Masterclasses: Complexity in Urban Area Development and the Power of Design

Introduction

The complexity of urban issues means that in urban area developments it is increasingly about agility and flexibility in realising plans, collaboration between different commissioning parties and a cross-disciplinary approach involving all the separate fields of expertise. How can the changes occurring in society effectively be given direction in this context? In terms of social relevancy, the role of thinking through issues by the act of design – so that process and design lead conjointly to realisation – is a promising prospect. Since 2005, the Faculty of Architecture at TU Delft has taught the elective course Design in Process, Process in Design.

sLIM series 2016, 22 April, 20 May and 10 June

sLIM (Stichting leergang intensief meervoudig ruimtegebruik) stands for education on intensified mixed-use spatial design. This foundation was set up in 2002 by the High-Rise Foundation. For one of the most densely populated countries in the world – the Netherlands – the foundation believes that intensive, mixed-use urban planning is a socially relevant subject, today and for the future. sLIM focuses on sharing (international) expertise with students and practising professionals. Their objectives are that academic research and practical experience will reciprocally inspire, enrich and strengthen each other.

TU Delft

sLIM

Complexity and the role of design

Current developments such as climate change, energy transitions, technological development and the changing role of governments mean that a new approach to urban development is required. An important question is, where do the responsibilities of the public sector end and where do those of the private sector begin?
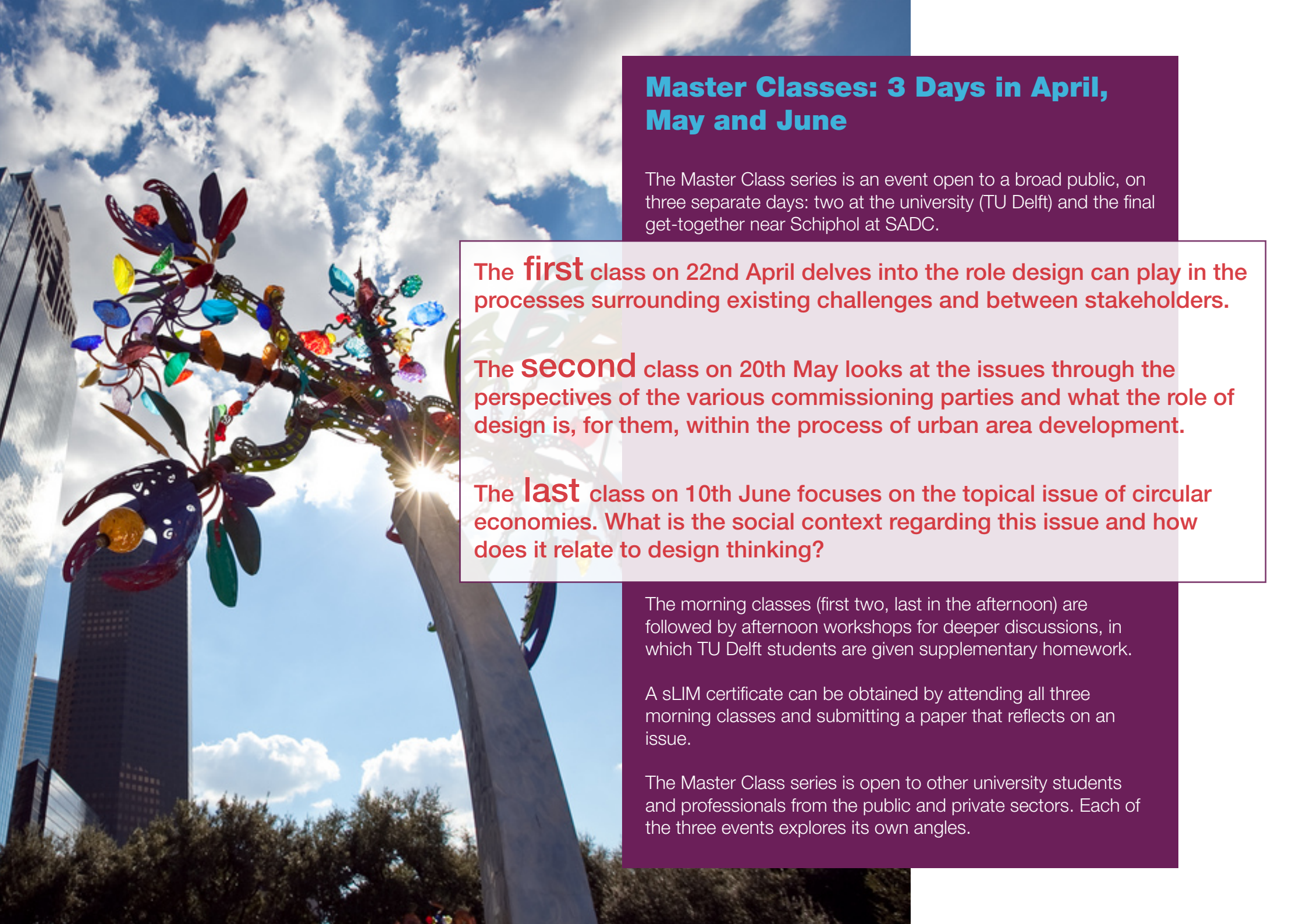
After a century of government initiatives, this century is now needing to find a new balance of tasks between government, market and civil society. According to economist Mazzucato, private money follows public money. This is certainly true if we look at the large-scale urban challenges. It is important that government authorities make clear choices and establish policies that express and steer social developments in specified ways, that they invest and bear the risks in this, and that they safeguard continuity. Identifying and outlining a long-term perspective contributes to minimising uncertainties and helps to attract investors.

The focus is on the roles that actors have within urban development, how information is shared and knowledge is exchanged, and how this is reflected in the products – the designs, master plans and zoning plans – that take shape in the urban development process.

The basic premise for the Master Classes is the complexity of current urban challenges.

One of the aspects explored is how to develop new methodologies to assess problems (frame creation), rather than focusing directly on trying to find solutions. Specific attention will be paid to the various invested parties: government authorities, private investors and citizens, and the role of spatial design professions in, for example, mediation and co-creation solutions.

Master Classes: 3 Days in April, May and June

The Master Class series is an event open to a broad public, on three separate days: two at the university (TU Delft) and the final get-together near Schiphol at SADC.

The **first** class on 22nd April delves into the role design can play in the processes surrounding existing challenges and between stakeholders.

The **second** class on 20th May looks at the issues through the perspectives of the various commissioning parties and what the role of design is, for them, within the process of urban area development.

The **last** class on 10th June focuses on the topical issue of circular economies. What is the social context regarding this issue and how does it relate to design thinking?

The morning classes (first two, last in the afternoon) are followed by afternoon workshops for deeper discussions, in which TU Delft students are given supplementary homework.

A sLIM certificate can be obtained by attending all three morning classes and submitting a paper that reflects on an issue.

The Master Class series is open to other university students and professionals from the public and private sectors. Each of the three events explores its own angles.

Masterclass 1: Complex processes and the power of design (April, 22)

In the first Master Class Egbert Stolk will give an introduction by presenting his PhD research findings. In his research he has looked at design processes at the individual, group and collective level, including the interactions that occurred in between. These design processes take place in complex surroundings. Design is a tool that supports actions in complex surroundings; it can help to deal with and visualise uncertainties and to deal with changes in society.

Also Rients Dijkstra, newly appointed professor of Urban Design, will give a talk on his experience in the Netherlands and England. Which process-oriented obstacles does an urban designer run into, how can they influence and guide these and how can they design in a way that combats the obstacles? As counter speaker Koen de Boo (spatial design firm Plein 06) will reflect on the various opportunities to steer results during the process and on how showing different types of designs can make a difference at certain moments. Koen de Boo (spatial design firm Plein 06) will respond to these issues and reflect on the various opportunities to steer results during the process and on how showing different types of designs can make a difference at certain moments.

Program (April, 22)

09:15 – 09:30	**Walk in coffee time**
09:30 – 10:00	**Welcome + introduction PhD research** Egbert Stolk (TU Delft)
10:00 – 10:45	**Lessons from practical experiences** Rients Dijkstra (TU Delft)
10:45 – 11:00	**BREAK**
11:00 – 12:00	**Reflection on design challenges** Koen de Boo (Plein06) Egbert Stolk (TU Delft)

Location

Faculteit Bouwkunde TU Delft (Gebouw 8), Zaal C
Julianalaan 134
2628 BL Delft
Route

Masterclass 2: From the perspective of the client (May, 20)

Agnes Franzen (SKG) will present the various viewpoints of commissioning parties – in their capacity to steer choices – and how to look at the role of the design within a development process from their perspective.

The core issue: How do public and private sector clients use the design at strategic points in the process? Special attention will be given to generalised master plans and concept development.

This introduction will be followed by a debate involving public and private sector players as well as practising design professionals:

- Public
  Miranda Reitsma (Reitsma Stedebouw)
  Ton Schaap (Municipality of Amsterdam)
  Gijs van den Boomen (KuiperCompagnons)

- Private
  Hans-Hugo Smit (BPD)
  Reimar von Meding (KAW)
  Maarten Janssen (Amvest)

Program (May, 20)

09:15 – 09:30	**Walk in coffee time**
09:30 – 10:15	**Welcome + introduction** Agnes Franzen (SKG)
10:15 – 11:00	**Design role from public perspective** Ton Schaap (Municipality of Amsterdam) Gijs van den Boomen (KuiperCompagnons) Miranda Reitsma (Reitsma Stedebouw)
11:00 – 11:15	**BREAK**
11:15 – 12:00	**Design role from private perspective** Hans-Hugo Smit (BPD) Reimar von Meding (KAW) Maarten Janssen (Amvest)
12:00 – 12:15	**Closing remarks** Agnes Franzen (SKG)

Location

Faculteit Techniek Bestuur en Management (TBM)
Zaal: TBM-Multifunctional Classroom I
Jaffalaan 5
2628 BX Delft
Route

Masterclass 3: The circular economy and the role of design in organisational forces at local urban levels (June, 10)

In the concluding Master Class, the theme of a circular economy – closing the circles of industry/production – will be the central focus. Water, energy and raw materials: these should be recycled, staying within the entire life cycle as much as possible. But all too often discussions linger at the level of desirability rather than advancing to the most important challenge: how do we organise this? Changes at the scale of an urban area are overlooked while the focus is often on the global scale – on which we can have little impact. The crucial question: how can design contribute to formulating a communal vision for circular challenges?

The afternoon starts with an introduction by the new professor of Urban Development Management (TUD) Ellen van Bueren. This is followed by a talk by Dr Catalina Turcu, Lecturer at the Bartlett School of Planning, Faculty of the Built Environment. Both speakers will reflect on an actual case regarding a circular development on the urban area scale. Ellen van Bueren will elaborate on the Dutch development of Schiphol Tradepark, a business park with high sustainable ambitions and showcase for transition to a circular economy. Catalina Turcu will bring a UK-case to the table. Focus in both lectures will be will be on the actors, joint ambitions, complexities, the questions 'how do they do it' and 'what is the role of design'?

John Nederstigt, Councillor for sustainable economy at the Municipality of Haarlemmermeer and Jeanet van Antwerpen (SADC) respond / are the counter speakers.

Program (June, 10)

13:30 – 14:00	**Walk in coffee time**
14:00 – 14:20	**Welcome + introduction Case Schiphol and circular economy** Ellen van Bueren (TU Delft)
14:20 – 15:10	**UK Case** Catalina Turcu (Bartlett School of Planning)
15:10 – 15:30	**BREAK**
15:30 – 16:15	**Two guest referees** Jeanet van Antwerpen (SADC) John Nederstigt (Municipality of Haarlemmermeer)
16:15 – 16:45	**Discussion**
16:45 – 17:00	**Closing remarks** Ellen van Bueren (TU Delft)
17:00	**Drinks**

Location

SADC, room Multizaal
Evert van de Beekstraat 356
1118 CZ Schiphol
Route (Parking only available at P22)