



*WELCOME TO
INTERPLAY OF CULTURES
SPRING STUDIO 2025*

ARK-E1021 18 cr

GHANA

*In collaboration with: Aalto University, Tampere University &
Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Ghana*

IoC *Interplay of Cultures Studio - Field Trips*

Senegal (1994-97)



Benin (2001-2006)



Cambodia (2008-12)



Tanzania (2013-14)



Rwanda (2014)



Philippines (2015-17)



Zanzibar (2018-20)



Sámi (2021-22)



Ghana & Rwanda 2023 -



Aalto
WIT
LAB

Aalto – KNUST Urban Survey

March 2023 & 2024



Photo: Aalto-KNUST Urban Survey 2023

KUMASI

Project of The Hearts

Trees

- ongoing project since 2024





ANTOIA STATION

ANTOIA STATION

ANTOIA STATION

SANKOFA

SANKOFA

KUMASI TREES

PROJECT OF THE HEARTS

KUMASI TREES

PROJECT OF THE HEARTS



At the foot of the stairs for Antoa Station, the development and **PRESERVATION OF NATURE** should be kept as the first priority and necessary for visitors to benefit the station.

ANTOA STATION

15+ 

PRESERVATION OF NATURE

- The vision for the site along Antoa Road is to establish a cultural theme park within Kumasi, where visitors and users enjoy nature conservation, while simultaneously getting educated on the rich cultural heritage of the Asante Kingdom.
- Cleaning the area will unveil its hidden beauty while open-air pavilions will showcase the region's diverse culture and traditions, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the area's history and heritage.
- Involving the local community is vital, we propose empowering them to plant and inspire visitors to protect it.

BIODIVERSITY TEMPLE
The Biodiversity Temple functions as an observatory, inviting us to appreciate and reverse the natural environment as a precious treasure. It serves as an educational platform, enhancing our understanding of the world's history and diverse flora and fauna.

TREE NURSERY
The proposed tree nursery will cultivate a variety of plants, serving as a central hub. It could play a key role in promoting environmental awareness and providing income for the community.



NEW STRATEGY for GREEN KUMASI



- Project of the Hearts – Rooted in The Cultural Identity of Kumasi
- Owned by its people
- A Continuum – Legacy of the Asantehene



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Interplay of Cultures Spring Studio 2025 (18 cr)

Ghana

Focus

- Regenerative design solutions
- Culturally sensitive architecture and urban design

Studies include

- **Field trip** with intensive site analysis & workshops with local architecture students
- Social, economic and climatic characteristics

Case Kumasi Trees

- Public Urban Spaces (with KNUST & City of Kumasi)
- Nature-based solutions and urban greening



Photo: Janina Hedström

Interplay of Cultures Spring Studio 2025 (18 cr)

Ghana

Prerequisites:

- Bachelor's degree
- One of the following courses or tasks:
 - State of the World and Development (WAT-E3020, Period I)
 - UNIPid online course (MOOC):
<https://www.unipid.fi/virtual-studies/mooc-course-essentials-in-development-studies/>
 - Completed by 13th of December.

Supporting studies:

- Interplay of Cultures Research & Theory (ARK-E2021, periods III-V, 6 cr)

Timetable

- periods III-V, **spring 2025**
- studio teaching on Thursdays at 13-17



ARK-E1021

Interplay of Cultures Spring Studio 2025 (18 cr) ***Ghana***

Field trip (mandatory to all participants)

- Dates: late February – mid March, 2025

HOW TO APPLY:

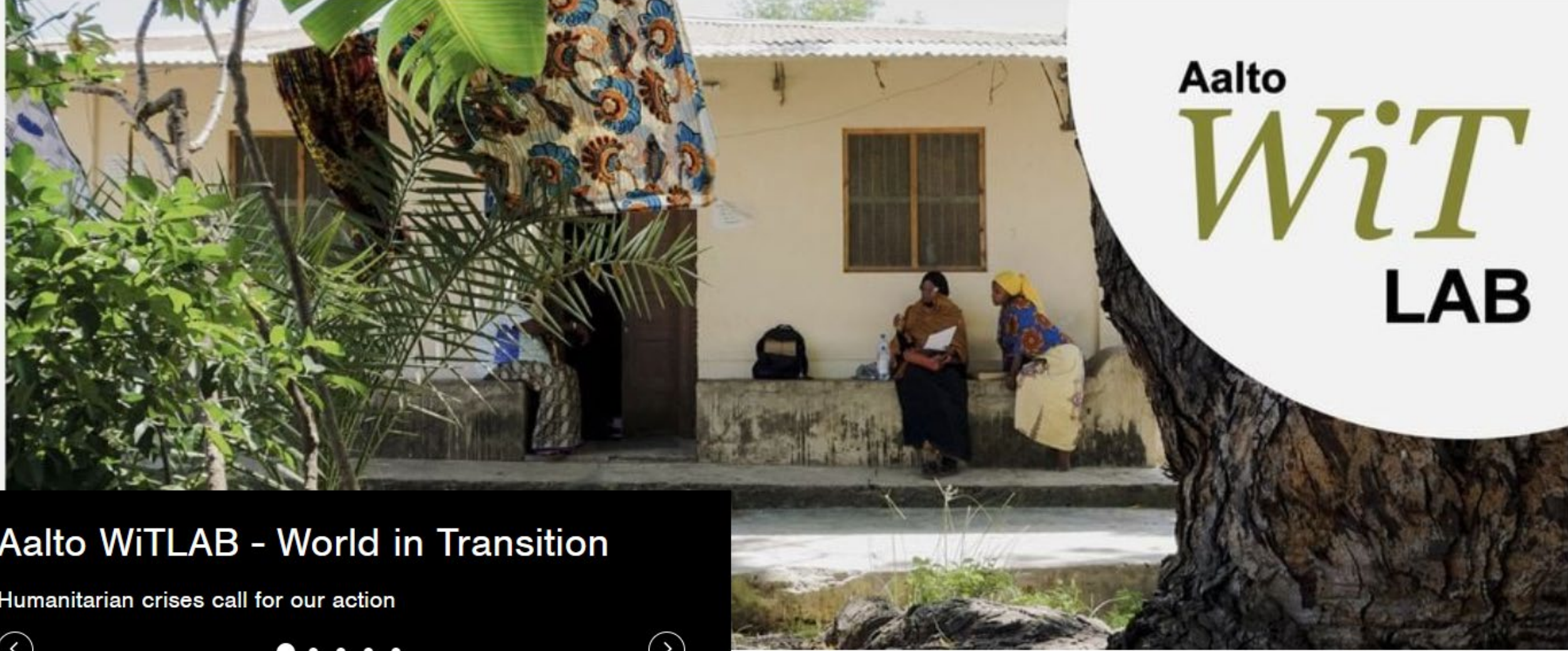
- **Send your motivation letter, cv and study transcript by email to: taru.niskanen@aalto.fi**
- **Application DL 18.10.2024**
- open to Master students in architecture, landscape architecture (interdisciplinary studio), interior design, CS, ENG & BIZ students

Teachers:

Saija Hollmén,
Professor of Practice in Humanitarian Architecture

Taru Niskanen, Architect,
University Teacher, doctoral researcher

Meeri Pitkänen, Landscape architect, doctoral researcher



Aalto
WiT
LAB

Aalto WiTLAB - World in Transition

Humanitarian crises call for our action



Aalto WiT (World in Transition) LAB is an interdisciplinary cross-school research and education unit hosting collaborative initiatives across Aalto University. It is rooted in sustainable development of the built environment in vulnerable communities and fragile environments globally. WiTLAB serves as a platform for researchers and projects focusing on resilient human settlements, humanitarian architecture, community engagement and grass roots action. It furthers the Aalto University's strategy on **sustainability, transdisciplinary collaboration and Life-Wide-Learning**.



Interplay of Cultures **Research & Theory** (6 cr)
(ARK-E2021, periods III-V, 6 cr)

- Seminar course exploring **current theoretical discourse on global sustainability and development**
- Framework of **built environment and cultures mainly outside Europe**
- **Includes:** seminar sessions; readings and discussions; reflection essays
- For **master** and **doctoral** level students

More info: Look at Mycourses or email to taru.niskanen@aalto.fi

World in Transition

WiT Minor

- WiT Minor (20-25 credits) is an **Aalto University-wide interdisciplinary elective ensemble** focusing on **global sustainability & development**, open for all Aalto master level students.
- WiT Minor offers courses from Aalto Schools of ARTS, ENG and BIZ
- General info: <https://www.aalto.fi/en/minors/world-in-transition-wit>
- <https://www.aalto.fi/witlab>