

Choreographic Space

Images and Atmospheres

Master Studio at Innsbruck University
Institut für Gestaltung
Winter Semester 2024-25

Studio lead: Johan Bettum, Ph.D
Studio teacher: Davide Barbieri

Main studio language: English
Secondary studio language: German

*Abstract: **Choreographic Space** introduces students to the idea of architecture as a choreographic device for our immersion in and occupation of architectural space. The choreography of space centres on the human subject and spatial perception. Positing visual perception as the principle mode for guiding our attention in and movement through space, the image and image processing are central to the studio's methodological approach to architectural design.*

*Students in the studio **Choreographic Space** will design a small to medium scale art centre with affiliated accommodation for residencies. The design of the building will centre on choreographic details and spatial depth while also specifying materially specific atmospheric effects.*

Our spatial experience of architecture is directly connected to the formal and material composition and sequencing of physical forms, both structural and non-structural. Through the design of these forms, architecture produces a choreographic environment that is intimately linked to our spatial perception and triggers the profound experience that architecture can offer.

The choreographic dimension of architecture is directly tied to our movement in space - both our corporeal movement and the movement of our eyes. Thus, architecture stirs our visual attention and contributes to our navigating the spatial setting. Spatial depth becomes a choreographic effect framed by apertures and the concatenation of compositional and material interludes.

To adopt a choreographic approach in architectural design is concomitant to projecting our bodily presence into the space-to-be. It embraces compositional counterpoints and polymorphous flows of geometry and bodies in space.

The studio **Choreographic Space** invites its students to explore opportunities in architectural design through this paradigm. The work will commence by engaging with images and contemporary image processing for compositional novelty. By extrapolating on and

devolving spatial depth and contrapuntal compositional moments within the processed images, pre-tectonic architectural mise-en-scènes will be developed and, in turn, deployed for the design of a medium scale art centre with affiliated accommodation for residencies. The building is to be located in Innsbruck or the immediate region around, and the re-use and re-design of an existing building is welcome.

As a choreographic approach to architectural design eventually centres on the human subject and experiential effects, the design process will gradually become material specific. This specificity will exploit the reciprocity of images and materials as it exists in the arts, whether seen in their analogue or digital modes, and be geared to speculate on aesthetic effects and atmospheres as tangible and materially conditioned architectural outcomes.

Choreographic Space requires ample use of physical models in the design process. Moreover, the final design outcome shall be presented with a physical model accompanied by standard architectural documents (plans, sections, elevations, ...).

The practical studio work will be accompanied by theoretical seminars which will be based on a few, short readings. The seminars will offer concrete, architectural examples that support the given design approach. Students are expected to fully master the design task in relation to the studio paradigm as much as conceptually comprehend what the idea of choreographic space might represent for architecture.

Choreographic Space will be conducted in three phases. An informal mid-term review with one or more guests will be held half way in the semester, and the final outcome will be reviewed and discussed in a final review at the end of the semester.

Studio meetings will be held on a weekly basis and usually comprise of assessment of and consultation on the work in progress.