

Stadslab European Urban Design Laboratory

Stadslab was founded as a design laboratory and knowledge institute devoted to the new European town. The 2004 accession of 10 new member states and that of Romania and Bulgaria in 2007, has redrawn the map of Europe.

Europe's boundaries consist nowadays of new or relatively new member states, with a substantially less than average GNP per capita. However, it is precisely on the edges of the continent that the greatest dynamics and vitality can be found. These economies are growing faster than the EU average and facing a rapid conversion from their traditional industries towards an economy increasingly based on high-grade technology and know-how. Such unprecedented developments are accompanied by large-scale physical transformations in the field of infrastructure and urban development. Spatial challenges such as these, provide unforeseen opportunities for European exchange of know-how and expertise. Moreover, for contributing to the development of a larger social, economic and spatial cohesion within Europe.

The purpose of Stadslab is to work on these spatial issues together with international groups of professionals. The first Stadslab Master Class (fall semester 2007) has been developed in conjunction with the municipality of Tilburg and its twin city in Poland: Lublin.

Results for hosting cities

Stadslab offers the possibility for hosting-cities to have a real time case examined in one of its Urban Design Master Classes. Participants produce an urban vision or strategic plan, which can serve as a launching platform for new developments in the city. By becoming a hosting-city the municipality will also profit from enhanced urban development results and updated local professionals.

Results for participants

Participants benefit from the experience of real time cases (working within a multidisciplinary network) and the opportunity of being coached by internationally appraised experts.

Beside enhancing one's design qualities, the Master Class program focuses on European project management, and how to deal with issues related to intercultural processes. Participation means becoming part of a substantial urban design related network of European urbanists.

Fontys University of Applied Sciences

Fontys University of Applied Sciences offers an enormous array of higher professional education programs, on Bachelors and Masters level in the Netherlands. In every field of knowledge and professional activity at Fontys, tailored made training programs and courses are offered to individuals, companies, and governmental institutions. The range of activities include research, consultancy and advice work.

Fontys Academy of Architecture and Urbanism

Stadslab European Urban Design Laboratory is part of the Fontys Academy of Architecture in Tilburg. The Academy offers part-time Master courses in Architecture and Urbanism. Studying in conjunction with professional practice forms the keystone to an integrated four-year program. After finishing the program students attain the degree of Master of Architecture (M. Arch.) or Master of Urbanism (M. Urb.). The Academy has a long tradition, during which it gained a distinct character and profile. Approximately 90 students, a staff of 10 professionals and nearly 50 visiting critics annually, create an atmosphere of creativity and ambition.

Stadslab is the Academy's post-graduate program. Separate Master Classes are organised for young and senior designers from the field of architecture, urban design and landscape architecture.

Organisation Stadslab European Urban Design Laboratory

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