

AR-685

**Neighborhoods in Transition II**

Invited lecturers (see below), Lufkin Sophie, Rey Emmanuel

Cursus	Sem.	Type
Architecture and Sciences of the City		Opt.

Language of teaching	English
Credits	3
Session	
Exam	Project report
Workload	90h
<b>Hours</b>	<b>62</b>
Courses	24
TP	8
Project	30
<b>Number of positions</b>	<b>30</b>

**Frequency**

Only this year

**Remark**

English is the official language of the seminar. Lectures and discussions will be held in English.

**Summary**

The seminar "Neighborhoods in Transition II" explores the potential of urban slopes in the context of a post-carbon society. Combining architecture, urban studies, and sustainability, it engages doctoral students in understanding sloping neighborhoods through case studies, lectures, and discussions.

**Content****NEIGHBORHOODS IN TRANSITION II****Potentials of urban slopes in a post-carbon perspective**

*Invited lecturers : Andreas Bründler (Buchner Bründler), Marius Hug (Meier Hug), David Gogishvili (UNIL). Other lecturers to be confirmed.*

Architectural design plays a crucial role in finding alternatives to urban sprawl, aiming to regenerate and qualitatively densify existing urban areas near public transport hubs. More broadly, it seeks to integrate the practice of building into the transition towards a post-carbon society. In Switzerland, as in much of Europe, many urbanized areas are located on slopes, presenting a unique set of challenges related to buildings, landscape architecture, public spaces, infrastructure, energy use, and mobility.

The doctoral seminar "Neighborhoods in Transition II: Potentials of Urban Slopes in a Post-Carbon Context" is designed to explore the complex dynamics of sloping neighborhoods in urban environments. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the course blends elements of sustainable architecture, urban studies, urban geography, and climate resilience, encouraging students to critically engage with the multifaceted nature of urbanity on sloped terrain. We will examine how sloping neighborhoods and their built environments can adapt to the challenges of the post-carbon transition, considering historical contexts, contemporary issues, and prospective visions.

This course aims to foster in-depth discussions among doctoral students in architecture, urban studies, geography, and urban sociology, all of whom are interested in exploring sloping neighborhoods through the lens of a post-carbon future. Students will deepen their understanding of how architectural design can contribute to urban transitions, particularly in challenging topographies like urban slopes.

The seminar is structured around three core research themes for analyzing and designing sloping neighborhoods: Foundations, Strategies, and Projects. Each theme is addressed in a half-day session, combining theoretical frameworks with contemporary architectural design practice. Each thematic session features two lectures from external experts - ##architects, urban planners, geographers, or landscape architects - and a roundtable discussion, providing ample opportunities for doctoral students to engage with the speakers. Informal activities, such as site visits and shared meals, will also encourage interaction and foster a convivial seminar environment.

Upon registration, each doctoral student will, in consultation with the seminar coordinator, select a case study of a sloping neighborhood. Once validated by the seminar organizers, the student's initial work involves documenting both the case study and the broader themes of the seminar, with a reading list provided by the organizers.

Four weeks after the seminar concludes, participants will submit a summary report, which will:

1. Provide a brief overview of their chosen case study.
2. Offer a critical analysis of the case study, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the implemented solutions and potentially drawing comparisons with other sloping neighborhoods discussed during the seminar.

This work can be completed individually or in pairs. Assessments will take into account the collaborative nature of group submissions.

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### Keywords

Neighborhoods in transition; Post-carbon transition; Sustainable neighborhood; Urban slopes; Sloping neighborhood

### Learning Prerequisites

#### Required courses

Master in Architecture or Urban engineering or Urban sociology or Geography or equivalent.

### Learning Outcomes

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

- Develop a critical understanding of the challenges and opportunities presented by sloping urban environments within the context of the post-carbon transition
- Integrate interdisciplinary knowledge from architecture, urban studies, geography, and climate resilience to address the complexities of sloping neighborhoods.
- Apply theoretical frameworks to real-world case studies, documenting the distinctive features of a sloping neighborhood and critically analyzing urban and architectural strategies
- Enhance collaborative and communication skills through group discussions, expert roundtables, and case study analysis, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue.
- Produce a summary analytical report, synthesizing seminar content and applying insights to personal research or professional practice

### Resources

#### Bibliography

Baumüller J., Hoffmann U. & Stuckenbrock U., "Urban framework plan "Hillsides of Stuttgart". The seventh International Conference on Urban Climate, 29 June - 3 July 2009, Yokohama, Japan.

Harris-Brandts S. & Gogishvili D., "Lofty ideals in aerial connectivity: ideology in the urban cable car network of Tbilisi, Georgia". *Eurasian Geography and Economics*, 2020, DOI: 10.1080/15387216.2020.1801479

Marchand B. (Ed.), *Urbanité hybride / Hybrid Urbanity. Entre forme urbaine traditionnelle et transition écologique / Between traditional urban form and ecological transition*. Basel: Birkhäuser, 2024.

Mazaud J.-R., *Trams du ciel. Atlas mondial des téléphériques et autres transports à câble urbains*. Paris : La Découverte, 2017.

Rey E. (Ed.), *Transformations*. Lausanne: PPUR, 2022.

Rey E., Laprise M. & Lufkin S., *Neighborhoods in transition*. Cham: Springer, 2022.

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Rouillard D., *Building the slope: hillside houses, 1920-1960*. Santa Monica: Arts + Architecture Press, 1987.

Schultheiss M.-E., Pattaroni L. & Kaufmann V., "Planning urban proximities: An empirical analysis of how residential preferences conflict with the urban morphologies and residential practices". *Cities*, 2024, 152, DOI: 10.1016/j.cities.2024.105215

Simpson B.J. & Purdy M.T., *Housing on Sloping Sites: A Design Guide*. New York, London: Construction Press, 1984.

Westerink J., Haase D., Bauer A., Ravetz J., Jarrige F. & Aalbers C.B.E.M., "Dealing with Sustainability Trade-Offs of the Compact City in Peri-Urban Planning Across European City Regions". *European Planning Studies*, 2013, 21, 4, DOI: 10.1080/09654313.2012.722927

### Ressources en bibliothèque

- [Baumueller J. \(et al.\), "Urban framework plan "Hillsides of Stuttgart"](#)
- [Harris-Brandts S. & Gogishvili D., "Lofty ideals in aerial connectivity: ideology in the urban cable car network of Tbilisi, Georgia"](#)
- [Marchand B. \(Ed.\), \*Urbanité hybride / Hybrid Urbanity\*](#)
- [Mazaud J.-R., \*Trams du ciel\*](#)
- [Rey E. \(Ed.\), \*Transformations\*](#)
- [Rey E. \(Ed.\), \*Transformations : Living Periphery\*](#)
- [Rey E. \(Ed.\), \*Transformations : Urban recovery\*](#)
- [Rey E. \(Ed.\), \*Transformations : Suburban Polarity\*](#)
- [Rey E. \(Ed.\), \*Transformations : Green Density\*](#)
- [Rey E., Laprise M. & Lufkin S., \*Neighborhoods in transition\*](#)
- [Roesler S., \*City, Climate, and Architecture\* \(2nd ed.,2025\)](#)
- [Roesler S., \*City, Climate, and Architecture\* \(2022\)](#)
- [Rouillard D., \*Building the slope\*](#)
- [Schultheiss M.-E. \(et al.\), "Planning urban proximities"](#)
- [Simpson B.J. & Purdy M.T., \*Housing on Sloping Sites\*](#)
- [Westerink J. \(et al.\), "Dealing with Sustainability Trade-Offs of the Compact City in Peri-Urban Planning Across European City Regions"](#)

### Websites

- <https://www.epfl.ch/schools/enac/education/interdisciplinary-teaching/ideas/doctoralorientation/neighbourhoods-in-transition/>

### Moodle Link

- <https://go.epfl.ch/AR-685>