Autumn semester 2016
Study trip information sheet

UrbanCulture / LAMU / IA / ENAC / EPFL
AS 2016: Doors to Manhattan - A Hub and a Sport Center in East River Park

• Team

Professor
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Assistants
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• Project theme:

New York City is constantly rebuilding itself – from Manhattan right through to the far reaches of the main districts that make up its urban agglomeration: Brooklyn, Queens, The Bronx and Newark. Following the major financial crisis of the years 1970–2000 and the scars inflicted by the World Trade Center attack in 2001, the city has not been content with merely rebuilding or adding skyscrapers designed by “starchitects” on its urban grid. It is developing projects that engage with its regional environment and landscape, redefining the links between public space, mobility and density in a relevant and meaningful way. Now the projects of the early 21st century have become reality, achieving widespread acclaim: the High Line, the Hudson waterfront, Brooklyn Piers, and – next in line – the East River Projects, public spaces in disused former railway sites or industrial/port facilities which are now hosting major spaces for leisure and recreation.

Over the period 2010–2020, the East River is becoming a focus of attraction and a major development hub in New York. Along its banks, like beads on a necklace, a series of projects is taking shape, transforming its industrial landscape and offering residents of the adjacent districts a new relationship with the river. East River’s changing climate is a key element in the development of these projects, focusing on two aspects of the climate in particular: seasonal changes in the landscape and the management of floods due to increasingly frequent hurricanes.

The East River Skyway project brings together all these interventions, aiming to relieve congestion in the public transport system connecting Brooklyn and Manhattan with an innovative aerial cable car system. LAMU sees this new infrastructure as an opportunity to create hubs of urban density around the cable car stations and proposes the addition of ancillary programmes with a densifying social function.

The Master Plan, therefore, is structured around a new aerial cable car route parallel to Williamsburg Bridge, comprising four stations. These stations aim to connect the East River waterfront districts, which are currently isolated, with districts further inland.

During the two semesters of the 2015–16 academic year, students proposed designs for hubs in the Brooklyn district: in the autumn semester a hub and a complex programme on a disused industrial site; in the spring semester, a hub and a major public space.

For the coming, 2016–17 academic year, students will be crossing East River for their projects, designing hubs for Manhattan. In the autumn semester they will design a hub located in East River Park, combined with a sports facility. In the spring semester, their hub will be located in a block on Manhattan’s urban grid.

• Functional programme:

Cable car mobility hub plus sport center (swimming pool and facilities for other sports)

• Project location and scope:

Sector of East River Park by Williamsburg Bridge, Manhattan, New York City.

• Study trip:

The studio is proposing a study trip to New York for students to research the site and immerse themselves in city’s contemporary urban culture.

Destination: New York. Estimated cost: flight: around CHF 700 / YMCA hostel: from CHF 150 to 300 for four nights NB: a passport or visa valid for travel to the USA is required


• The theory – key reference works:


-Lamunière Inès, Habiter la menace, PPUR, Lausanne, 2006.

-Lamunière Inès, Fо(u)r Cities, PPUR, Lausanne, 2005.

• Teaching language:

French (English)
• Students will be working individually or possibly in pairs