

Port Cities 2

6.4. – 26.5.2024

International Cooperation on the topic of Port Cities

The Sustainability, Heritage and Development of Port Cities Haifa/Israel, Düsseldorf/Germany

Background – Port Cities

Port cities play a defining role in nations' cultural identity and economic strength worldwide. As a landing and formation point for diverse communities and a contact point with distant cultures, port cities flourished with entrepreneurship and became centres of industry, trade, tourism and recreation throughout history.

Düsseldorf – Haifa (Partner Cities)

Haifa – A port city situated along the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Since the 2nd Century, Haifa has been mentioned as a significant city. Today Haifa is the third most populated city in Israel and the largest city in Israel's Northern region. It is a transportation, industrial, commercial, and cultural hub.

Düsseldorf – A port city in the Rhine-Ruhr Region, est. 1288, situated on the banks of the River Rhine and the Düffel tributary. Düsseldorf was a reasonably small city, which grew to become the seventh most populated city in Germany during the 20th Century. The Rhine-Ruhr Region is the largest metropolitan area in Germany. Düsseldorf is a significant German business centre and is home to major telecommunication, aviation, advertising and publishing firms, as well as to banks and insurance agencies. In 2003 the Düsseldorf Port Authority merged with the Neuss Port Authority, a city founded 2000 years ago by the Romans on the western bank of the river Rhine, to create the Neuss-Düsseldorfer Häfen Company, one of the biggest inland ports in Europe.

The Goals of the Cooperation

Current burning issues in the urban redevelopment of port cities include the adaptive reuse of dysfunctional port zones as well as more general issues such as sustainability in transportation, housing and recreation and the economic shifts from heavy industry to the Tech-Data-Info industry, tourism, and services. All of which is in response to a rising acknowledgement of the need for a better work-life balance, side by side with the importance of conserving cities' heritage. A joint academic program including student and academic-staff exchange will concentrate on the following:

- The study of port cities as places of diverse cultural communities, as places of trade and tourism and the understating of their evolution along history.
- The investigation of port cities' current condition concerning present needs.
- The development of port cities in response to future challenges and transformations.
- The proposition of strategies and means for the development of cities according to future needs while maintaining their heritage, sustainability and thriving.

Institutions, Students and Staff Participating in the Program

The Department of Architecture and Education,
The NB School of Design, Wizo, Haifa

The NB School of Design is an academic institution of higher education running Bachelor's degree programs in Architecture, Graphic Design, Fashion Design, Photography and Film. In addition, the School provides a postgraduate Master's degree in the Design of Educational Environments. The Academy sits in downtown Haifa, at the city's historical centre near the marine port.

Students participating in the Program

30 students in their 4th year, studying towards a Bachelor in architecture. In the 4th year of study, the students undertake an urban design studio during the fall Semester and a Complex Mixed-Use Building Studio during the spring semester.

Participating Faculty

Dr Arch. Dana Margalith – Adj. Senior Lecturer – Head of the Department of Architecture. 4th-year students' instructor and a partner at Moshe Margalith Architects and Urban Planners.

Dr Arch. Galil Lichtrov – 4th-year students' instructor and a practising urban planner.

Arch. Michal Baroz (Msc.) – Adj. Senior Lecturer, 4th-year students' instructor and a practising-architect.

Arch. Ori Roner (Msc.) – Adj. Senior Lecturer, 4th-year students' instructor and a founding partner at Kaczor-Ronen Architects.

The Peter Behrens School of Arts – Hochschule Düsseldorf, Germany

The Peter Behrens School of Arts (PBSA) consists of two faculties, Design and Architecture and is part of the Hochschule Düsseldorf, University of Applied Sciences. The Faculty of Architecture runs undergraduate and postgraduate programs with degrees offered in Bachelor of Architecture and Bachelor of Interior Architecture as well as Master of Architecture and Master of Interior Architecture and Master of Civic Design.

Students Participating in the Program

30-40 students in their 1st year of the Master's program, from both areas of Architecture and Civic Design will be taking part in the joint studio.

Participating Faculty

Prof. Arch. Robert Niess – Master's in Architecture instructor, Founding Partner of Chestnutt_Niess Architekten, former Vice Dean of the Architectural Department. *Prof. Dipl. Ing. Jörg Leiser* – Master's in Architecture instructor, Founding Partner at BeL Sozietät für Architektur.

Prof. Dipl. Ing. Christoph Ackermann – Professor of Structural Theory, CEO Consulting Engineering Office.

Düsseldorf City Museum, Germany

The museum is located in the city's centre and exhibits the history of the city with changing exhibitions on art, design and architectural works and provides an active forum for areas related to the environment and sustainability.

Participating Staff

Dr. Susanne Anna – General Director of the museum and a Chief curator.

Ways of Implementation and Time-Table

The purpose of the cooperation is to be the first step of an international program for studying port cities in which other institutions from other countries, such as Jordan, Turkey, Italy, and Cyprus, will participate in the future. It will unfold through a mutual advanced design studio course in which students of architecture from the NB School of Design, Wizo, Haifa and the Peter Behrens School of Arts, Düsseldorf, Germany, will participate. The students participating in the cooperation are equipped

with sufficient background and knowledge in architecture to develop meaningful proposals prior to the beginning of the cooperation. The course will include two weeks of student and staff exchange – a week in Haifa and a week in Düsseldorf.

Detailed Time-Table

Fall Semester (Sept 2022 – Jan 2023)

A 6 contact hours a week (3 credits), Urban Design Studio at the NB School of Design, Wizo, Haifa, will concentrate on the study and development of Haifa as a port city. Resources to be consulted will include documents from various Israeli archives, such as The Israeli Planning Administration, The Council for Conservation of Heritage Sites in Israel, The Haifa Municipality Engineering Administration, The Antiquities Authority, and The Israeli National Library. During this studio, students from the NB School of Design will learn the importance and characteristics of port cities and suggest measures for developing Haifa as a port city in the future. Furthermore, students from Wizo, Haifa, will prepare the documentation to be consulted by the students from Düsseldorf in the 2nd semester.

Spring Semester (Feb 2023 – June 2023)

A 6 contact hours a week (3 credits) mutual studio of the NB School of Design Haifa and the Peter Behrens School of Arts Düsseldorf will concentrate on studying and developing mixed-use compounds in the port cities of Haifa and Düsseldorf. Joint learning sessions will include but are not restricted to mutual lectures, discussions and crits via Web-based video conferencing and cloud platforms.

Feb 2023 – June 2023

Development of planning strategies exemplified in proposals of design projects in Haifa and Düsseldorf. These will demonstrate how the cities can maintain sustainable living environments, considering the multi-cultured heritage on the one hand and future challenges such as industrial commercial and transportation development on the other.

March 2023 (06-12/03 Peter Behrens at Wizo, 13-19/03 Wizo at Peter Behrens)

Student and Staff Exchange to allow familiarization with the two cities and their port areas. Exchanges will include:

- Tours of the city and the port area
- Meetings with locals and representatives of trade, industry, tourism and housing and planning authorities in Düsseldorf and Haifa.
- During the exchange, students will study the development of the two port cities and examine their future challenges and needs.
- Studies will be assembled into a visual pamphlet and an internet website.
- An interactive internet website – freely accessible and streamed to the Düsseldorf City Museum (see the following section) and the municipalities of Düsseldorf and Haifa. The website will exhibit students' work and study in progress.

May 2023 (20/05-04/06/2023 Peter Behrens at Wizo)

Mutual design marathon and presentations.

Summer 2023 – Spring 2024

Exhibitions & Conference

June – July 2023 & April – May 2024

The mutual work will be exhibited at the Düsseldorf City Museum, each exhibition will last 2 months.

Fall 2023

Exhibitions at the Haifa Municipal Museum and Municipality.

October 2023

Mutual conference (Via a web-based video conferencing and cloud platform), which will take place in Düsseldorf and Haifa simultaneously.

Location

The courses will take place at the NB School of Design, Wizo, Haifa and the Peter Behrens School of Arts, Düsseldorf, Germany, two institutions close to the cities' ports. Students from the Peter Behrens School of Arts will spend a week in Haifa, and students of the NB School of Design will spend a week in Düsseldorf. During these visits, tours in the two cities will take place and include trips to the cities and visits to other port cities in the area, heritage sites, neighbourhoods and natural reserves.

Mile Stones

- Documentation of the port cities' history – accessible to the public, based on graphic documents and mapping, illustrating the cities' history and their physical, environmental, cultural and economic features.
- Assessment of the current situation and future challenges – accessible to the public, based on graphic documents and mapping, illustrating the cities' future challenges and the physical, environmental, cultural and economic changes.
- Exhibition of proposals for future development – including design products in 2 and 3 dimensions: drawings, renderings and physical models.
- Exhibition in public venue
- Interactive website
- Travelling Exhibition in Haifa and Düsseldorf.
- Publication of proposals for future development Publication on Haifa and Düsseldorf Port Cities (Haifa Municipal Press & Düsseldorf Municipal Press).
- Joint seminar on Port Cities.

Future Contribution

- The mutual work of students and staff from Germany and Israel will bolster cooperation between the institutions and individuals on personal, professional, educational and national levels.
- The cooperation takes advantage of academic relationships to promote long-term collaboration between institutions, cities and states.