Summary
An attempt to bridge art, architecture and engineering. The experimental setup of the atelier is meant to challenge our routines, work processes, approaches and our relation to art and architecture.

Content
During the fall semester we will attempt an experiment bridging art, architecture and engineering. Starting from a research process we develop site-specific interventions, that are supposed to be fit for an infrastructural purpose. Is it possible to create structures that work as art, architecture and infrastructure at the same time? The subject of our investigations will be related to the alpine landscape. We will be looking into the history of the domestication of the Alps and how the Swiss society installed itself in the inhospitable mountainous environment. By this we will find out about the human relation to and the reception of landscape, nature and the world. We will examine site-specific art and land art and relate those to big infrastructural projects. Outgoing from these historical studies we want to examine our current state of mind. How do we as as architects / artists / designers / engineers want to react on contemporary challenges, caused by climate change? Mountain slides induced by the disappearance of permafrost, declining of glaciers, sea-level rise confront our societies with various menaces. According to our research we develop a personal approach that will result in site-responsive concepts. Our interdisciplinary research group will develop an exhibition, showing the results of our critical and physical examination, trying to fuse our actions with landscape and nature. The experimental setup of the atelier is meant to challenge our routines, work processes, approaches and our relation to art and architecture.

Keywords
art, architecture, engineering, infrastructure, contemporary art, site-specific, land art, conceptual art, sculpture

Learning Outcomes
By the end of the course, the student must be able to:
• Create
• Analyze a site
• Contextualise
• Manage
• Develop
• Examine architecture from an art perspective
• Explore
• Justify

Transversal skills
• Plan and carry out activities in a way which makes optimal use of available time and other resources.
• Use a work methodology appropriate to the task.
• Demonstrate a capacity for creativity.
• Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
• Take feedback (critique) and respond in an appropriate manner.
• Give feedback (critique) in an appropriate fashion.

Teaching methods
lectures, field trips, thinking with the hands

Expected student activities
attending lectures, developing a project, giving presentations, creating an exhibition

Supervision
Assistants Yes

Resources
Bibliography
Lucius Burckhardt
Why is Landscape Beautiful?: The Science of Strollology
Building—A Process with No Obligations to Heritage Preservation (1967)
Ann Reynolds
Robert Smithson: Learning from New Jersey And Elsewhere
Miwon Kwon
One Place After Another - Site-specific art and locational identity
Adrian Forty
Concrete and Culture: A Material History
Richard Sennett
The craftsman
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Concrete and earth dams in Switzerland today Digues et barrages récents en Suisse Staumauern und D Schweizerisches Nationalkomitee für Grosse Talsperren Nos barrages en Suisse romande (Charles Borel; CollectionPages suisses - Werner ; 8 [1942])

Ressources en bibliothèque
• One Place After Another / Kwon
• Nos barrages en Suisse romande / Borel
• Concrete and Culture / Forty
• Concrete and earth dams in Switzerland today
• Building: A Process with No Obligations to Heritage Preservation / Burckhardt
• Why is Landscape Beautiful? / Burckhardt
• The craftsman / Sennett
• Robert Smithson: Learning from New Jersey And Elsewhere / Reynolds

Websites
  • https://www.letemps.ch/suisse/rechauffement-climatique-transforme-alpes