Difficult Double: Trouble with Classicists

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**Summary**

This course is envisaged as a lecture series where each lecturer is invited to present his/her work through the framework of the five themes from the O.M. Ungers’ book. Our aim, after two iterations of “Trouble with Classicists”, remains the possibility of a design theory, beyond naiveté.

**Content**

*Architecture as Theme* course will be structured around five public lectures by emerging practices, as well as additional inputs to the discourse, in the format of internal lectures and debates.

**Learning Outcomes**

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

- Analyze the projects presented during the lectures in the context of the general theme.
- Consider the relevance of the overall discourse in developing their design theories and skills.
- Develop an argument to support his/her own position.
- Articulate a critical stance within the general debate.
- Formulate an original hypothesis.

**Transversal skills**

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

**Teaching methods**

Series of lectures by selected international architects, artists and theoreticians and active discussions and readings with students moderated by the professor and assistants.

**Expected student activities**

Students are asked to attend the lectures and actively participate in the debate. During the semester they will also need to read a given selection of texts, in order to develop a broader scope of knowledge. The exam at the end of the semester will be an oral discussion between a small group of students and the professor / assistants. Students are expected to demonstrate a critical position and original ideas concerning the subject and they will be evaluated on the basis of their arguments, rather than factual memorizing.

**Assessment methods**

The final grade will be assessed on the basis of the oral exam, but a considerable contribution to this mark will be the
student's activity throughout the whole semester - participation in the debates, willingness to pose questions or express opinion.

Supervision
Office hours  Yes
Assistants  Yes

Resources
Virtual desktop infrastructure (VDI)
No

Websites
• http://form.epfl.ch/page-105152-en.html