

Master in
Architectural
Design
Ecology

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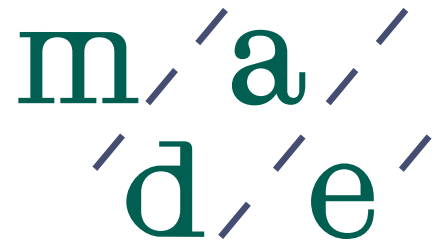
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UNIVERSITAT POLITÈCNICA DE CATALUNYA
BARCELONATECH

Escola Tècnica Superior d'Arquitectura
del Vallès

Master in Architectural Design Ecology



In an increasingly complex professional environment, **made** offers advanced training in architectural design from a perspective that integrates urban ecologies, computational technologies, and architectural discourse. This master's program is designed to equip architects and architectural thinkers with new project methodologies that enable them to develop a systemic and ecological perspective on the architectural scale. Students will be introduced to cutting-edge digital design techniques and will execute their projects through digital and physical prototypes that systematically relate to the city.

Enrolled students will work with internationally experienced faculty and will do so in a landmark city like Barcelona, where architecture plays a central role in urban culture on a global scale. Committed to the value of architecture and public space, the city will serve as a perfect laboratory to test the prototypical nature of the developed projects. The experience of living in Barcelona will enrich the course content with an architectural ecosystem that integrates advanced practices, historical architectural landmarks, a vibrant architectural community, and dynamic public spaces. Students will conduct research that combines theory and technology in an architectural experimentation setting.

about /'made/'

Credits: 60 ECTS

Duration: 12 months

Format: On-site

Schedule: Full-time

Official Master's

with PhD Access

Official Master's Degree

This Master's program is an official degree from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC). Students who excel in the program may enter the UPC Architecture Design PhD program and begin an academic career.

Multidisciplinary Approach

Although led by the Department of Architectural Design, the teaching integrates specialists from Theory and History, Technology, Mathematics, Representation, Computation, and Urban Design.

Professional Development

This program combines critical perspectives with architectural projects in the digital age. In the architectural field, professionals with strong digital skills and an ecosystemic understanding of the city are highly valued and sought after by companies and public administrations.

Graduates of /'made/' will have an international experience and network resulting from their studies, greatly enhancing their professional opportunities.

The ongoing technological advancements in modeling, simulation, and fabrication require architects who are trained for lifelong learning and who have a global perspective on architectural practice and culture.

INTERNATIONALIZATION



The program offers three paths for gaining international experience

① /made/ [Barcelona]

Students complete the entire program at ETSAV. Classes are conducted in English by a team of researchers and faculty with extensive international experience. The program features guest professors from abroad and collaborations with local institutions that lead international initiatives. Additionally, international students from IIT will join the /made/ Barcelona group during Spring term.

② /made/ [Barcelona → Mobility]

Students have the option to participate in a semester-long exchange program with the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) in Chicago. They may spend the second trimester at IIT, taking part in the M.S. program designed specifically for this exchange. International students from IIT will join the /made/ Barcelona group for the second semester.

③ /made/ [Barcelona – Chicago]

Students participating in the /made/ Barcelona-Mobility program who wish to continue can complete a thesis at IIT and earn a dual degree from both UPC and IIT.



./made./ Collaborative Partnerships with Architectural, Professional and Cultural Institutions

./made./ has three key collaborative partnerships

CccB European Prize for Urban Public Space

Through a partnership with the Centre de Cultura Contemporània de Barcelona (CCCB), students gain access to the program and archive associated with the European Prize for Urban Public Space. This initiative systematically brings top thinkers, architects, and urban designers to Barcelona to address issues surrounding public space in Europe.



European Prize for Urban Public Space 2024

COAC Archive

Enrolled students will also have access to the archives of COAC (The Professional Association of Architects of Catalonia), which holds the city's most important architectural archive.

COAC

IIT College of Architecture

./made./ has an exchange and double-degree agreement with the IIT College of Architecture in Chicago. This agreement allows *./made./* students to gain international experience in both Barcelona and Chicago while enhancing their UPC degree with a Master of Science degree from IIT.



Courses

The program
is organized
into three
modules

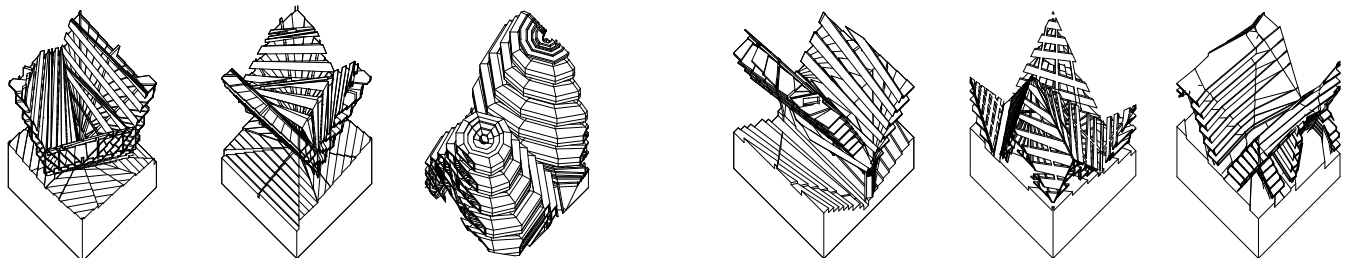
MODULE 1 **Advanced Architectural Design**

Subjects: Fall: Studio I, Advanced Architecture Techniques I
 Spring: Studio II, Advanced Architecture Techniques II

In this module, students will develop speculative design proposals for various sites in Barcelona. They will be introduced to cutting-edge digital design techniques and will create both digital and physical prototypes that systematically engage with the city. This track consists of two components: Studios and Seminars.

Studios focus on individual design-based research projects at different sites in Metropolitan Barcelona.

Seminars explore advanced architectural techniques through hands-on experimentation and include courses on AI, Programming, Parametric Modeling, Digital Fabrication, and Data.



MODULE 2 **Architectural Design Ecology**

Subjects: Fall: Architectural Design Ecology I
 Spring: Architectural Design Ecology II

This module emphasizes the study and analysis of the ecological framework of architectural design, examining topics ranging from theoretical and historical perspectives to urban environments and systems. Led by specialists, this track combines seminars and workshops. The Barcelona Case Studies component introduces students to the city's unique architectural culture, exploring its local characteristics and influences.

MODULE 3 **Advanced Research**

Subjects: Fall: Research Intro I
 Spring: Research Intro II

This module equips students with foundational research techniques and methodologies, enabling them to synthesize their work from Modules 1 and 2 into a comprehensive thesis. It includes two introductory courses on architectural research—one in fall and one in spring—and culminates in a master’s thesis, which is defended at the end of the program.

This track involves collaboration with Mobility Students in a hybrid format, with some work conducted online. Special workshops will focus on archive research and architectural editing, led by global specialists and with the special collaboration of the COAC Archive.

TERMS			
	FALL	SPRING	SUMMER
MODULE – 1 Advanced Architectural Design	Studio I / 12 Ects Advanced Architecture Techniques I / 5 Ects	Studio II / 12 Ects Advanced Architecture Techniques I / 5 Ects	
MODULE – 2 Architectural Design Ecology	Architectural Design Ecology I / 5 Ects	Architectural Design Ecology II/ 5 Ects	
MODULE – 3 Advanced Research	Research Intro I (Hybrid) 3 Ects	Research Intro II (Hybrid) 3 Ects	Thesis 10 Ects

Admissions

The master's program is primarily aimed at:

- Graduates in Architecture
- Graduates in Urban Design
- Graduates in Landscape Architecture

The Academic Committee will exceptionally consider the admission of applicants from other fields of study, such as graduates in Building Science and Technology, Architectural Technology, Civil Engineering, and Construction Engineering. The committee will determine whether additional training modules are required based on the applicant's prior education and demonstrated.

Selection criteria

The Academic Committee will prioritize applications based on the following criteria:

- **Academic Record: (40%)** Evaluation of the applicant's academic transcript
- **Portfolio and Curriculum: (45%)** The digital portfolio must include reproductions of the applicant's projects.
- **Personal Motivation: (15%)** A letter describing the applicant's motivations for enrolling in the master's program, their goals as a student, and their future professional objectives.

Specific Admission Requirements

To enroll in the master's program, students must demonstrate at least a B2 level of proficiency in English. English proficiency will be verified using the certificate equivalency table established by UPC. In exceptional cases where official documentation is unavailable, the program's Academic Committee may establish alternative methods to assess the required English proficiency.

Final admission is contingent upon sufficient proficiency in English, which will be verified through official certification and/or a personal interview.

Once admitted, the candidate must accept the decision in the pre-enrolment application and pay the €300 fee, following the instructions provided in the email. This amount will be deducted from the registration fee once it has been finalized. With the admission document, non-EU students can apply for residence and a study visa.

Additional Training

For applicants who do not meet the recommended entry profile, the Academic Committee will review the case and may grant admission conditional upon the completion of supplementary training. These supplementary courses will be selected from subjects offered in the undergraduate program of the same institution, up to a maximum of 12 ECTS credits. The number of credits and the courses assigned will depend on the applicant's profile and prior academic competencies as reflected in their academic transcript, focusing on design training and architectural culture. While these supplementary courses will involve completing undergraduate subjects, they will be considered master's credits for the purpose of tuition fees. They must be completed prior to starting the master's program.

Application

Pre-enrolment will be open from mid-March to the end of June. Applicants must register and complete the online application form, pay a pre-enrolment fee of €30.21, and upload the required scanned documents before the deadline:

- Diploma and academic record/transcript (with certified translations if the originals are not in Spanish).
- Specific motivation letter.
- Curriculum vitae.
- Digital portfolio.
- ID card or passport.
- English certification at a minimum B2 level.
- Other documents you consider appropriate (e.g., recommendation letter, other certificates, etc.).

The Academic Committee meets monthly, starting in mid-April, to review applications in the order they are received. Applicants will receive an email with the resolution, which will also be available on the pre-enrolment application portal. Admission remains conditional until the veracity of the academic data provided is verified during the enrolment process.

Note: Some scholarships require a pre-admission letter before the application can be accepted. If this applies, please specify the information to be included in the letter and the submission deadline in the application form.

Enrolment

Enrolment will be completed online through [e-secretaria](#).

After enrolling, you will be required to provide all the original documentation uploaded during the pre-enrolment application, duly legalized if applicable. All documents issued in non-EU countries must be legalized and bear the corresponding apostille. Academic certificates issued in a language other than Spanish must be officially translated into Spanish.

To submit the original documentation, you must make an appointment with the administrative office and provide the following:

- Original of your identity document
- Original and photocopy of the homologation credential (if applicable)
- Original and photocopy of the degree certificate
- Personal academic certification (original or certified photocopy) showing the subjects taken, the grades, the number of credits/hours for each, and information about the grading system applied
- Certificate of equivalence of average grades for university studies carried out abroad, issued by the Ministry of Education, Culture, and Sport. Its processing is online and free of charge. More information is available on the [MECD website](#).

You have a guide for documents [legalization here](#)

Fees

You can access to all the information and options on fees, grants and [payments here](#).

Upon arrival at UPC

If you are a foreigner, visit the [International Students Office \(OMI\)](#) at UPC to formalize your academic stay:

- If you are an EU national: You will need to register with the EU Nationals Register.
- If you are a non-EU national: You must check the status of your visa with the [International Students Office](#). For long-stay visas, this must be done as soon as you arrive in Spain.
- If you are a non-EU national who has been studying in another EU country and need to apply for a student visa upon arrival: You must go to the [International Students Office](#), where they will assist you and forward your documents to the corresponding government office in Barcelona to start the application process.

At the OMI, you will also receive information on important aspects of life in Barcelona, including accommodation, student insurance, and more.

/'made/' Campus

The ETSAV School of Architecture and Urbanism is located in the heart of the metropolitan area of Barcelona, which is home to 3.5 million inhabitants. This region serves as a vital hub for knowledge and research, hosting several prestigious universities and attracting approximately 20,000 master's degree students each year.



The campus is situated in Sant Cugat del Vallès, with excellent access to public transportation and road networks. A train runs to downtown Barcelona every 6 minutes, offering a 25-minute journey. On-campus accommodation is also available at the Sant Cugat University Residence.



*Contact
Information*

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For more information,
visit the [school's webpage](#)
on studying at ETSAV.

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08173 Sant Cugat del
Vallès, Barcelona, Spain

*Coordinates
for directions:*
[41°28'11.2"N 2°04'19.7"E](#)