



Arch 305/407: Vertical Studio A  
Maha Nasrallah & Karim Nader  
(with the participation of Abdul Halim Jabr)



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#### Course Information

\*\*\*\*\* is a vertical studio offered to third and fourth year students.  
7 credit course – Class meets thrice a week.

#### Course Objectives

- To reassess the basics: making sure the fundamental knowledge of representation (2D and 3D), planning, structure, circulation, has been mastered.
- To learn to develop a program for a luxury hotel building/complex.
- To know how to choose a relevant site with respect to a hotel concept and program.
- To develop a hotel design in detail.
- To create exquisite quality representations 2D and 3D.
- To be passionate about architecture, responsible, and self-motivated in preparation for FYP.
- To develop the craft of making models, drawing, sketching, and presenting.
- To be professional, timely, rigorous.
- To be inspired in order to inspire.

#### Course Description

As in a dream,  
To live in an imagined sequence of images,  
To create the space of a lived fantasy,  
To reach for the stars.

\*

This studio will be an opportunity to build a dream space for the traveller. Ignited by the fire of desire: a fantasy room amidst an imaginary context, this initial sparkle will be confronted with the constraints of program, context and material selection to be finally developed into a fully-fledged five star 'designer-hotel' concept.

\*

The room will be the embryo of the whole creation. There will be no limits to the fantasy: it can be ecological, business oriented, or alternative holiday type. It can be a tiny capsule in a crowded city, a stone grotto in the mountain, or an underwater pod in the mediterranean. It can be a renovation of an old structure, a high-tech construction in the city, or a primitive eco-touristic concept. You will have to invent, you will have to want, you will have to choose. Represented through photo-real images, this (a)typical room will be the conceptual key to the whole project, and an actual part of the whole that is yet to come.

\*

After a phase of thorough research of site, technical programming, relevant case study analysis and material sample research, every student will develop a complete project brief that will be developed into the five star hotel concept that will answer the measurable constraints of servicing, structure, construction, applicable building laws in order to reach, once again, to the immeasurable space of lived poetry.

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Let us live in our dreams.  
Let us dream of better places.  
Let us build to better dream.

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#### Process

Every week, class will meet twice for four hours. Monday and Friday sessions are dedicated for pin-ups and feedback. You are required to come on Wednesdays as well for a working session and in class screenings of documentaries, movies, etc...

#### Deliverables

You will be required to fully develop and professionally present one project during the course of this semester. You are required to submit all of the specified material without exceptions at the correct scale, in the correct medium and in the correct formats. Any additional items that you would choose to add to the presentation should be discussed with the instructor.

#### Grading

Part I: The Room	20%
Part II: Base Research: Site, Program, Case Study	20%
Part III: Hotel	50%
Participation, attendance and progress	10%

Total	100%
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#### Discipline

On every session you are required to be on-time in class, that is: not outside in the lobby, nor on the street. Attendance will be taken at 2:00 pm SHARP at the beginning of every session. You are required to stay in the studio or pin-up area during the whole length of the session until 6pm. Absence or late-coming to a presentation will also result in a 40 for the presentation. Unjustified absences will be counted, and unless you bring a medical report, you get a 40 on the presentation. Whenever we take a 10 min break, you are required to be BACK IN CLASS after 10 minutes. Mobile phones should be completely silent during class time.

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Project I: The Dream Room

In preparation for the hotel concept you are to start by the creation of a dream room. There will be no limits to the fantasy: it can be ecological, business oriented, or alternative holiday type. It can be a tiny capsule in a crowded city, a stone grotto in the mountain, or an underwater pod in the mediterranean. It can be a renovation of an old structure, a high-tech construction in the city, or a primitive eco-touristic concept. You will have to invent, you will have to want, you will have to choose. Represented through photoreal images, this (a)typical room will be the conceptual key to the whole project, and an actual part of the whole that is yet to come.

Program:

Sleeping space

Entertainment space (to be defined)

Storage (minimum one suitcase to infinity)

Hygienic / Body Care space (to be defined)

En suite (from zero to infinity)

Dream room area: from a minimum of a sleeping mattress area to infinity.

Deliverables:

- All plans, sections, elevations at 1/50 (Hand drawn)
- 6 x 3D views in imaginary context combined with experiential poetry (could be: pastels, oil paint, watercolors or collage, in color, hand made) 3 views indoor, 3 views outdoor.
- Model in imaginary context at scale 1/50 (maximum 3 materials, glue allowed)

Due Dates:

Feb 15th @ 2pm: 4 colored images. The dream. Pin-Up.

Feb 20th @ 2pm: revision of images, sketch model, sketch drawings. Pin-Up.

Feb 25th @ 2pm: Final Due Date.

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Course Calendar

Week #	Date	Content
1	Feb 11	Course Intro - Syllabus - Project 1: The Dream Room.
	Feb 13	
	Feb 15	
2	Feb 18	
	Feb 20	Karim back
	Feb 22	
3	Feb 25	Due Date: The Dream Room
	Feb 27	Site/Program
	Feb 29	
4	Mar 03	Pin-up 1
	Mar 05	
	Mar 07	Pin-up 2
5	Mar 10	
	Mar 12	Pin-up 3
	Mar 14	
6	Mar 17	
	Mar 19	Final Pin-up Site/Program
	Mar 21	Easter
7	Mar 24	Easter
	Mar 26	Concept
	Mar 28	
8	Mar 31	
	Apr 02	
	Apr 04	
9	Apr 07	Project Development
	Apr 09	
	Apr 11	
10	Apr 14	
	Apr 16	
	Apr 18	Pin-up
11	Apr 21	

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	Apr 23	Final Review Project Development
	Apr 25	Easter
12	Apr 28	Easter
	Apr 30	Finalizing
	May 02	
13	May 05	
	May 07	
	May 09	
14	May 12	
	May 14	
	May 16	
15	May 19	Presentation
	May 21	Presentation
	May 23	Presentation
16	May 27	Final Jury