Dealing with the building complex of the former TRAM DEPOT at Bern the atelier will focus on different level of reuse. Starting with the inventory and analysis of the existing building complex the studio will deal with a spatial reorganization of building parts. The goal is the development of usage.

Content

NEW ORDER
Tram depot Bern
YOUTH FOR REUSE

The building complex is located in Bern. The facility was built as a TRAM DEPOT in the late 18th century. After the excursion of the tram in 2014, the area got occupied by several temporary programs, like exhibitions, concerts, flea markets, alternative restaurant. With the permission to develop the city district from an industrial site in to a residential district the tram depot will be demolished in December 2019.

We will begin the project with a field trip to the site in Bern under a workshop format to analyze and track the building from the 20.-23. September 2019. The attendance is obligatory.

The main pedagogical goal of the course will be to address the issue of circular economy of architectural elements in all scales, from single brick to whole structural elements. We will think the architecture design backwards. Starting from the dismantling of the building into single individual components and ending with a personal design proposal based on the main structure of the tram depot. Since the design process does not start with a traditional user program and a building site, it is necessary to independently develop your own typologies and search for potential users. The course promotes open communication on architecture values and reuse of resources.

To approach this complex task, we will start the semester by developing and establishing a collective database that will serve us throughout the following design process. This initial research phase will take place in groups of approximately 6 students. It implies the analysis of the capability of reuse of structure and materials as well as a research on its future potential. Based on this knowledge, individual architectural designs will be developed in teams of two.

While the project during the autumn semester will deal with the complexity of organization and program at an urban scale, we will continue the second semester to develop the project more in detail. Working on the topic of reuse, the design groups will study many levels of detailing. The final result is a 1:1 architectural mock-up.

In the period during the semester break (February) a self-organized study trip is intended.

Keywords

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, the student must be able to:
• analyse a site, its context and a given/ existing building structure.
• research and apply different adequate typologies.
• create spatial and tactile atmospheres.
• develop independently a consistent architectural project.
• explain a design concept and its theoretical framework.
• Analyze a site, its context and an existing building structure.
• Generate and integrate new functions; compare, research and apply different adequate typologies.
• Create spatial and tactile atmospheres.
• Develop independently a consistent architectural project.
• Explain a design concept and its theoretical framework.
• Present a project in an adequate and clear manner using various means of presentation.

Teaching methods
Group work, individual work, lectures, studio work, round table discussions, study trip, intermediate review and final review with guest critics.

Expected student activities
Studio work, team work, participation in various pedagogic activities, analysis of the site, development of a program, presentation of the project by means of drawings, visualizations, oral presentations and models ranging from 1:1000 to 1:1 scale, practical and manual skills.

Assessment methods
Evolution of the project through studio work, table critics, participation in pedagogic activities (40%), presentations (30%), juries (30%).

Supervision
Office hours: Yes
Assistants: Yes
Atelier hours:
Monday 8:30 – 19:30
Tuesday 8:30 – 13:00

Office hours:
Tuesday 13:00 – 14:00

Assistants:
Tiago P. Borges
Yannick Claessens
Vanessa Pointet

Resources
Websites
• http://east.epfl.ch