AR-401(be)

Théorie et critique du projet MA1 (Eliasson)

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

Langue d'enseignement	français / anglais
Crédits	12
Retrait	Non autorisé
Session	Hiver
Semestre	Automne
Examen	Pendant le semestre
Charge	360h
Semaines	14
Heures	**6 hebdo**
Cours	2 hebdo
Projet	4 hebdo
Nombre de places	

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

Remarque

Inscription faite par la section

Résumé

Le studio explore de nouvelles perspectives collectives dans la ville contemporaine décentralisée, à travers l'hypothèse des jardins critiques comme espaces d'action. Deux territoires seront étudiés au cours de l'année : Bordeaux Métropole et le Grand Genève.

Contenu

Since the beginning of urbanization, the city has been the place where people live together: for the opportunities and safety it provides, for economic reasons, to fulfill a need for social bonds, and for all the other reasons that bring us together as a society. Living together in a shared environment requires forms of collective organization that always manifest themselves physically. Our urban structures reflect both our values and the challenges faced by society.

In this studio, we investigate the contemporary urban condition, which differs profoundly from the traditional vision of the city that still shapes our collective imagination and continues to inform political discourse and real estate development. The contemporary city, built over the last 150 years, is mostly horizontal, dominated by space rather than structured by built form. The conventional distinction between public and private has left little room for the commons. It is a city in which functions (housing, production, commerce, nature) and infrastructures are clearly separated.

We therefore ask the following question: what is our collective perspective within a horizontal urban condition? We can no longer rely on the public square or the ancient agora as our primary models of collective life, nor can we accept that the only spaces for collective action are those dedicated to consumption and leisure. We need places of action, in the sense articulated by Hannah Arendt in The Human Condition: spaces where we appear before one another and collectively shape the world.

The studio formulates the hypothesis that the critical garden, understood as a social and political space, can become a structuring element that creates proximity between inhabitants and fosters new collective perspectives within the contemporary city. It can serve as the starting point for a renewed form of urbanity.
The studio has a dual ambition: first, to read the territory in order to reveal situations that already belong to the commons; second, to propose new collective perspectives where they are absent. It adopts a research-by-design approach that seeks both to produce knowledge about the territory and to transform it.

During the autumn semester, our field of exploration is a 2.5 × 2.5 km territory within the Bordeaux metropolitan area. Situated between the airport and the ring road, it brings together a diversity of conditions characteristic of contemporary

metropolitan landscapes: road infrastructure, major industries (Dassault Aviation and Thales), business parks, a shopping centre, residential neighborhoods, a public park, a school, and Tram Line A. An ordinary territory with no obvious qualities, precisely what makes it a particularly relevant site of investigation. We will visit Bordeaux and the site of exploration in September
The spring semester will address the same question in the urban territory of Greater Geneva, a cross-border metropolitan region of more than one million inhabitants, over 80% of whom live outside the City of Geneva.
'ACTION on territory' is a design studio that engages with the contemporary city by proposing concrete actions to transform it. Through design, it explores how architecture, landscape and urbanism can together create the conditions for collective action and enable us to shape the world together.

Mots-clés

critical garden, decentralized city, housing and work, metropolis, territory, collectve perspective, urban design

Acquis de formation

A la fin de ce cours l'étudiant.e doit être capable de:

- Explorer et comprendre un territoire urbain à différentes échelles, de l'espace intérieur jusqu'au territoire élargi
- Identifier , analyser et transférer des idées issues de projets existants, en extrayant des principes spatiaux et en les testant dans de nouveaux contextes
- Formuler des hypothèses, les expérimenter par la manipulation spatiale et produire des connaissances
- Développer des prototypes
- Négocier avec le groupe

Méthode d'enseignement

The studio as a framework for discussion : the studio is a space for reflection, experimentation and collective learning, in which the project is not only a product but also a method for understanding and transforming the world : it is research by design. We provide students with the tools needed to observe the world so that they can act within it with full awareness and autonomy. The studio operates through a shared methodological framework: common drawing methods, collective schedules, regular group reviews, with drawing holding a central place as a tool for both thinking and negotiation. A specific spatial device structures the discussion: a central 1:1000 scale model (mobile and demountable) will be placed, and a shelf holding books and individual models. Frames intended to house the research threads complete the setup.

Study trip to Bordeaux
The study trip to Bordeaux will take place in September (27/09-29/09). The personal budget required will be approximately 400-450 CHF (travel, accommodation and food) depending on accommodation arrangements. We will explore the site as well as specific projects within the metropolitan area, including a visite to arc en reve center of architecture.

Semester Organisation
The studio its organized in three distinct phases :

Phase 1: Collective research and shared tools (4 weeks)
- Production of a collective model
- Four thematic research themes (Housing / Economy / Nature / Rest)
- Personal critical garden case study
Group work for the research themes and the model; each student individually analyses one or two examples of critical gardens. The collective investigations are led through visual research and a site visit end of September.

Four research themes are explored :
- Economy (blue) : economic activities, types of employment, how people work
- Housing (red) : different housing and domestic life configurations, how people live
- Nature (green) : quality and role of existing green spaces/structures
- The rest (grey) : how and where people meet and interact, activators, unexpected things

Phase 2: Projects : collective perspectives
In groups of two, students will propose a new collective perspective within the study territory. In relationship with a critical

garden proposal, projects can explore new living and working configurations within the territory

Phase 3: A shared vision
Drawing from the different projects produced, students will build a collective narrative on the potential of the commons in the decentralised city. Cross-studio work in the form of a collective workshop.

Weekly rhythm
- Monday afternoon: collective reviews, all groups gathered
- Tuesday morning: collective exchanges around lectures and writings
- Remaining time: group work and individual exchanges

Travail attendu

- One large collective model at 1:1000 (2.5 x 2.5 km territory)
- Four thematic research themes
- Group projects proposing new collective perspectives
- One shared vision on the commons in the territory

Méthode d'évaluation

Throughout the semester, student work will be assessed through a combination of formal and informal evaluations, culminating in a grade after the final critique. This grade reflects the full process across the semester, based on key criteria that account for both the final outcome and the student's engagement in collective work. The grade will be distributed as follows:
1. Collective and individual research: 40% (ability to observe, understand and problematise a context in all its complexity)
2. Project: 40% (ability to formulate hypotheses and translate them into a spatial proposal)
3. Collective participation in the studio: 20%
An intermediate review will be organized to present the research.

Encadrement

Office hours	Oui
Assistant.e.s	Oui

Ressources

Liens Moodle

- https://go.epfl.ch/AR-401_be