



Examples of modernist heritage of the interwar and postwar period in Gdansk:
(source: fotopolska.eu; wikipedia.pl, <https://www.whitemad.pl/modernizm-w-trojmiescie-miejsca-ktore-nas-zachwycaja-przewodnik/>, <https://www.trojmiasto.pl/dom/Modernizm-we-Wrzeszczu-Architektura-Trojmiasta-n160259.html>)

Term: 2 sem. (summer)	Reglazing and Renewing Gdansk Modernism / Elective design II	ECTS: 5
Type of studies: MSc in Arch.		Year: 2025/2026

**Department of Housing Architecture
& DALab**

Seminars & assignments: 60 h

Teacher: Prof. Dr. Uta Pottgiesser &
additional teaching staff from Gdańsk Tech, Poland

Brief description of the subject:

Students will engage with modernist window and facade concepts of the interwar and postwar period in Gdansk and Poland, addressing their architectural qualities and long-term performance challenges. The course invites students to rethink facade and window systems as design and construction challenges, negotiating between modern heritage and contemporary expectations of performance, comfort sustainability and identity.

Examples of modernist heritage of the interwar and postwar period in Gdansk (presented on the pictures):

1. Helena Lange School. Girls' Middle School - Currently Medical University (GUMed) Hallera street;
2. Secondary School No. 2 in Gdańsk; Pestalozziego Street;
3. Miastoprojekt Gdańsk Office building, corner of Elżbietańska and Bielańska Streets.

Objectives:

- to familiarize students with the architectural, technical, and cultural implications of modern facade and window systems in the interwar and postwar period.
- to develop skills in critically assessing existing facade and window system with regard to construction, material performance, and state of conservation.
- to enable students to formulate and design informed conservation and/or renewal strategies that integrate heritage values with contemporary requirements for performance, comfort, and sustainability.

Block course:

online lectures (Thursdays) 09.04.2026, 16.04.2026, 7.05. 2026 + in presence from 26.05.2026 – till 30.05.2026 (one-week intensive workshop group of max 15 students)

Content of the course:

Seminars:

Threefold approach to Reglazing and Renewing Gdansk Modernism through documentation, analysis and re-design

- 1: Students will first discover and digitally document relevant pre- and postwar buildings in the City of Gdansk and/or Poland.
- 2: Analysis of the facade and window structure and details, its construction and intervention history
- 3: Based on the findings, a value assessment and the current state of damage and condition, a design and conservation strategy will be formulated aiming for restoration, rehabilitation or replacement
- 4: Creation of 3D-details and digital twins of the facade typologies and re-design

Practice:

- On-site and digital survey of modern facades, including photographic and geometric documentation
- Digital reconstruction of existing facade and window systems based on collected data
- Development of facade renewal concepts translating analytical findings into design decisions
- Elaboration of 3D facade details and digital twins of existing conditions and proposed interventions
- Interim reviews, consultations, and final presentation of the project results

Educational outcomes:

After completing the course, students gain a structured understanding of modern facade and window systems and their challenges in practice. They are able to reflect on architectural, technical, and heritage-related aspects and are able to apply this knowledge in the development of informed and well-founded facade renewal concepts, supported by 3D studies and digital models.



Remarks:

This is a hands-on, project-based course combining analysis and design. Students will work in small groups and engage with on-site and digital documentation of existing buildings and archival material.

Methods:

- Literature and archival research on modern buildings and facade typologies
- Value and significance assessment
- Hands-on discovery and case study analysis
- Project-based studio work and seminars
- Group work and guided design development

Learning Outcomes:

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- Understand values and significance of modern buildings
- document and analyse modern facade and window systems
- develop informed facade renewal concepts
- represent their design proposals using 3D models and facade details

Prerequisites:

Interest and passion for historic (modern) buildings and research. Basic skills in digital modeling are useful.

Assessment Methods and Criteria:

Graphic Documentation with value assessment and evaluation and oral presentation

Criteria: completeness, correctness in methodology, graphic and technical quality of documentation and design, presentation

Study Materials:

Online Lectures and slides, literature list and readings