

# A new building for the Brakke Grond in Amsterdam



## Design Task Spring Semester 2011

Brakke Grond (literally *salty ground*) is a Flemish Cultural Centre in Amsterdam.

Details of its program can be found on [www.brakkegrond.nl](http://www.brakkegrond.nl)

It occupies an interesting and complex site in the centre of the city, between the following streets: Nes, St Pietershalsteeg, Enge Lombardsteeg and the Oudezijds Voorburgwal canal.

To the west is a small public square facing Nes, along the north and south sides are older buildings, sometimes very old with very abstract facades and an occasional beautiful stone door.

To the east it backs against fine houses along the canal. The south part of Nes is alive with theatres and restaurants, the north part has been spoiled by bad building.

Brakke Grond occupies a number of different buildings, some older, others more recent and less interesting. As an ensemble it is delightful, a place of real character, and warmth and a great asset to the city.

I am going to ask you to tear it all down and build something of equal character.

The task is to design plans and façades together to make a building that is both beautiful and engages with its sensual and social surroundings.

I will give a series of short lectures on these subjects early in the program and will speak to each of you about your work every time I come to ETH.

After a short period of initial design we will visit the location and the following day have a workshop with my Dutch Colleagues at TU Delft.

## Schedule

Introduction: Tuesday 22nd February 2011 at 10:00 am in our Studio HIL F61

Exercise Type: E (Entwurf ohne integrierte Disziplin); **work in teams of two**

Visit to the location in Amsterdam and workshop at TU Delft: 8th - 9th March 2011

(travel and accomodation at students' own cost)

## Visiting Professor Tony Fretton

Assistants Ralph Blättler, Christian Brunner, Esther Righetti

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