Postfossil Neighbourhoods



All countries bordering the Alpine Rhine Valley aim for net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This is only realistic if spatial planning, infrastructure development, urban planning and architecture are also consistently geared towards this goal. But what does this mean in concrete terms for the built environments in the region?

In this design studio, the example of an existing neighbourhood in Vaduz is used to examine which spatial strategies and design measures are necessary and how they affect everyday life and social prosperity. The design projects integrate issues such as energy, mobility, resources, climate adaptation, and social development with questions relating to public space, usage scenarios, upgrading existing buildings, or contemporary forms of living and working.

During the semester, we will develop various urban design scenarios for a selected neighbourhood in Vaduz that show how the net zero goal can be achieved at neighbourhood level, how social prosperity is possible in the postfossil future and what challenges arise. The results contribute to the discourse for future-oriented planning within the discipline and among the public.

Studio tutors

Michael Wagner, Luis Hilti

Invited experts: Fabian Hörmann (sustainability), Xavier Blaringhem (urban design), Angelika Juppien (architecture and social space), Violeta Burckhardt (open space and urban climate)

Literature

Building climate. An encyclopaedia on architecture, landscape architecture and spatial planning on the way to net zero, Andreas Herzog (ed.), Edition Hochparterre, 2022.

The 15-Minute City, Carlo Moreno, Wiley, 2024.

Building with a Positive Footprint, Vincent van der Meulen, nai010 publishers, 2022.

Soft City: Building Density for Everyday Life, David Sim, Island Press, 2019.



Learning from Paris

Spring Semester 2024 Advanced Studio Landscape – Seminar week Bachelorstudiengang Architektur Master's degree programme in Architecture



In recent years, Paris has undergone major changes: the cycling infrastructure has been massively expanded, pedestrian zones created, car parks removed and a city-wide 30 km/h speed limit introduced. Paris is to become a <15-minute city>. In a 15-minute city, all everyday places can be reached on foot or by bike in a maximum of 15 minutes. This reduces car traffic, improves air quality, lowers noise levels, residents need less time for mobility and creates new meeting spaces. Roofs are also being greened and 170,000 new trees are to be planted by 2026.

To make short distances possible at all, a dense, mixed-use, compact urban structure is important. Living, working and leisure must be closely interlinked. When new buildings are constructed in the future, they must also allow for different types of use.

During the seminar week, we will visit sustainable pioneering projects and meet planners and architects who will tell us about their work. Together, we will also examine and document the spatial, social and economic qualities of a dense urban neighbourhood. This knowledge will be taken back to the studio as inspiration for the design of dense post-fossil city blocks in Vaduz.

Seminar week tutors Michael Wagner, Luis Hilti Arrival and departure as well as accommodation and local travel are organised individually by the students at their own expense. A contribution of CHF 50 will be charged for entrance fees, guided tours and group expenses.

