

AR-472

**Swiss cooperative housing: a critical overview**

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Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture	MA2, MA4	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	Oral
Workload	90h
Weeks	12
<b>Hours</b>	<b>2 weekly</b>
Courses	2 weekly
<b>Number of positions</b>	

**Summary**

This course provides a critical and historical examination of cooperative housing in Zurich and Geneva, since the late 19th century to today. Maintaining an architectural focus, it highlights connections between context, underlining ideologies, the living practices of residents, and the built forms.

**Content**

This course is run as a series of lectures providing a critical history of the housing cooperatives in Zurich and Geneva. It examines the ideas, processes and actors that propelled their emergence and development.

Lecture 1: Introduction: Housing as urban commons

Lecture 2: Cooperatives in context

Lecture 3: Zurich Cooperatives 1, 1890-1960: A political ecology

Lecture 4: Zurich Cooperatives 2, 1968-2000: New Radicals

Lecture 5: Zurich Cooperatives 3, 2000-2020: Institutionalisation of the margin

Lecture 6: Geneva Cooperatives: Overview and future prospects

Lecture 7: The Iconography of the Commons 1: Shared territories

Lecture 8: The Iconography of the Commons 2: New typologies

Lecture 9: Living the co-op: Practices of participation

Lecture 10: Good neighbours: Between autonomy and integration

Lecture 11: Between the state and the market? Economies of trust in cooperative living

Lecture 12: Written report / oral examination workshop

**Keywords**

Commons (urban)

Housing Cooperatives

Residential typologies

Citizen participation and urban activism

Switzerland

19th-21st century

**Learning Prerequisites****Important concepts to start the course**

Cooperation, Participation, Self-sufficiency (autonomy)

Urban and Residential typologies (Garden City, perimeter block, Siedlung etc.)

Commons / urban commons

Grassroots activism / social movements

Ideology

## Learning Outcomes

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

- Assess / Evaluate collective housing projects
- Interpret architectural and urban forms
- Analyze residential typologies
- Contextualise housing projects in urban / historical context
- Deduce connections between ideology and form

## Transversal skills

- Demonstrate the capacity for critical thinking
- Access and evaluate appropriate sources of information.
- 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.

## Teaching methods

The course approaches the history of communal living as an interdisciplinary field of knowledge that integrates architectural and urban design, typological innovation as well as social and cultural change.

Teaching methodologies include: historical survey, architectural and urban analysis, comparison of case studies, architectural criticism, synthesis and interpretation.

The course will be delivered as lectures with slides, followed by Q&A session.

## Expected student activities

Students are expected to attend all lectures.

When provided, course readings must be completed before the lecture, to assist comprehension and discussion.

Students are encouraged to prepare questions and discuss them in class after the lecture.

Students will prepare a short essay /written report on a cooperative housing project (preferably built) in Switzerland or abroad. All case studies must be approved by lecturer in advance.

For the oral exam, the students will discuss their written report and answer general knowledge questions based on the material covered during lectures.

## Assessment methods

*memoire / oral:*

- short written work (1000 words), 40% of the grade
- Oral exam based on discussion of paper + general knowledge question, 60% of the grade.

## Resources

### Bibliography

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