

ERASMUS+
Blended Intensive Program academic year 2026

THE MUSE AND THE SPACE
Workshop in Berlin, April 24th - May 2nd / 2026



Erasmus+ cooperation:

University of Campania L. Vanvitelli, Napoli/Italy
Hochschule Anhalt, Dessau/Germany
University of Thessaly, Volos/Greece
ENSA, Nantes/France
Technical University of Eindhoven (TUE)/Netherlands
University of Valencia /Spain

Professors: Corrado Di Domenico/Johannes Kalvelage/Cornelia Bottner/Vaso Trova/Jean-Marie Beslou/Jochem Groenland/

Maite Palomares/Jose Duran

Lectures: Alfred Jacoby/Martin Rein-Cano/Carmen Andriani /Luca Molinari/Like Bijlsma/Pino Musi/Lino Fiorito

Objective and Description:

The workshop of the second semester 2026, is a part of a cycle of international design experiences with the students, in the setting of a collaboration between different European Universities gathered around a multilateral inter-institutional agreement (IIA), starting by 2018 with the international workshop "Stories from the Cities" organized by the DADI-Vanvitelli and DIA-Anhalt. The last four workshops (2022-2025) were based on the idea of "Organic Design", and the next (June 2026) will be in Nantes in order to continue with the cycle focused on the general research program.

This year, the program collects six European universities (from Italy to Germany, to Netherlands, Greece, France and Spain) and the workshop will be hosted by the prestigious institution of the Aedes Architecture Forum in Berlin - ANBC "The Network Campus" that affiliates both the Anhalt and the Vanvitelli Universities as partners.

The topic is about the experience of the space in a precise typology of building, *the museum*, that - especially in the city of Berlin - is particularly inspired by a huge architectural culture, starting from the Schinkel's urban program, passing through the visions of Wim Wenders in Potsdamer Platz, or the very special buildings in Kulturforum. The museum is probably an exception in the public buildings because gathers special characteristics, both social and intimate.

Moreover, the museum, despite being a 'specialized building', is also an essential kind of experience and represents a *unicum* in the architectural space, hosting works of art, and not least, a very inspiring place for the collective life in the city. It's not about the design of the exhibition in the museums, but on the idea that the space could be an

exhibition itself, wondering in the discovery of its qualities. So, the exhibition becomes *the light* (think about the Kimbell Art by L. Kahn), or *the path* (Guggenheim by F.L. Wright or Silkeborg Museum by Jorn Utzon), or *the shadows* (Tour des Ombres by L. Corbusier), or the *urban system* (K.F. Schinkel's Altes museum).

The idea of Museum can become such an *ideal* type of space, inspired by art and creativeness for the masses, active and experienced for everyone. Collective and possibly anarchical space because of the art. So, the topic with its the design strategies will be investigated in some important prototypes of space set up in a few exemplar museums.

Finally: the word "Museum" comes from *the Muses*, Greek feminine gods considered to be the source of the knowledge embodied in the poetry, lyric songs, and myths. Place of inspiration, space of the mind and creative excitement, the museum is also in the ancient tradition a first building, "The *Mouseion*", the *house of the Muses* in the great *Library of Alexandria of Egypt*.

Are the Muses still inspiring the civilization with the art and poetry?

This workshop will investigate the possibilities of the 'architecture of inspiration' and the formal results of the students' groups design experimentations.

Methods and Outcome:

Lectures, panels, site visits and table work will be the main activities of participants investigating and identifying collaboratively the potentials of the space in terms of experience and perception. Some basic visits will be mainly in the Charlottenhof complex, and the Altes Museum by K.F. Schinkel as well as the Neue National Galerie by Mies Van der Rhoë. After these three unique examples, the students can investigate other spatial possibilities researched in other museums especially considering their relationship with the city and the collective and public spaces. The approach will be essentially the use of drawings and models to build up the idea of an *experimental space*, democratic and collective, that each group of designers develops starting from their specific investigation and theory.

The participation will finally give 3 ECTS to the students.

Program / Calendar

Online (BIP virtual component): 30.3.2026 and 15.5.2026

Starting from 30.4.2025 the BIP will be initialized by a preparative stage of online meetings (Ms Teams) dedicated to an introduction and the assignment of specific tasks to be performed during the workshop in Berlin. A second stage of online cooperation will be undertaken until 15.5.2026 regarding the results of the workshop.

@ AEDES (Berlin): 24.4.2026 - 2.5.2026

Workshop with seminars, lecture and design team activity in the Aedes Metro Lab.

- *Thursday 23rd April:* Arrival / aperitivo in ANCB
- *Friday 24:* Workshop opening - opening Lectures (invited lecturers)
- *Saturday 25:* Visit to Charlottenhof - opening Lectures (invited lecturers)
- *Sunday 26:* Visit to Altes Museum and New National Gallery
- *Monday 27:* First day work / lectures (BIP professors) and presentations
- *Tuesday 28:* Second day work / lectures (BIP professors) - discussions
- *Wednesday 29:* Third day work / lectures (BIP professors) - discussions
- *Thursday 30:* Fourth day work
- *Friday 1st May: (bank holiday)* Fifth day - independent organisation /
- *Saturday 2:* Sixth day work / Presentation of the students / final discussion
- Farewell Party ——
- *Sunday 3:* Departure