

WHAT CITY LIES WITHIN AN ICONIC BUILDING

IOUD - institute of urban design
825126 PJ Entwerfen 2

Univ.-Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. Peter Trummer
Janna Eberharter, MArch
Luca Zanarini, MArch

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INTRO

The course explores the role of architectural typologies in creating urban environments. By examining the transformation of the house [a small scale architectural object] into larger typologies and urban hybrids, the course aims to discover hidden potentials and reimagine a city block. Through a combination of formal analysis, precedent studies using diagrams, and practical design exercises, students will develop hybrid structures embedded within the urban fabric of Manhattan, New York.

Abstract:

The design studio 'What City Lies Within An Iconic Building' examines the concept of types/typologies in architecture. Typology refers to the classification of buildings, in search for a common idea or vision that will invest architecture with a social and political role. Understanding typologies is essential for architects, as it provides valuable insights into the structure and dynamics of urban environments.

The seminar explores the transformation of iconic houses into urban hybrids, inspired by the concept of O.M.A.'s hyper-building. By reimagining the house as a small-scale object within the context of dense, multi-functional urban structures, conventional architectural boundaries as well as the contemporary city are being challenged.

Participants will study key architectural reference projects, analyze their core design principles, and explore strategies to integrate those principles into large-scale urban forms. Combining theoretical analysis and practical design exercises, the seminar seeks to develop a new approach to urbanism — one that merges the intimacy of dwelling spaces with the complexity of urban infrastructure. The course focuses on integrating architectural designs into hybrid urban structures. Students will explore how larger cityscapes emerge through agglomeration of smaller objects, discovering how individual dwellings can inform and transform broader urban typologies.

The course is structured into three phases: In the first phase, students will analyze and create 3D models of iconic buildings, establish a comprehensive library of architectural icons and discover their formal diagrams. During the second phase, teams of two students will select five icons from the library and develop four distinct diagrams based on these selections. In the final phase, students will design their own hybrid structures within an urban environment (Manhattan, New York). These hybrids will integrate the four typologies, enhanced with essential urban amenities such as transportation, parks, and leisure facilities, creating a new form of urban structure.

Organization:

Each student will analyze their precedent building individually and present their work to the group. Once a library of precedents is established, students continue in groups of two. The objective is to ensure each student gains experience with 3D modeling and communicating their work by drawings, renderings and architectural analysis/diagrams.

Methodology:

The methodology will focus on the development of a design project supported by a strong foundation in analysis and theory. Precedents are being abstracted and analyzed through the lense of the architectural diagram (Le Corbusier Massing Diagrams).

Throughout the course, students will not only engage in the design process but also acquire essential skills in rendering (Blender), 3D modeling (Rhino) as well as visual representation. These technical abilities will be complemented by theoretical foundation allowing students to create designs that are conceptually grounded in the discourse of architecture.

Please bring your laptop with Blender and Rhino installed to every meeting!

SEMESTER PREVIEW:

Pin-Up after every phase

PHASE 1

analysis/diagrams + modeling (Icons)

PHASE 2

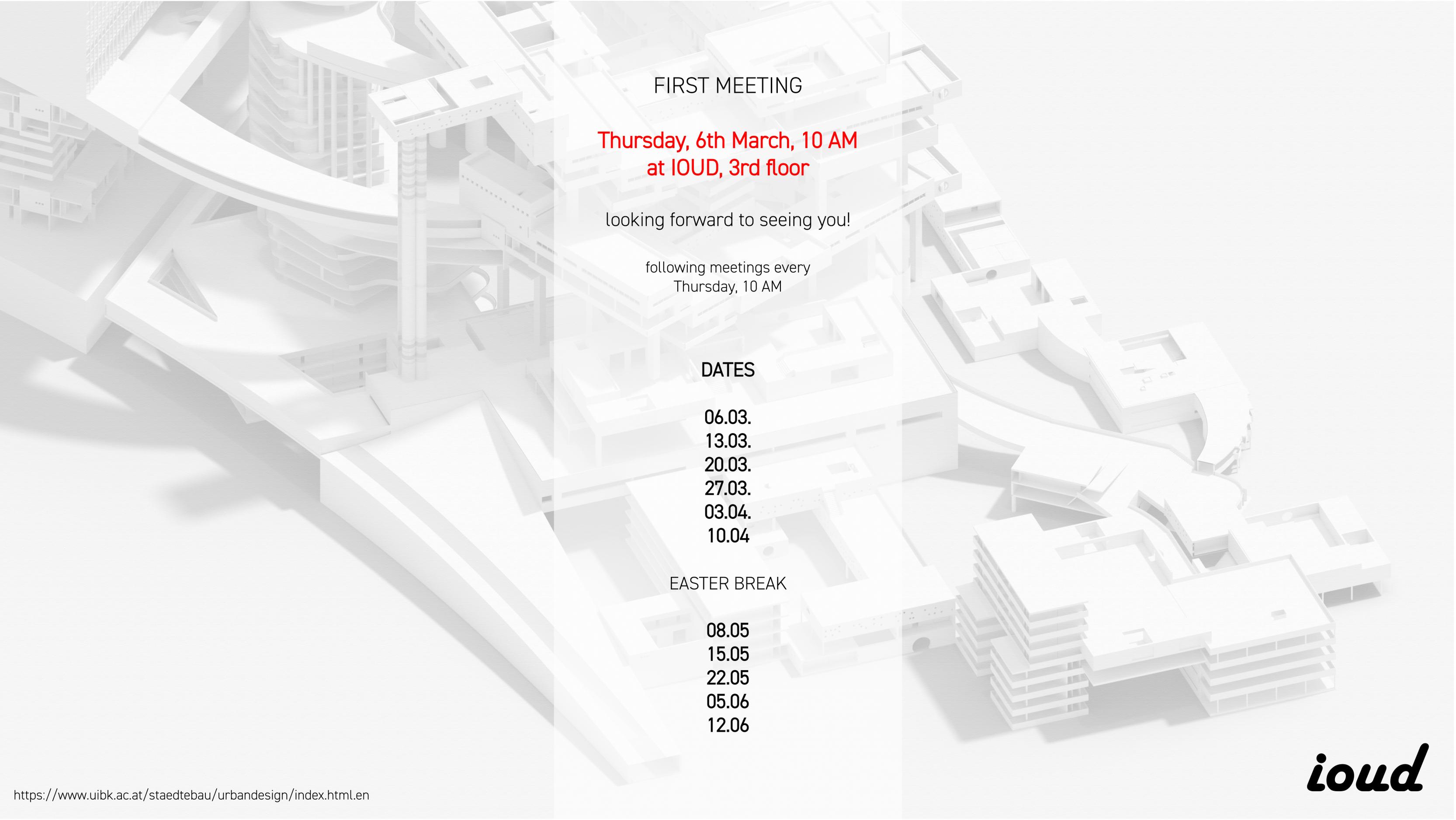
formal diagrams of 4 typologies

typology chunks (by using the 'Icons-Library')

PHASE 3

formal diagram of the hybrid building

design of a hybrid city block

A detailed 3D architectural model of a building complex, rendered in white. The model shows various building volumes, courtyards, and structural elements, viewed from an elevated perspective. The background is a light, neutral color.

FIRST MEETING

**Thursday, 6th March, 10 AM
at IOUD, 3rd floor**

looking forward to seeing you!

following meetings every
Thursday, 10 AM

DATES

06.03.
13.03.
20.03.
27.03.
03.04.
10.04

EASTER BREAK

08.05
15.05
22.05
05.06
12.06

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