the production and production support, and writing any final documentation.

The "transdisciplinary thematic approaches" course acts as the framework and starting point for the students' group and individual project work. Participation in the "transdisciplinary thematic approaches" course on a year's theme/implementation project is a basic requirement for successfully completing the space&designSTRATEGIES module.

Technical/artistic skills (TK)

These are courses that provide specialised technical knowledge on specific problems of the student's project work. They are designed to help students improve their ability to apply this technical knowledge.

Individual project supervision (IP)

Students receive specific advice and assistance on their individual artistic project work.

Other types of courses are possible in theory subjects and the free electives if courses are offered at other institutions/departments/universities are offered.

¹ A study group consists of 5 - 8 students, depending on the scope and requirements of the respective project.

V. Admission prerequisites and examination

1. Admission prerequisites for the MASTER programme

Bachelor degree in space&designSTRATEGIES or from an equivalent programme (at least 6 semesters) at a duly recognised postsecondary educational institution (university, university of art and industrial design, or university of applied sciences). Applicants with different bachelor degree must take the admission examination.

2. Accreditation of previous studies towards the MASTER programme

Courses from bachelor programmes cannot be credited towards the space&designSTRATEGIES master programme.

3. Knowledge of languages

Students whose native language is not German, are required to provide proof of German language proficiency at the latest when registering for the continuation of studies at the beginning of the third semester. The master programme can also be completed in English. In this case, proof of English language proficiency at level B2 must be provided before the start of the master programme.

VI. Examination rules

1. General examination rules

(1) Course examinations shall be taken in every course listed in the curriculum except for those of the space&designSTRATEGIES module.

These examinations can take the form of presentations of works done within the course, as oral or written examinations, or as written papers. The course instructor shall announce the format of all examinations at the beginning of the course.

(2) In the master programme, comprehensive board examinations shall be taken for the space&designSTRATEGIES modules.

The examination consists of the documentation, presentation, and discussion of an entire project from start to finish. The project of this examination is the same one as the project used in the discussion course of the core subject to study the process of development of a project. The subject examination takes the form of a board examination, consisting of instructors from the Project Study, as well as external experts, in some cases.

All the other modules are assessed based on the individual marks of the courses in the module.

(3) Seminars, discussion courses, and introductory courses are courses with ongoing assessment.

Assessment in these courses is not based on one single examination, but instead on the individual student's regular contributions to the course. Assessment on the basis of a single examination is not permitted.

Students receive a mark between 1 and 5 in seminars, discussion courses, and introductory courses.

(4) Students in workshops, orientation workshops, technical/artistic skills courses, working groups, theory tutorials, excursions, supervisions, and master tutorials receive a mark of "participated with success" (pass) or "participated without success" (fail).

2. Master examination

Students of the space&designSTRATEGIES master programme are required to take a master examination at the end of the programme. Students must have passed all the requirements of the curriculum except the artistic master thesis project in order to take the examination.

The Masters's thesis consists of a project independently designed and implemented by the student and a written theoretical component related to this project.

Both parts of the Master's thesis shall be presented to and assessed by an examination committee chaired by the thesis supervisor.

The Master's examination can also be taken in English.

The assessment grade of the Master's examination is the final grade of the Master's programme.

Final examination: The assessment "passed with distinction" shall replace the assessment "very good".

3. Master thesis

At the end of the master programme, students must do an artistic master thesis project or write a theoretical master thesis. The topic of the artistic master thesis project/theoretical master thesis shall be selected from one of the courses specified in the curriculum of the master programme and shall be agreed upon by the student and the respective supervisor. Whenever possible, students may choose their supervisor. The artistic master thesis project/ theoretical master thesis demonstrates that the student is capable of selecting appropriate content and methods to treat an artistic/theoretical or theoretical topic in an independent fashion.

The artistic master thesis project shall also include a theoretical component that reflects on the practical work and situates it in the context of contemporary art and knowledge production. In terms of scope and standard, the practical part or the scientific Master's thesis to be written independently are to be considered of greater significance in the assessment.

The topic of the Master's thesis shall be chosen in such a way that it is possible and reasonable to complete it within six months.

VII. Academic degree

The title of the academic degree for the Master's degree programme in space&designSTRATEGIES is: „Master of Arts“, abbreviated to „MA“.