The studio engages with the question of how people appropriate their surroundings in private and public space. We analyse our immediate environment and intervene on-site in the urban reality. Through walking, talking and building prototypes in 1:1 we make the architectural draft perceivable.

LA VITA È BELLA examines architecture as an active process to increase quality of life.

This studio engages with the question of how people appropriate their surroundings in the private and public sphere. By means of built interventions and collective activities, we investigate the space in its proportions and dimensions from the intimate bedroom to the public square. How do we challenge, appropriate, adopt and intervene in this world? We will test these questions in 1:1 prototypes and work on how we can transform our imagination into real life. By analysing the 1:1 draft collectively, we challenge what is common perception and what is individual assumption.

LA VITA È BELLA is the joint attempt to explore design processes. As a collective we face the discomfort of the unknown and map out a critical version of a possible future based on the students’ desires. To carry out this research we build prototypes, we walk through the city, we sleep in unknown rooms.

Through sketching, walking, talking and building we acquire knowledge and uncover new potentials and perspectives, which are directly tested in practice through the 1:1 prototype.

BUILDING 1:1
With interventions in 1:1, we design on-site prototypes. This methodology results in a dynamic design and continuous testing and leads to a refined concept based on real life. The potential of the prototype lies in the immediate experience of a spatial concept. Thinking in the prototype as an idea is situated between building and model, reality and representation and calls for a spontaneous but detailed approach.

WALKING RESEARCH
Urban initiatives organised by students for students highlight individual interests in the city and landscape. It is a means to start a dialogue inside the group and with the territory we live in.

CRITICAL DIALOGUE
The Studio investigates the idea of collective learning and questioning as a design process. The environment affects our perception, which we express verbally and via other medias. The collision of different interests creates a versatile, shared memory. Through the receptivity of learning from others and the erasure of personal authorship, unforeseeable, surprising and positively weird things are possible. The relationship between design authorship and urban appropriation is to be questioned. We transform spaces, question practices and cultivate the dialogue.
Every student sleeps during a week in the room of a fellow student.

**Keywords**


**Learning Prerequisites**

Important concepts to start the course

Critical Thinking

Motivation

**Learning Outcomes**

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:

- Analyze the immediate environment through walking research and develop techniques to record and map the experiences
- Develop a consistent architectural concept
- Design in 1:1 scale. Various techniques for a fast-paced design process
- Develop verbally a thesis based on the students' own desire
- Develop strategies to moderate a discussion and cultivate a dialogue
- Design collectively
- Test different design techniques
- Elaborate critical thinking

**Transversal skills**

- Give feedback (critique) in an appropriate fashion.
- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking

**Teaching methods**

Research, Analysis, Concept, Draft, Implementation

- Question the common architectural design process
- Process-oriented
- Working with proportions
- Test design through actual experience
- Visualize concept three-dimensionally
- Appropriation of new methods through repetition

**Expected student activities**
• doing one project individually
• analyzing, testing and criticising projects of other students
• doing one project in a group
• walk, talk, build

Assessment methods

• Discussion within collective
• Weekly meetings
• Intermediate critiques
• Individual and collective assessment depending on the task
• Final critique

Supervision

Assistants  Yes

Resources

Bibliography


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Websites

• http://kueng-caputo.ch/
• https://www.instagram.com/kuengcaputo/