



Press release 2018-03-21

Vertical Life Urban Qualities in Future High-rise Buildings

On Friday, March 9, the Academy for Architectural Culture's (aac) Spring workshop ended with the evaluation of the students' designs. From February 14 on the scholarship holders explored the utopia of a vertical city under the direction of Prof. Dr. h.c. mult. Dipl.-Ing. Meinhard von Gerkan and Dipl.-Ing. architect Stephan Schütz. Their final presentations demonstrate how the qualities of a horizontal urban structure can be translated into a high-rise building.

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In the Chinese metropolis of Shenzhen the structural problems of a rapidly growing city are clear: The increasing rural exodus into the cities calls for residential and office concepts which can create space-saving, highly efficient, and liveable environments. In order to meet these requirements, both economically and in terms of urban development, "super high-rises" considerably greater than 300 meters are in trend in megacities such as Shenzhen. Does this development mean that the urbanity and neighbourliness of flatter urban city districts are now replaced by the uncompromising functionality of high-rises? The designs of the aac scholarship holders develop solutions, employing very different routes, which combine high sojourn quality with functionality.

The workshop assignment consisted in the planning of a hybrid high-rise for Shenzhen which both combines a diversity of uses, and translates the urban quality of a city district into the vertical. With spatial diversity, public passageways, and communicative open spaces, the scholarship holders were tasked with producing a contemporary design for the utopia of a "vertical city", while factoring in the advantages of the historically evolved city.

Each of the four working groups with their international participants chose a highly unique approach, addressing completely different aspects in their designs. Thus the design concept of group 2 focused on the neighbourhood within the high-rise, combining units of five stories into entities which functioned like little villages with meeting points and the corresponding infrastructure. While group 4 focused on the characteristic urban feature of buildings providing orientation with a design that placed prominent waypoints on a vertical, public passageway traversing the whole high-rise, the design of group 1 is characterized by exterior, greened recreational areas and park-like passages. The design of group 3 plays with the topology of an Asian courtyard house, situating courtyards oriented towards the building's open centre on numerous storeys.

In Hamburg the participants first had the opportunity to take a tour of the Elbphilharmonie, drawing inspiration from the landmark's successful vertical sojourn quality. This was followed by an extensive teaching program in the aac's studios where participants were not only assisted by experienced tutors but also enjoyed lectures and review rounds from established architects, for example the American high-rise experts from SOM, the structural engineering specialists from sbp, the sustainable industry leader Transsolar, the Dutch MVRDV office and the Danish SHL architects.

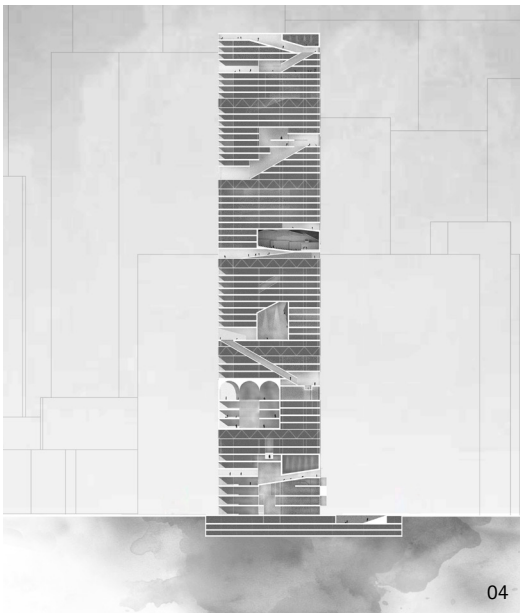
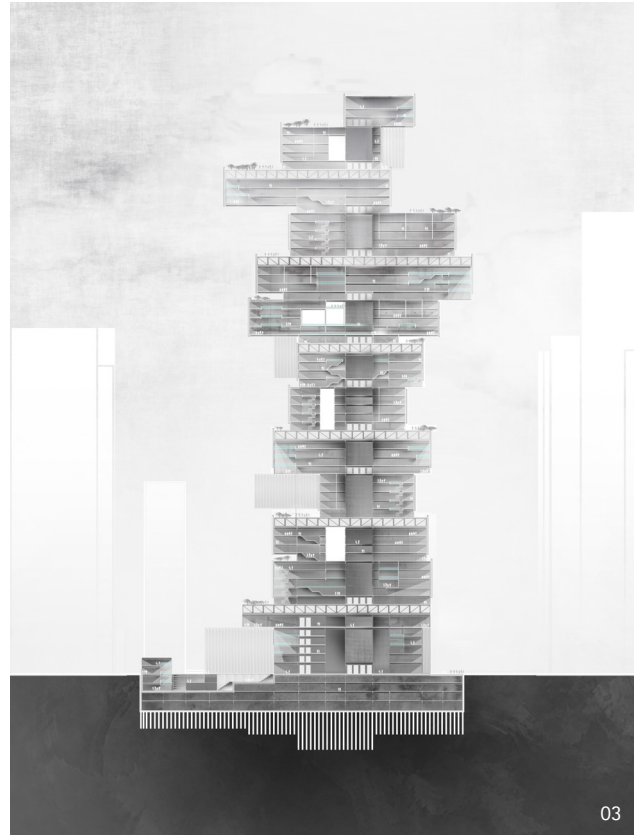
The workshop designs can be seen at the aac exhibition until March 29. Admission is free.

Workshop directors Meinhard von Gerkan and Stephan Schütz with support from Nicolas Pomränke

aac team Enno N. Maass, Annika Göttle, Christine Graff, Anja Meding

Tutors Walter Gebhardt, Annika Göttle, Prof. Philipp Kamps, Sona Kazemi, Anja Meding

Exhibition location on the ground floor of the Campus Rainvilleterrasse, Rainvilleterrasse 4, 22765 Hamburg, open on workdays from 10 am to 4 pm.



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01 Perspective atrium (group 3)

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02 Design of group 1 © Academy for Architectural Culture

03 Design of group 2 © Academy for Architectural Culture

04 Design of group 4 © Academy for Architectural Culture

05 Detail, design of group 4 © Academy for Architectural Culture

06 Architectural model © Jochen Stüber



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