



(Voica, n.d.)

Individual Elective and Summer school

Sustainable Design

Vernacular Architecture in the Danube Delta

Organising institution:
Ion Mincu University for
Architecture and Urbanism,
Bucharest

Partner Institutions:
University of Liechtenstein,
TU Vienna,
University of Catania

Place: Tulcea, Danube Delta,
Bucharest and Online.
Workshop: 6-12 July 2025
Online: 1 June - 6 July 2025

In English, 2 ECTS, taught
in 24-40 units of 45min,
40-42 hours of self study
time, 75% of compulsory
attendance with continuous
assessment, grading weight:
60% final submission, 20%
active participation, 20% final
presentation.

Value, Challenges, and Future Prospects

In the Danube Delta, centuries of adaptation and innovation with local materials have fostered an architecture that seamlessly integrates with its natural surroundings. Yet, the encroachment of poorly adapted modern interventions now jeopardizes this delicate cultural and environmental equilibrium. This calls for firm regulations and novel paradigms to conserve and reinterpret authentic vernacular styles. By embracing local, eco-friendly materials and respecting the Delta's architectural scale, contemporary designs can honor its identity while mitigating harmful impacts.

The workshop will address these pressing issues through a dynamic blend of online lectures and in-person activities in Bucharest, Tulcea, and the Danube Delta. Online activities will precede the actual workshop that will take 7 days (6-12 July). Designed for a diverse audience—including students, academics, NGOs, governmental authorities, local communities, and artisans—the program fosters collaborative learning on heritage conservation, sustainable practices, and legislative frameworks. Site visits to the Danube Delta Biosphere Reserve will provide participants with firsthand exposure to architectural typologies, environmental challenges, and opportunities for dialogue with local stakeholders.

Following these site visits, interdisciplinary teams will conceptualize proposals for a temporary structure that embodies sustainability, cultural authenticity, and minimal environmental disruption. These designs will be presented at the workshop's conclusion, showcasing innovative approaches to preserving vernacular architecture. By integrating theoretical insights with practical experience, the program seeks to inspire emerging professionals to champion the preservation of the Delta's architectural heritage and extend its principles to broader contexts.