



*Sala Beckett
Flores i Prats*

*...like entering a time tunnel, taking us back to the moment where it was used as a meeting place,
small theatre, public house and a place for gatherings and parties.*

Project 2

Hybrid Typologies: Program + *Polyvalence*

ARC 4546 02 | Architectural Design IVB

Spring 2026

The personality of the hybrid is a celebration of complexity, diversity, and variety of programs. It is the crucible for a mixture of different interdependent activities. The hybrid building is a self-tribute to the individual creation of the architect. Each hybrid is a unique creation, without previous models. The very building comes from an innovative idea, which is resolved against the established combination of usual programs and bases its reason for existence on the novelty of the approach and the unexpected mixing of functions.

The hybrid is an opportunistic building, which takes advantage of its multiple skills. The hybrid building looks for unexpected, unpredictable, intimate relationships, encourages coexistence and is conscious that unprogrammed situations are the key to its own future. The hybrid shows its many facets and its own personality. As it depends on the individual nature of its creation process, it can take on multiple representations, even apparently contradictory representations, urban landmark, sculpture, landscape or anonymous volume.

This is Hybrid
Javier Mozas

What pressures specific to the twentieth century does the combination of program impose on architectural form? Concentration of many social activities within an architectural form distend and warp a pure building type. Certain previously neglected forms of associations have been wrenched together in the modern city so as to generate buildings which might stand as an anti-typology, if examined under current theoretical preoccupations. Building functions are mixed, disparate uses combined; structures collected here are "Hybrid Buildings" with respect to use.

Freedom of invention is a particular potential of hybrid buildings. Unprecedented ideas may drive the design of new building types. In certain ways, these new buildings might illuminate the unique character of the site and city they arise in.

These new hybrid types can shape public space. Urban porosity is a key intention for hybrid buildings with the aim of pedestrian oriented urban places. They become 'social condensers' for communities.

This is Hybrid
Steven Holl

Learning Outcomes

- Analyze, and diagram, issues related to site and program
- Employ precedent analysis for typology, structure, materials, and environmental response
- Evaluate contemporary architectural investigations

Working Method

Work should be done in groups of two.

Project

- Identify a precedent project that you feel embodies the concept of *hybridity* regarding program, usage, and *polyvalence*. Key things to identify could be programmatic overlaps, permeability, indeterminacy, duality, etc. The scale of the project can vary considerably from the studio's Meridian site and program or be similar in scale, scope and program. The emphasis is on programmatic hierarchy...or the intentional absence of.
- Develop a graphic strategy for diagramming your precedent project in section and axonometric. Include indoor and outdoor spaces per project. Include circulation.
- Develop a physical modeling technique that further explicates and highlights the findings of your research. Final physical models can be done by hand and/or digital fabrication.

Key Topics + Terms

- Mixed-Function Integration
- Contextual Duality
- Public/Private Permeability
- *Hybridity/Hybrid: Having or produced by a combination of two or more distinct elements: marked by heterogeneity in origin, composition, or appearance*
- *Polyvalence: The fact of having many different functions or forms*

Precedent Firms/Architects (see full list of firms and projects at end of project assignment)

- Alvar Aalto
- BIG
- Diller Scofidio + Renfro
- Flores i Prats
- Herzog & de Meuron
- OMA
- SHoP

Note: The above list is just a suggestion/starting point. You're free to select a firm and project not on the list

Final Deliverables

- Sections - At least two section diagrams showing overlaps and adjacencies of different functions (scale per project).
- Axonometric - Axonometric diagram showing the overlaps and adjacencies of different functions. This could also include structure and materiality. Include circulation (scale per project).
- Physical Model - Physical model highlighting the programmatic analysis for your selected precedent (scale per project).

Notes/Tips:

- All work for Project 2 should be submitted in one multi-page PDF with a consistent layout and graphics. Can be portrait or landscape. 11"x17" recommended but can be discussed per project.
- Include photos of your physical models and a cover sheet.
- "Overlaps and adjacencies" relates to both interior and exterior spaces per precedent.
- Final physical models should be at least an approx. 6" cube bounding box in size or similar volume.
- You can use digital fabrication. If you're 3D printing, then you need to send your digital model to the shop by the end of the day 02/01. Include images of your digital model in your submitted PDF.
- Using translucent or transparent materials for your models will help highlight the volumetric interplay. If using opaque materials, use techniques that reveal a relationship between volumes (both exterior and interior). Models that pull apart in section, etc.

Evaluation/Assessment:

- 60% - Graphic clarity in communicating information in diagrams and models
- 40% - Understanding of concepts and use of resources/research to create drawings and diagrams

Resources/References:

Books

- [*Misfits & Hybrids: Architectural Artifacts for the 21st-Century City*](#)
- [*Pamphlet Architecture 11: Hybrid Buildings*](#)
- [*Precedents in Architecture: Analytic Diagrams, Formative Ideas, and Partis*](#)
- [*This is Hybrid*](#)

- [50 Hybrid Buildings](#)

Websites/Online

- [OMA NYC Lecture](#)

Project Schedule

- 01/26 – Project 2 introduced
 - 01/28 – Desk crits: Discussion of research, project selection, and graphic techniques
 - 01/30 – Desk crits: Review of process graphics, layouts, and modeling techniques
 - **02/01 – Project 2 Due by end of day**
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Precedent Firms/Architects/Projects

Alvar Aalto

- House of Culture
- Säynätsalo Town Hall
- Viipuri Library
- Wolfsburg Cultural Center

Bjarke Ingels Group (BIG)

www.big.dk

- Group Danish Maritime
- The Plus for Vestre

Diller Scofidio + Renfro

www.dsrfny.com

- Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)
- The Center for Collaborative Arts and Technology (CCAT)
- The Eyebeam Museum
- The Juilliard School at Lincoln Center
- The Perry and Marty Granoff Center for the Creative Arts

Flores i Prats

www.floresprats.com

- Sala Beckett
- Théâtre des Variétés

Herzog & de Meuron

www.herzogdemeuron.com

- 160 Laban Dance Centre
- 279 1111 Lincoln Road

Office for Metropolitan Architecture (OMA)

www.oma.com

- Agadir Convention Centre
- Almere Block 6
- BLOX/Danish Architecture Center (DAC)
- Milstein Hall Cornell University

- POST Houston
- Seattle Public Library

SHoP

www.shoparc.com

- Miami Innovation District
- Pier 17
- Upper Harbor Terminal Amphitheater