

ABOVE

hidden opportunities
of the urban roofscape

As a consequence of the recent pandemic period, health issues of the urban habitat are needed to be rethought. The global lockdown has drawn attention to the importance of accessible open-air areas for citizens. Balconies, terraces, and other open-air additions of the private apartment should not be regarded as luxurious features anymore, but necessary elements to preserve physical and mental wellbeing. The aim of this course is to find ways to improve the quality of human life in densely populated residential areas by activating untapped opportunities of the existing physical infrastructure. We focus on the flat roofscape of multistorey buildings as such an element. We will make research and develop design proposals about the possible utilization of the currently unused roof surfaces and look for interventions that add significant use value to these abandoned areas with simple means. The scene under investigation is the 13th district of Budapest that has a great variety of realized mass housing projects from different eras.

In the first weeks of the semester, we are going to learn about the spatial, social, and environmental issues of the state of being in a vertically high physical position in an urban context. Then we focus on Budapest's 13th district and following common local discovery, students will make their own design proposals that deal with issues of "living above".