

**“Between the Bridges”, 10-day international Master Class Amsterdam-Belgrade,  
October 13/23 - 2011.**

**Application procedure is open!**

Belgrade has gone through a transition phase and aims at becoming an open international city, retaining its former status as a focal point in transnational transportation and infrastructure. Cultural life has boosted with many cultural events and institutions, making it a vibrant city and the main center in the whole region. The city was even voted as best night life city in Europe by Times Online, showing its possibility as a tourist destination. In spite of these developments, the city still has a long way to go before being able to fully capitalize on its huge potential.

*New developments; shifting centers.*

The view of the city is dominated by its rivers and the confluence of the Danube and the Sava rivers near the center of the city. The city has a diverse and interesting waterfront profile which is not yet capitalized. Nowadays several investments and harbor redevelopment projects are being developed next to the river, urging for a debate on the larger concept of the riverfronts in the city. The relation between city, waterfront and former harbor areas demands new perspectives on the waterfront and its relation with the larger metropolitan area.

Transportation nodes, such as railway stations, bus stations, passenger terminals or airport are gateways to the city and form important (sub)centers for urban development. In Belgrade, however, the relation between the urban transportation network, city center and central station is not optimized. The potential of this central place is therefore not realized as we tend to see in comparable cities. The area is lacking comfortable urban spaces, good walking routes to the river and the city center and sufficient supporting program.

Another interesting case is the development of New Belgrade, just north of the Save river. This socialist city was developed after WWII and now functions as the major business hub in Serbia. Large developments are being built in this part of Belgrade, such as offices of multinationals, international business hotels and malls. This development leads to an interesting shift in the city as the center is shifting more and more from the historical center over the Sava River to the northern part. In the meantime the old city focuses more and more on tourism, making it a convenient city to stay over.

*Project site; Between the Bridges*

Just in between the bridges connecting the old centre and new Belgrade is an interesting area which might be one of the best connected areas in the city. Still, this area has not been developed to its full potential. The area is connected by bridges over the Sava River, includes the Central train station and might have the best opportunity to develop a natural waterfront next to the river, as it has a flat river bank in contrast to the steep hills next to the river on other urbanized shores. The central area has been neglected and hasn't been able to capitalize its enormous possibilities. Urban regeneration is needed as the smaller project developments tend to neglect the existing qualities of the area and don't seem to be able to realize an upward scope for the whole area. Public space is also quite poor in the area; there are no entrances or interesting lanes to both city center and riverfront. The relationship with the water is not exploited as the area has always been directed with its backside to the water. The area is best connected by car and bus, leading to enormous passage and stalling zones, pollution and heavy traffic. The area is under large pressure of traffic going through the area without contributing to livability in the area.

*Challenges; limits and constrains*

As the connectivity of the area is rather good, accessibility in all terms should be much better.

### *Master Class*

Stadslab European Urban Design Laboratory is preparing an international Master Class in Belgrade. The Master Classes will focus on the area “Between the Bridges”, the most central area of the city connecting the historical center and the business center in New Belgrade. This area needs to be regenerated as all the aspects of an interesting Urban Livable area are present. During the international Master Class participants will produce urban strategies for the area “Between the bridges”. This collective work will visualize the area’s potential and relate it to the larger urban area. Topics that will be discussed are Urban Waterfront development, Urban Mobility, Urban Regeneration and Urban Placemaking. The results of the Master Class will be presented in Belgrade and will be published in international media.

Main themes which will be discussed in the Master Class:

- Urban regeneration; redevelopment of a poor area close to both city center and waterfront;
- Urban waterfront, developing a direct access to the river and its riverfront;
- Urban transportation, improving connectivity and especially accessibility for this central node in the city;
- Public space, improving the poor condition of public space and establishing routing and connections;
- Urban program, searching for a program which corresponds to the challenges the area is facing.

The Master Class is organized as an advanced skills training program for professionals in Architecture, Urban Planning, Landscape Architecture and related fields. During the Master Class participants will combine their international experience with local knowledge of Belgrade, which will be supplied by local participants and various companies, institutes and the planning authorities in Belgrade.

Partners in the organization are the Urban Planning Department of Belgrade, the Serbian Railway and the Belgrade Architecture Week. Urban Planning Department (DRO) of Amsterdam is also involved. In the Master Class we will study the redevelopment of Amsterdam Central Station and the Waterfronts as reference projects for the redevelopment of Belgrade.

The concept of the Master Class is a ten day international design workshops, which kicks off in Amsterdam, followed by an intensive week in Belgrade. The Master Class is planned from 13 till 23 October 2011.

### *Enrollment*

The fee for the Master Class is € 950,-. Early subscribers (before August 16) receive a € 100,- discount.

Included in the fee is:

- This fee includes meals and accommodation in Amsterdam and Belgrade. Also included is the flight from Amsterdam/ Eindhoven to Belgrade
- working materials, booklets and background information.

Stadslab participants are expected to bring their own laptops and software, as well as

a digital camera. Accommodation in both Amsterdam and Belgrade will be provided during the Master Class

*Draft Program*

Thursday 13 October 2011

Arrival in Amsterdam, opening and introduction

*Friday 14 October 2011*

Lectures:       - Marc Glaudemans (Stadslab and professor Urban Strategies) welcome lecture  
                  - Mira Milanovic (urbanist City of Amsterdam)– Generic evolution of the city related to its transportation and water system, a comparison between Amsterdam and Belgrade

Field Trip Amsterdam: Central station and the northern river front of Overhoeks

*Saturday 15 October 2011*

Lectures:       - Tatjana Trzin (principal at T R Z I N bv) on architectural development in Belgrade  
                  - waterfront development

Field Trip:      IJburg, Eastern Harbor, KNSM, JAVA and Borneo-Sporenburg, Western Harbor

*Sunday 16 October 2011*

Travel to Belgrade

First tour through Belgrade

Welcome dinner with stakeholders and partners

*Monday 17 October 2011*

Day-opening: information on Transportation systems

Field trip: design location and environs, routing and relations, boat tour over the Sava and Danube and public transportation,

Design Studio: analysis, SWOT, split into four groups looking at a direction and a theme:

- north-river front development
- west- transportation
- south - public space and green
- east - tourism

Presentation: short plenary presentation of today's work

*Tuesday 18 October 2011*

Day-opening: information on Water systems

Design studio: collecting information, concepts and defining strategic agenda for the area

Presentation: short plenary presentation of today's work to various partners

*Wednesday 19 October*

Lecture: Tourism

Design studio: completing strategic agenda, working on masterplanning and branding concepts

Presentation: short plenary presentation of today's work to various partners, first step to final presentation

Open lecture by Igor Marko on Placemaking

*Thursday 20 October*

Lecture: public space and landscaping

Design studio: fine-tuning strategic agenda, completing branding concepts and Masterplanning

Presentation: short plenary presentation of today's work

*Friday 21 October*

Design studio: finalizing results, fine-tuning presentation

Public presentation: presentation to partners, stakeholders and the public.

*Saturday 22 October*

Design studio: wrap up, finalizing results and documentation

Field Trip: Belgrade and its surroundings

*Sunday 23 October*

Travel back home