AR-401(bg)

Studio MA1 (Loeliger et Strub)

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

Language of teaching	English
Credits	12
Withdrawal	Unauthorized
Session	Winter
Semester	Fall
Exam	During the semester
Workload	360h
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

Starting from the question "How do we want to live?", we explore architecture as a means to imagine new forms of living together. Across two consecutive semesters, students develop urban housing concepts from contrasting perspectives, integrating social, ecological, and constructive questions.

Content

Inside out * Outside in

A playful Approach to urban Planning and Living
The question "How do we want to live?" serves as the starting point for a playful and speculative exploration of new forms of communal living. Over the course of two consecutive semesters, each building on the other and starting from diametrically opposed perspectives, students develop urban housing concepts that integrate social, ecological, and structural considerations. The work moves from the individual room to the apartment and the house and then to the city and back again. Different notions of community, privacy, and neighborhood are explored and translated into precise architectural projects.
Studio HS 26: The City in the House
In the first semester, students develop new forms of housing from the residents' perspective. By questioning conventional notions of housing and addressing specific spatial needs, they create apartments, houses, and ultimately an urban building block for a larger community. The design process deliberately begins without a fixed program of spaces or a predetermined building site. Individual residential units are combined to form a large building for several hundred residents. Diverse neighborhoods, communal spaces, cultural offerings, and workspaces are organized and interconnected within an architecturally varied building structure and are only situated as a building block of the city at the very end.
Studio FS 27: The House in the City
In the second semester, the question of the future of housing is examined from an urban perspective. Every architectural intervention takes place within an existing context. The starting point is an existing neighbor-hood, whose spatial, social, and ecological conditions are analyzed. Based on an understanding of existing structures, potential sites for densification are identified and building sites for complementary urban elements are designated. Students develop their individual projects as standalone buildings within this urban context. Existing developments, open spaces and social structures are incorporated and complemented by new forms of housing, communal uses, additional services to fill gaps and public spaces.

Exercices and Lectures
The design process combines analytical, speculative, and constructive approaches. Introductory lectures, short exercises, workshops, presentations, and discussions guide the development of a project throughout the entire semester. The work spans various scales - from a room to an apartment, a house and the city - and explores different perspectives - from program to floor plan, structure, construction, and expression. It is supported by interim reviews, group discussions and individual guidance.

Teaching methods

The approach combines playful exploration with precise architectural elaboration. Design is understood as a process of questioning, deconstructing, and reassembling. At the same time, the real-world conditions of building - structure, materials, resources, and urban context - are an essential part of the design process. Students work with a variety of presentation and research methods. Models, drawings, analyses, and discussions accompany the development of the projects and help translate social issues into concrete architecture.

Expected student activities

A variety of guest speakers broaden the perspective and enrich the discussion throughout the two semesters.
A field trip to Zurich during the fall semester to explore large-scale residential buildings and unconventional forms of housing sharpens students' perception. The trip during the spring semester focuses on the urban fabric. Expected costs standard for models and printing and for the activities around CHF 300.- / semester.

Resources

Moodle Link

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