

**Rotterdam
Academy
of Architecture
and Urban Design**

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**Master's programmes in
Architecture and Urban Design**

The Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design offers four-year Master's programmes in Architecture and Urban Design.

The Rotterdam Academy is an internationally-oriented Dutch school. While most of our students come from the Netherlands, we also welcome students from abroad visiting the Academy for one year as part of their Master's in their country of origin. We offer a part of our programme in English, and these elements can be attended by both Dutch and international students. This booklet contains a summary of the Dutch content provided in the information brochure.

Gabriela Kopáčiková

Draughtsman at designed by Erick van Egeraat, student Architecture
Preliminary study, Architecture at Brno University of Technology



I came to Rotterdam to obtain work experience for my Master's programme in Czech Republic. I started at Van Bergen Kolpa Architecten where my employer told me about the Academy in Rotterdam and the combination of working and learning. What inspires me about the Academy is that you get to work with architects, but also with people from other disciplines and other interests somehow related to architecture. You get

in touch with a diversity of ideas and approaches which makes it very rich study climate. Rotterdam is *the* place for me when it comes to architecture. Every day on my way to the office I see a different facade. The facade is continuously changing with old and new architecture, development of public spaces and renovations. This diversity and the culture contribute to the international exposure of Rotterdam.

The Master's programmes leading to qualification as an architect and urban designer

The Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design (RAvB) trains its students to become architects and urban designers who are both professionally competent and socially aware. The Academy offers four-year Master's programmes leading to qualification as an architect (M.Arch) or urban designer (M.Urb). The programme focuses on Bachelor's degree graduates who are keen to further deepen and develop their design skills. The programmes combine an academic study with practical work experience. The knowledge, skills and attitude developed within the Academy can be put directly into use in practice; and vice versa, the professional skills you gain from working in practical situations can be applied within the academic study element of the programme.

The Academy offers tailor made study tracks. You will be challenged to develop your own vision as a designer within your professional field. You will also learn to use your design skills as a research instrument.

Education at the Academy is small in scale, as a result of which you will have personal contact with the teaching staff. The horizontal organisation is particularly striking: students can put together their own programme and students in lower and higher years of the programme are taught alongside each other, so they can also learn from each other. Teaching within the study programme is supplemented by input from guest lecturers and speakers from the world of practice. It is therefore a programme by designers for designers!

The Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design

The Academy was founded on the basis of the idea that in the training of architects and urban designers no boundary can be drawn between the role of the designing and building “maker” and the reflective and critical “thinker”. Even today, the focus is still on training designers to be able to think and act, to explore existing possibilities and to develop creative solutions.

Rotterdam

The Academy is based in Rotterdam, the architectural capital of the Netherlands. This city has been at the centre of modern architecture and urban design since the beginning of the twentieth century. The city still attracts leading, experimental and innovative architectural firms such as OMA, MVRDV and Powerhouse Company. Together with institutions such as the Netherlands Architecture Institute (NAi) and the Architecture Institute Rotterdam (AIR), they give shape to Rotterdam’s architectural and urban design climate. The Rotterdam Academy has forged connections with this rich climate by working together with Rotterdam’s professional field on many fronts.

Curriculum

If you come to study at the Academy, you will be combining your work with a study programme. The Master’s programmes leading to qualification as an architect or urban designer compromise academic study elements and practical elements. You will work for an architectural or urban design firm for three to four days a week, in addition to which you will attend classes at the Academy on one evening and one day each week.

Overlap between architecture and urban design

A large part of the taught programme of both Masters is shared. Through intensive cooperation, each discipline benefits from the other’s expertise. Lectures and laboratory sessions are open to both architecture and urban design students. Within the programme of design studio’s, combination studio’s are offered in which both disciplines are addressed.

For designers, by designers

The Academy offers teaching provided by guest lecturers who work in the daily practice of designing, building and research. They are consequently actively involved in current projects and topics. The design studios are led by architects and urban designers. The laboratory sessions and lectures are given by a selection of high-ranking designers, art historians, economists, sociologists and artists.

Practical element

Thanks to the diversity and the character of the Rotterdam's world of design practice, you can choose a workplace that suits you and that allows you to push your own boundaries. Working as a designer and simultaneously studying at the Rotterdam Academy provides training leading to qualification as an architect or urban designer who has both feet on the ground. In the workplace, you will be confronted by everyday reality. The Academy actually gives you the scope to experiment with new instruments and methods.

Study element

The design teaching forms the core of the study element and is supported by the theoretical and skills-based teaching in the form of lectures and laboratory sessions. You will work in small groups with other students in different phases of their studies to allow all the students concerned to gain the maximum benefit from each other's knowledge and skills.

English programme

We offer part of our programme in English. International students can attend English-spoken design studios, laboratory sessions and lectures. The programme can be attended by both Dutch students and international students wishing to study at the Academy for one year as part of a Master's programme in Architecture or Urban Design being followed in their country of origin. This program is only open to students from within European Economic Region (EER) due to the "working and learning" teaching model in combination with rules set by the government that hinder exchange programmes involving students from outside the EER.

Credits

Both the study element and the practical element count for 120 study credits each. The four-year programme comprises 240 study credits in total. In order to promote student mobility both within the Netherlands and internationally, the Academy uses the European study credit system ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System).

International students wanting to study at the Academy for a year can earn 30 ECTS for the study element and 30 ECTS for the practical element. Upon completion of the English-language programme, students will receive a certificate showing the results achieved.

Summer school

Every summer, the Rotterdam Academy of Architecture and Urban Design offers a two-week international architecture summer school in collaboration with the research institute Sustainable Solutions RDM. This summer school is aimed at advanced-level Bachelor's students, Master's students and young professionals in the fields of architecture, urban design and related disciplines.

The summer school offers a masterclass in dealing with a unique yet realistic design problem focusing on a specific location in Rotterdam or the surrounding region. Students from countries all over the world join forces in small groups with a maximum of 12 members, supervised by experienced and inspiring architects and urban designers. A number of experts contribute to the workshops as lecturers or visiting critics. The programme also includes field trips and excursions.

Further information

Visit our website www.ravb.nl/English for further information about studying at the Rotterdam Academy, admission for students from within and outside the European Union and the summer school.

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