

# sLenderSYS TEMS

Spring 2025

*SlenderSystems Session, in the context of Biennale Sessions program, on Biennale Architettura 2025's opening day, discussing volumetric renovation and neighbourhood based reconstruction.*

**SlenderSystems** – circular prefab renovation designs for mass housing blocks

TIME: 11.30-14.30 on Saturday 10. May

LOCATION: Arsenale venue

SCHOOL: **Estonian Academy of Arts, Faculty of Architecture**

TUTORS:

**Architecture:** Sille Pihlak (PhD, dean of Faculty of Architecture), Siim Tuksam (PhD), Keiti Lige, Ann Kristiin Entson,

**Landscape architecture:** Katrin Koov, Hannes Aava,

**Structural engineering:** Adam Orlinski (Bollinger+Grohmann)

**Site analysis:** Mattias Malk

**Contact:** Ann Kristiin Entson, [annkristiin.entson@artun.ee](mailto:annkristiin.entson@artun.ee)

YEAR: **Bachelor, 3rd year**

LOCATION: **Lasnamäe district, Tallinn, Estonia**

STUDENTS: **28** (working in groups of 4), 7 groups

## About

SlenderSystems studio is a one-semester 3rd year design studio in Architecture and Urban Planning, connected to research project Slender Facade, looking into volumetric renovation and neighbourhood based reconstruction.

The SlenderSystems studio aims to develop flexible architecture from sustainable materials, based on digital design and fabrication. We are developing contemporary building structures that can produce adaptable and efficient solutions for the creation of high-quality spaces with a positive environmental impact. We want to propose new, radically innovative ways of renovation, looking at the whole network of problems intertwining in this domain, to propose holistic scenarios that are at the same time realistic and exploratory.

## Location

This year's studio focuses on Katleri area, the latest micro-district developed in the Lasnamäe region in Tallinn. It was built in the early nineties after Estonia had already regained independence. Although it is the latest addition to soviet housing blocks, the buildings are already in dire need of renovation. Lasnamäe stands out as a district that has been the most inert when it comes to full renovation. What makes this area even more peculiar is the city's plan to build out one new street that was never realized, but modernize the design and add a new row of housing to activate the street space.

## Program in Venice

We will hold a Session in the context of the special program Biennale Sessions on the occasion of Biennale Architettura 2025. Students will be giving their final presentations of their semester's work, afterwards an open discussion will take place. The projects focus on finding solutions for mass housing renovation, with the aim of raising the quality of living not just reaching the climate goals. The projects offer proposals for modular renovation and building systems, that contribute to ongoing research at the architecture faculty of the Estonian Academy of Arts (EKA). The topic of mass housing renovation is the theme of this year's Estonian pavilion at the Biennale Architettura 2025 and the possibility to connect the national pavilion and research done at EKA offers students a valuable opportunity to both showcase their works and learn from other examples.