The studio is interested in designing spaces that not only have an architectural quality through their form and spatial design, but also a social vision on how we live today. Our focus is on designing interior and exterior spaces, working with references from built spaces that we know from history.

Content

The current era is characterized by radical change. Technical and scientific achievements are changing the world faster than ever before. Developments in digitalization, robotics, biometrics, genetic engineering and other fields have fundamental effects on our existence. They challenge facts that have long been considered as permanent or given. Despite these radical changes, architecture can be something continuous - integrated into its long history. Well-designed spaces retain their validity over centuries. A room in a Palladian villa touches us 400 years after its creation, although life today is very different. It shows how spatial quality can exist for a long time without losing its effect on us. This is achieved through the intelligent use of architectural elements to compose a space with beautiful proportions and materials. This is how architecture can be culturally sustainable and create identity. Just as a text, an image or music can touch us over centuries, so can a room or building do the same, even if we do not know the authors and their intentions, and the conditions they were working in.

At different locations in Lausanne, in places where the urban structure is fragile, we will design several buildings for a cooperative. They will have characteristic interior as well as exterior spaces - determined by the elements of architecture. We will work with drawings, models and photographs of the models to represent the architectural ideas of the projects. Together we will make a trip to Zurich, where we will visit both urban spaces and interiors. Among others we will visit places designed by Trix and Robert Haussmann, Lütjens Padmanabhan, Peter Märkli and Eduard Neuenschwander and we will talk to representatives of local cooperatives to get to know their ideas about living.

Keywords
Space, Elements of Architecture, Form and Figure, Expression, Drawing as a Synthesis, Cooperative, Model, References, History of Architecture, Texts

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, the student must be able to:
• Develop a narrative in the project
• Negotiate between different aspects of design with the result of a clear expression
• Synthesize ideas into a coherent form
Teaching methods
We will read and discuss socio-critical texts that seem relevant to us today. At the same time, references from an interior and an exterior space will be analyzed, which have specific characteristics and can thus serve as a model. Using drawings as a synthesis, we will present the various references and carry out a first creative translation of the architectural themes. The knowledge gained from the references will be transferred to our own design. The drawing as a synthesis is a method that we have developed in the office to reflect on our own work and to register the conclusions we draw from it. The drawing is not only a realistic representation of the content but tries to grasp the essence of things.
«The drawings are something between a sketch, a photograph, a model and a plan – similar perhaps to the old maps of cities and territories, which show the relationship between things without any intention of being realistic. They are more like a mind map.» Drawing as a Synthesis, Maria Conen, 2017, Drawing Matter, https://www.drawingmatter.org/sets/drawing-week/conen-sigl-architekten/)

Assessment methods
Students will present their work every week at table crits, every three week in a public pin up session. An intermediate review and a final critic will be held with guest critics.

Supervision
Office hours No
Assistants Yes
Forum No