

AR-402(m)

**Studio MA2 (Gay)**

Gay Menzel Catherine Odile

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture	MA2, MA4	Obl.
Mob. AR	E	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	13
Withdrawal	Unauthorized
Session	Summer
Semester	Spring
Exam	During the semester
Workload	390h
Weeks	14
<b>Hours</b>	<b>6 weekly</b>
Courses	2 weekly
Project	4 weekly

**Number of positions**

**It is not allowed to withdraw from this subject after the registration deadline.**

**Remark**

Inscription faite par la section

**Summary**

The studio is focused on developing narratives, inspired both from the site and from the student's imagination. It aims in this manner to help the student intervene in the complexity of a given context.

**Content****Urban Legends - Martigny Highlands**

The Gay Menzel Studio addresses the complexity of the context as a source of development of a narrative linked to the site itself. This highlighting tool reveals the inherent qualities of the place and integrates projections or personal aspirations into it, with the broad ambition of reconnection to the environment.

**The making of sense**

In this time of crisis, and in the post-confinement, a reassessment of our way of life is essential. The quality of our relationship with nature, with the territory, with our way of living is questioned. Maybe a solution would be *‘resonance’*, of which the German sociologist Hartmut Rosa speaks, proposing us to redefine our relationship with the world, to create what he calls the axes of resonance? Is it the *‘care’* that Heidegger talks about that induces an exchange with the environment? Are there other ways to be explored?

**Unveiling narratives**

The development of a project strategy is addressed through the narrative, as a crystallization of a specific site vision (understanding) and personal imagination. How does the architect, as a person, as a user, influences and generates anchor points to make places legible, porous and appropriable in order to give them meaning ?

**In the Highlands**

The region of Martigny in the Valais lies at the crossroads, between the inflection of the Rhône plain and the valleys leading to the mountain passes crossing over to Italy or to France. In this Alpine landscape, where extreme topography, historical passages and infrastructures go hand in hand, a cultural and economic community formed over the ages. It occupies the territory in a dispersed manner, following a vernacular logic. Although these mountain settlements are distinct entities, they remain in close relationship, dependency or interaction with Martigny. These communities of the alpine periphery constitute a strong potential for new forms of dwelling, in symbiosis with the greater landscape and the town close by.

We will investigate three sites in the highlands of Martigny, which illustrate different forms of alpine settlements: Ravoire, as a constellation of hamlets in a forest, Chemin on the ridge overlooking the Catogne Mountain, and Salvan located on a sunny plateau.

The semester Martigny Highlands explores the notions of identity, of sharing and of how to provide new forms of housing and production. It is about a respectful, resilient and sustainable occupation of the territory, articulated through the

architectural project.

### Keywords

Urban Legends, narrative, contextualism, territorial scale, Alps, crossroad, detail, evocation, double exposure, making of sense, reconnection, collective, social, periphery, agriculture, industry, productive landscape, infrastructure, ecology, sustainability, film, models, words.

### Learning Outcomes

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

- Develop and verbalise own needs
- Develop a narrative from contextual elements and personal imagination
- Use a narrative as main guideline through all scales of the project
- Analyze a site with a survey and documentation
- Define a desire through the project and make transmittable to others
- Present the project adequately
- Elaborate a coherent discourse
- Demonstrate consistency throughout the project

### Transversal skills

- Continue to work through difficulties or initial failure to find optimal solutions.
- Manage priorities.
- Take feedback (critique) and respond in an appropriate manner.
- Access and evaluate appropriate sources of information.
- Use a work methodology appropriate to the task.

### Teaching methods

The semester will start with the site visit. Groups of two or three students will receive one of three sites. A double exposure image will be required at the beginning, be reconsidered and adapted through the whole design process. Films will be produced in order to illustrate evocative thought crystallized to project ideas. Series of selected filmography will be projected during the semester. Illustrations of different descending scales will be produced until a very detail during the semester.

### Assessment methods

During intermediate and final reviews a guest jury will be appointed. Table critics will take place at the Studio GayMenzel. Contrôle continu, 100%

### Supervision

Office hours	Yes
Assistants	Yes
Forum	No

### Resources

#### Notes/Handbook

Each student will receive a course booklet.