

TEACHING VISIT AT AALTO UNIVERSITY, HELSINKI, FINLAND SHORT ACTIVITY REPORT FOR THE NORDTEK MOBILITY PROGRAMME 2025

Assoc. prof. Dr Skirmante Mozuriunaite, VILNIUS TECH

I would like to thank the NORDTEK Teacher-Mobility scholarship I was able to contribute to the Aalto University's School of Arts, Design & Architecture, master-level course Urban Challenge Studios 2, with site and theme of "Rotterdam 2040 – Visionary Urban Futures".

The course brought together architecture, engineering, and planning students to craft a holistic vision for Rotterdam in 2040, with special emphasis on sustainable mobility, climate resilience and port-city integration. During the studio, there were thematic lectures; design-charrette sessions and desk-crits; organised an online guest exchange with the Port of Rotterdam Authority and presentation of concept posters.

Students Urban Challenge Studio typically draw on a variety of specialities, allowing current urban issues to be explored and addressed from various perspectives. Studio challenge-based approach cuts across disciplinary boundaries emphasizing design thinking, hands-on experimentation, interdisciplinarity, and the pursuit of practical solutions to social problems. Students have conducted investigative research, and for architecture students, the particular emphasis was drawn on design and planning work.

Student's design integrated the Rotterdam 2040 vision with a design approach that addressed the specific issues of the sites and SDG goals:

- 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure
- 10 Reduced Inequality
- 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities
- 13 Climate Action
- 14 Life Below Water
- 15 Life on Land

During the teaching visits my contribution was aligned with the course's intended learning outcomes, notably ILO 1 (critical evaluation of cross-disciplinary concepts) and ILO 2 (problem definition in complex urban contexts). The work with the Urban Challenge Studios 2 projects involved the supervision of 7 mixed-disciplinary teams, report preparation, consultations, poster presentation and preparation for the final exhibition on the Aalto campus, Ware building.

I am grateful to the NORDTEK Mobility Programme for enabling this fruitful exchange and to Prof. Dr Pia Fricker, and senior lecturer Dr Christine Mady at Aalto for the continuous collaboration, support and warm welcome.



Rotterdam 2045

10.04 -
16.04
2025

KIPSARI
POP-UP
CORRIDOR

between
ARTS and BIZ
1ST floor

Urban Challenge
Studio 2

Student
Exhibition

10.04
APERO
from
16:00

Transitions for Urban Resilience

Collaborative approaches for
more-than-human spatial justice

