

BME URBAN CAMPUS/
Building International Communities
at the Site of a Technical University
and Beyond

COMPREHENSIVE
DESIGN 1.

Coursecode /

BMEEPUIQ811, BMEEPUIM1KX,

Credits /

10

Tutors /

Gergely Hory PhD

2024/2025/II



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Although the attractiveness of a university is primarily dependent on the quality of its educational program, the physical environment in which it takes place is also a highly relevant factor. The interior and exterior spaces of a university can provide supportive context for various human activities from the simplest bodily movements to the complex mental processes of concentrated learning. However, the physical setting can also easily turn to be an obstacle as well: it can disable creativity, motivation and effectiveness.

The general theme of the Comprehensive Design Studio is the *university campus*. Our special focus is not on formal educational spaces such as lecture halls, seminar rooms, or laboratories: we put an emphasis on those services that supplement these and contribute directly to the social and mental wellbeing of the users of the campus. We develop programs with an assembly of functions that can strengthen the sense of being part of a community. These can be informal learning spaces that – unlike for instance a highly restricted library rooms – are flexible enough to enable group work, and other forms of creative interactions; community spaces dedicated to free time; student housing with an emphasis on shared areas; any other function easily available to the citizens of the university and increase the quality of their social lives.

Community spaces with carefully designed programs and spaces are of special importance for international students, since they are far away from their familiar social network. A university campus should not be regarded simply as a collection of educational buildings: it is to be developed into an area with multiple functions serving inclusively the demands of its users. The campus is not just a place where you attend classes, it is also a place where you live your everyday life.



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Our site of intervention is the historic campus of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics and its close surrounding. There is a peculiarity about this site: we use it everyday, unlike in most design projects, we are highly involved. The task provides a chance to rethink your relationship to the campus and develop a critical understanding of its spaces.

In the beginning of the semester we learn about the history of the campus, discover less known and well known buildings, investigate formal and informal community spaces of the campus and identify the most important challenges about the development of social life. In the first weeks you work in teams about an urban concept dealing with a designated part of the campus. As a result of this phase you develop a program with a number of functions and buildings. After this part everyone will work individually on one building that is part of the urban concept.

By the end of the semester you have to develop the architectural design of a new building in 1:100 scale supplemented with special engineering tasks.

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