

AR-401(a)

Studio MA1 (Vigano)

Viganò Paola

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture	MA1, MA3	Obl.
Mob. AR	H	Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	13
Withdrawal	Unauthorized
Session	Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	During the semester
Workload	390h
Weeks	14
Hours	6 weekly
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 Atelier explores the possibility of designing the urban and territorial space as a renewable resource; it plunges the students into an intense confrontation among themes, scales, actors, theoretical and design positions. Important synergies are envisaged between research and didactic moments.

Content

Beyond the center/periphery opposition, the City-Territory concept allows to read the dispersed contemporary condition as a potential for the construction of a sustainable and innovative urban dimension, where the notion of territorial recycling/reinvestment/care reverses the idea that urbanization is just a process of waste and considers it, instead, as a "stock" and a reservoir of energy and potential.

In the frame of the "Alpine-Leman City-Territory", a vast inhabited landscape stretching along the shores of the Leman lake, the Atelier will focus on the "Grand Genève" metropolitan area and its landscape. This large transboundary metropolis is today experiencing a strong demographic growth, exerting an unprecedented pressure on its ecosystems, especially considering the role they will play in the future and for the construction of a new form of inhabitability.

Here, particular topographic and hydrographic systems, equipment and infrastructural meshes, agricultural landscapes in transformation, open spaces and heterogeneous residential tissues have drawn over time specific territorial structures, in some cases weak or discrete, that need today to be deeply reinterpreted and re-imagined. In fact, the multiple ecosystem services that these structures provide are crucial to the reflection on the project of the ecological and socio-economic transition.

Starting from the territorial "weak structure", the design studio proposes a shift in the paradigm of territorial development focused on the growth of built space, orienting rather to an approach that places the unbuilt space at the center (*Hors-Zone-à-Bâtir*).

By doing this, to react to the challenges posed by the evolution of a "natural" and productive landscape, inhabited by a growing and increasingly diverse population and to question the idea and form of the contemporary western metropolis, some specific situations within the Grand Genève will be examined and will become the object of design investigations at different scales: the urban, the landscape and the living space. New forms of coexistence - between different species, populations, activities - will be made possible, constructing new spaces for the everyday life, based on strategies aimed at opening new life cycles, intensifying and adapting the inhabited landscape to climate change.

In the first semester the Design Studio will engage with the "Hors-Zones-à-Bâtir", its characteristic, actors and possible actions. In the second semester, reversing the gaze, the Design Studio will start from the existing urban fabric, its possibility to be reused, intensified and recycled.

Keywords

City-Landscape, City-Territory, Resources, Ecosystem Services, Urban Design, Space

Learning Prerequisites

Required courses

AR-471 - UE J Territory and landscape (Agriculture Métropolitaine), MER E. Cogato Lanza

Recommended courses

AR-700 - Spatial transformation as social movement, prof. J. Declerck

Learning Outcomes

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

- Elaborate a reading of the territory with strong on field appropriation
- Assess / Evaluate critically the contemporary urban condition
- Develop scenarios
- Develop inter-scalar strategies
- Elaborate prototypes and territorial urban projects

Teaching methods

The work is organized through a series of "design operations":

- design as descriptive tool: fieldwork, deep reading of territorial figures through mapping and other representations
- design as conceptual tool: socio-spatial prototypes designed as "concrete descriptions of future situations"

Students will also actively participate in seminars with local experts, researchers, stakeholders.

The Design Studio will be conducted in parallel with the Design Studio Vigano BA5; in some occasions, it will be enriched by lectures from the Master of Advanced Studies EPFL-ETHZ "Urban and Territorial Design".

An intense relationship with the UE J: Territoire et paysage (Agriculture Métropolitaine) is envisaged; the participation to the UE J is thus expected.

Expected student activities

Projective construction of urban scenarios and prototypes through the use of videos, maps, architectural drawings and models. Understanding and interpretation of the proposed bibliography through short presentations.

Assessment methods

The materials produced by the student will be the basis of a presentation evaluated taking into account:

- the student's contribution to teamwork and individual
- the quality of the different representations and of the project
- the capacity to place the work in a broader context
- the deepening of the proposed literature

Supervision

Assistants	Yes
Others	Tommaso Pietropolli Noélie Lecoanet Cedric Wehrle