Subject: **Rural Settlements**	**Semester:** **6**
Tutor: **Dr inż. arch. Ewelina Gawell**	

Motto:

Agropolis – rural life balance

The civilizational development of the recent turn of the centuries led to the depopulation of rural areas. The slogan "the village is pushing towards the city" was meant to illustrate the residents of small settlements striving for better living conditions (education, work, curiosity, etc.). However, the deepening climate crisis and civilizational diseases are causing rural areas to regain importance. Increasingly environmentally conscious residents of large cities are seeking a safe and friendly place to live – defining a new trend. "The city is pushing towards the village" is a contemporary direction generating investment growth and forcing planning decisions that smaller municipalities are not prepared for. The potential of rural areas is indisputable – the proximity to nature and direct access to agriculture enable the creation of a sustainable living environment. For this to happen, it is essential to create a vision for the development of Polish villages based on expanded and multi-threaded discussions, including rural studies, architecture, permaculture, agriculture, environmental engineering, and so on

Method of conducting classes:

The classes will be conducted using a variety of teaching methods. Selected topics related to pro-environmental solutions for rural areas will be discussed in the form of group and individual discussions – design exercises, as well as guest lectures by specialists from related fields.

The project consists of two phases:

- **Analytical phase** – involves identifying the natural and landscape context, as well as the current state of the location, including cultural heritage; research methods: study of source materials, site visits
- **Design phase** – involves creating a vision for the future development of the village and a concept for the modern farmer’s homestead in the open landscape, along with a small service related to agricultural production on the farm

The final outcome of the design work is an original architectural project, presented in graphic form at an exhibition, displayed on boards covering both phases of the project. The following will be assessed:

- **Individual approach and sensitivity to the surrounding landscape** – accurate interpretation of the *Genius Loci*
- **Completeness and quality of the conducted analyses**
- **Substantive solution to the design problem** – its functional, spatial, compositional, and aesthetic values, as well as integration with the existing landscape
- **Environmental responsibility of the proposed design solutions**
- **Relevance, clarity, and appropriateness of the graphic form used for presenting the topic**

Subject: Rural Settlement

Instructor:

- Justyna Zdunek – Wielgołaska, Arch. PhD

Motto of the course:

What does living sustainably mean nowadays in a "rurban" context?
And can we really live sustainably in 2025, and how?

Method of conducting classes:

Classes will be held according to an individual schedule, the main part of which will be online workshops. Before the workshops, students will prepare preliminary materials (Phase 1) on the issues of the Polish countryside. The study developed during the workshops (Phase 3) will be used to develop architectural concepts by students (Phase 3).

International multidisciplinary workshop
CARELAB2: A Rurban Experience
Exploring Innovative Approaches in Sustainable Living

A 5-day cross-cultural journey where you, together with peers from Belgium, Brazil, Greece and Poland, will reflect on the future and the challenges of sustainable housing and community living.
Key themes include:

Living Sustainably
Cohousing in Rural Areas
Permaculture Ethics and Practices
Creating Healthy Living Environments
Participants will reimagine and revitalize a traditional farmhouse based in the Belgian countryside called the "Pays des Collines".

Intensive **workshop** from **17th to 22nd March 2025** (during this time students will be exempt from other classes).

One of the key elements of the course is a multidisciplinary international workshop. The objective is to promote collaboration across disciplines and countries in terms of sustainable housing and living conditions. Each discipline will contribute to knowledge co-construction and foster an interdisciplinary approach to the topic.

During their practical classes, the students will be working on a project related to traditional farms that have been abandoned or are in danger of being demolished in the village of Flobecq. The objective is to reassert the value of these farms. This will be achieved by developing community housing, comprising the following units: 'The Limit', 'Living Together and Apart' and 'Care' (medical unit for senior citizens). Students will be encouraged to

introduce aspects related to seasonal farming and to develop permaculture, more specifically in a "rurban" environment.

WORKSHOP COORDINATORS
Chaïma Seddiki (Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning) + Julie Walaszczyk (Language and Internationalisation Unit - Faculty of Translation and Interpretation), UMONS
PARTNERS
* Claudia de Souza Libanio, UFCSPA, BR
* Karolina Tulkowska, Warsaw University of Technology, PL
* Areti Vogopoulou, University of Peloponnese (EUNICE partner), GR
* Magdalena Walenta, Warsaw University of Technology, PL
* Justyna Zdunek-Wielgolaska, Warsaw University of Technology, PL

Subject: Rural Settlement	**Semester:** **6**

Instructor:

- Aleksandra Lewicka, Arch.

Motto of the course:

Trouble in Paradise? – contemporary architecture in search of the identity of the rural landscape

The countryside could be a paradise on earth, a dream place to live and work, but it is marginalized, excluded, isolated. In architecture, the countryside is an uncomfortable, misunderstood and unexplored area. Meanwhile, the PROLOG +1 collective at the exhibition entitled "Trouble in Paradise" **in the Polish Pavilion during the 17th International Architecture Exhibition in Venice in 2020 put the countryside in the center of attention and looked for solutions and opportunities in the context of global problems there. The authors of the project have shown that in times of growing local and global crises, rural areas are an important element in building sustainable human environments.** Like the Pritzker Prize winner Rem Koolhaas and the British curator Adam Sutherland, the creators of the exhibition in the Polish Pavilion propose to look for solutions to global problems in new ways of organizing rural areas and studying the forces and processes that govern them, so far unrecognized by architects. They are convinced that the future of the world depends on the countryside, and cities cannot exist without it.

Method of conducting classes:

Classes will be conducted with the use of creative forms of education, among others in the form of team and individual consultations between students and lecturers, as a result of which there is a critical discussion of materials prepared by students, based on the guidelines specified by the teachers.

The theory of architectural and ruralist design in the open landscape is taught through short lectures and exercises.

Each phase

- analytical / natural and landscape context, the existing state of the location, including cultural heritage/, preceded by a site visit
- design / design of the habitat of a modern farmer located in an open landscape / in the countryside / together with a small service that is related to agricultural production on the farm and a vision of rural development in the future /

It precedes a detailed discussion of the purpose, requirements and methods of their implementation, and ends with a common review of all materials prepared by all students. The final result of the design work is an original architectural design, presented in graphic form at an exhibition on boards containing the scope of all phases of the project.

The following are evaluated:

- individuality and sensitivity to the surrounding landscape - understanding of Genius Loci;
- completeness of the analyses carried out
- substantive solution to the design problem /its functional, spatial, compositional and aesthetic values and incorporation into the existing landscape /
- environmental responsibility of proposed design solutions
- accuracy, legibility and adequacy of the graphic form used to the presented issue.