

# ARCHITECTURE OF EXTR-A-CTION

EXPLORING THE REGENERATIVE AND DISTRIBUTIVE POTENTIAL OF URBAN HARVESTING



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**BUILDING BEYOND BORDERS POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE 2021-22**



## **BUILDING BEYOND BORDERS' POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE**

Building Beyond Borders' postgraduate certificate offers a **learn-and-act** programme to **graduates and professionals from over the world**.

Answering the ambition to become a change-maker in the built environment, the postgraduate course aims to enhance knowledge and push action towards **regenerative and distributive design and building processes**. Focus is on responsible ways of building, within a context of scarce resources and lo-tech approach, aiming for a positive environmental impact and high social return.

The programme includes a series of theoretical sessions, lectures, workshops, hands-on experiments and design explorations.

Supported by academic insights participants take up the role of **designer**, **manager** of a building community, **coordinator** of participatory processes or hands-on construction workshops, **developer** or **producer** of new building materials.

They concretise their role in designing and realising a **real-life project** while collaborating with local stakeholders, craftsmen, multidisciplinary experts and professionals.

**International collaboration** to exchange skills and visions is key and reflected in all aspects of the programme and in the mix of its people involved.

The projects will be long-term monitored by the Building Beyond Borders research team, to improve positive impact of future editions and to share the knowledge with initiators around the world.

In doing so, exemplary built interventions and related research will contribute not only to the participants' **personal development** but also to **science** and **society** in a broader perspective.

With its unique pedagogical approach and civic ambition, Hasselt University's Faculty of Architecture and Arts makes the perfect home for Building Beyond Borders.





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## ARCHITECTURE OF EXTR-A-CTION

Every edition of the postgraduate certificate has a **unique focus**. In the first edition, the positive power of locally embedded design and craftsmanship culminated in the realisation of the Women's house of Ouled Merzoug, Morocco. The whole process exceeded the expectations by far thanks to the unconditional commitment of all participants and the local community. The project was designed and built with the utmost dedication to the focus of the course, using local and vernacular materials and techniques and striving for a comfortable indoor climate and a smooth blending in its surroundings. It makes the Women's House a welcoming 'home' for the women of Ouled Merzoug.

In this year's edition- Architecture of Extr-a-ction - we will explore the opportunities of **urban harvesting** to transform the (built) world we live in today into **a system that tries to regenerate and distribute the values it creates more broadly**.

In collaboration with 3 pioneering urban mining enterprises, acting in the city of Brussels, we will dive into all different (scale) levels, ranging from resource extraction, over the (re)production of building materials and components and the design of buildings to the benefits and challenges for the society.

**BC materials**, specialized in "geo-sourcing" will show us how they transform excavated soils from building site into building materials as rammed-earth, compressed-earth blocks and clay plasters. **Sonian Wood Cooperative** will teach us how they manage to harvest trees in the Sonian Forest and transform it to building materials. And finally, we will discover the world of deconstruction and salvaging building materials with **Rotor**.



The journey unravels in 3 stages:

### **Theory and design**

Theoretical backgrounds and critical analysis, designerly exploration, design by research and hands-on experiment are the programme's foundation to rethink the regenerative future of resources, building components, buildings, waste and ensure its positive societal impact.

As part of the theory stage, BC materials, Sonian Wood and Rotor invite you to jointly reflect on their existing operational activities.

Attempting for positive impact on all scales of the built environment - material, component, building, city, society - and within different perspectives – ecological, social, cultural, economical - local as well as global, is key.

Rotor, Sonian and BC materials started small, as start-ups, occupying temporary locations, but now they are scaling-up and aiming to create a positive transformation of the building market by joining forces.

In this process, they are planning a new place of reflection and production in the city.

Your research-by-design journey will revolve around the case of the new knowledge/action centre for these pioneers in the field of circular economy. It is an invitation to create a building that translates the regenerative and distributive potential of urban harvesting spatially

### **Act and develop**

In a living-lab set-up, you will put the theory and design phase into practice and verify the regenerative and distributive potential of urban harvesting. Prototypes, artefacts, small-scale real-life projects and interventions... you define your personal design and develop the spatial/social implementation.

### **Build and reflect**

The four-week internship is the closing piece of the programme. In an exhibition organised by Z33 and curated by BC architects & studies, you will have the opportunity to participate and to activate the exhibition through the organisation of various debates and workshop. The exhibition will function as a laboratory to build artefacts, prototypes and (temporary) event infrastructure together with craftsmen.

Another possibility is to do an internship with one of the 3 pioneers (still to be confirmed and with a limited number of applicants) or an enterprise with a similar focus.

THEORY AND DESIGN	ACT AND DEVELOP	BUILD AND REFLECT
<p><b>regenerative and distributive design methodology</b>  mix of lectures, exercises, workshops and discussions,  thematic sessions:  materials and circular approaches,  socio-cultural aspects,  climate-responsive design,  biodiversity and landscape.</p> <p><b>design studio: exploration</b>  the case of a new knowledge/action centre for 3 pioneering enterprises in the field of urban harvesting</p> <p><b>hands-on experiments and prototyping with regenerative materials</b></p>	<p><b>design studio: project</b></p> <p><b>hands-on experiments and prototyping with regenerative materials</b></p>	<p><b>internship</b></p>
15 ECTS	6 ECTS	9 ECTS
September - January	February - March	April-August
11 class sessions of 8 hours (Friday) & 1 workshop week & 2 two-day-workshops	8 class sessions of 8 hours (Friday) & 1 workshop week	4 weeks

# GEO-SOURCING    BIO-SOURCING    RE-USING

CITY



BUILDING



COMPONENT



## PRACTICALITIES

### The postgraduate certificate is an academic, 30 ECTS programme

#### Organisation

Course language is English. Classes will take place on a weekly basis between the end of September and March. Weekly, 1 full day of 8 hours is divided in a morning session (08:30am – 12:30pm) and an afternoon session (01:30pm – 05:30pm).

Two workshop weeks will be organised, one in September and one in February. The four-week internship will be planned within the months April-May-June-July-August.

#### Study load

Study load per ECTS is 27 hours, meaning that the programme has a study load of 810 hours (27 x 30 ECTS). The programme consists of weekly class sessions and workshop weeks, both with mandatory attendance. In addition, an important part of the postgraduate is spent on self-study on predefined topics framed within specific assignments, and the dissemination of outcomes after the internship. Occasional excursions may be organized. The timing of these excursions is fixed in dialogue.

#### Registration fee

Registration fee is in total 3,500 EUR (excl. VAT). A limited number of scholarships for part of the registration fee is available, based on your financial situation and portfolio. For more information on the availability and conditions for the scholarship, please contact us: [buildingbeyondborders@uhasselt.be](mailto:buildingbeyondborders@uhasselt.be)

The registration fee needs to be paid before the start of the programme. Catering costs during the course days and workshop days and weeks are not included in the registration fee.

For this postgraduate certificate, financial support by means of the Flemish 'KMO-portefeuille' can be obtained (only for Flemish SMEs).

#### Certificate

Participants who succeeded the entire programme are awarded an official postgraduate certificate

'Building Beyond Borders'. In case the participant does not hold a master degree, a certificate permanent education 'Building Beyond Borders' is awarded.

#### Application and entry requirements

Each application is assessed on a case by case basis, which includes the candidate's diploma, CV, portfolio, and personal motivation (all in English). In case of doubt, the performance on an interview is decisive on the applicant's suitability. Commonly accepted degrees are shown below. The list is not exhaustive and candidates are encouraged to contact us for advice about the suitability of degrees, qualifications, performances and/or experiences. The programme is primarily accessible to candidates holding:

- a Belgian master or bachelor degree in disciplines related to designing and/or building of spaces on different scales, and/or designing and/or manufacturing products,
- a foreign master or bachelor degree in disciplines related to designing and/or building of spaces on different scales, and/or designing and/or manufacturing products.

All applicants must be fluent in both spoken and written English.

Maximum number of participants: 25

#### Venue

Classes will take place, partly at The faculty of Architecture and Arts of Hasselt University, Agoralaan Building E, 3590 Diepenbeek, Belgium and partly at BC materials, Avenue du Port 104, 1000 Bruxelles

#### More information?

More information on visa and on living in Belgium can be found on our website [www.buildingbeyondborders.be](http://www.buildingbeyondborders.be)

Please contact us for further information: [buildingbeyondborders@uhasselt.be](mailto:buildingbeyondborders@uhasselt.be).

## **BUILDING BEYOND BORDERS ACADEMIC TEAM**

Nicolas Coeckelberghs  
Elke Knapen  
Jasper Van der Linden  
Griet Verbeeck  
Peggy Winkels

## **DESIGN & BUILD PROJECT ACTORS**

Rotor Deconstruction is a cooperative that organises the reuse of construction materials. They dismantle, process and trade salvaged building components. By trading in salvaged materials, they help reduce the quantity of demolition waste, while offering quality building materials that have a negligible environmental impact.

The Sonian Wood Coop works with forest owners, sawmills, carpenters and other partners to keep the wood from the Sonian Forest as local as possible.

They consider the Sonian Forest as a common good that needs to be managed with respect and responsibility. To create a local alternative to the export of Sonian wood to Asia, the cooperative was launched in 2019. The mission of the Sonian Wood Coop is to relocate the transformation of the wood from the Sonian Forest.

BC materials help contractors, architects and clients to achieve their climate targets, and improve the indoor living quality of their projects. They transform excavated earth of construction sites to local building materials such as clay plasters, compressed earth blocks and rammed earth for walls and floors. These products are circular, carbon neutral, healthy and possess minimal grey energy.

Z33 is a ground-breaking arts institution in Hasselt that works at the intersection of art, design and architecture. It is a safe haven on the periphery with a magnificent new building and a refreshingly diverse programme. It is a rugged playground for artistic research, with its sights set on the world, its feet in the mud, and a heart that beats for talent development, (un)learning, the enjoyment of research and scintillating collaborations.

## INTERESTED IN THE ARCHITECTURE OF EXTR-A-CTION?

visit our website  
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