

WS 21/22
Bachelorstudiengang Architektur
Master's degree programme in Architecture

Advanced Studio **UPCYCLING (EN)**
Studio Tutors: **Alberto Alessi & Anna-Lydia Capaul**

This could be: New life for “closed” churches in Venice



Sant'Anna Church in Venice: founded in 1246, transformed in 1659, desecrated since 1810, ... (Photo: Alberto Sinigaglia)

2021: Venice Architecture Biennale: “How will we live together?” is the dilemma posed by Hashim Sarkis. 2021: Venice counts more than 120 churches; about 30 of those are no more used for their original purposes: they became warehouses, exhibition spaces, ... or just remain empty. Our aim this semester is to elaborate a reflection and a project for one of these “closed” public spaces: rereading them as places where individual and collective stories can be made visible, reconstructed, interpreted and shared. Once a church has been chosen, an inventory of its material and immaterial aspects forms the starting point for the narratives and the programs that grow from them. Experimental and visionary ways of working and researching, rebuilding and rethinking will add new aspects to the existing situation and create new meanings. Based on the stories of the chosen churches their contexts, and the personal ones, potential temporary or long-term uses will be developed, opening up new possibilities. The questions of function, context, language and time are reflected and translated into a “new present and presence”.

The centre of our advanced studio is the involvement with the existing. We understand buildings and places as hybrid contexts shaped by human interactions, which are strongly defined by the actions of their users and their social and cultural stratifications. We therefore interpret the building stock as a store and inventory of knowledge and a palimpsest of memories, stories and dreams. We claim for an architectural upcycling as an active building culture: a conscious rethinking, reusing, connecting and upgrading of the existing to make possible something new.

Our Seminar Trip will take us to Venice, allowing us to contribute to the current 17th Architecture Biennale while also detecting some of the current “closed” churches and visiting many architectural seminal places and interventions in the existing body of this peculiar city.

Inputs

N.N. - architectural history and theory
Pascal Gnädinger - model-making
Stephanie Hering - sociology
Eugen Schuler - structural engineering
Jara Malevez - video-making
Jun Bruderer - web design
Roman Banzer - writing

Recommended literature and filmography

Literature

Bertagna, A., Marini, S. (2011). *The Landscape of Waste*. Milano: Skira.
Boesch, M., Lupini, L., & Machado, J. F. (2017). *Yellowred: On reused architecture*. Mendrisio: Mendrisio Academy Press.
Burckhardt, L. (2013). *Der kleinstmögliche Eingriff*. Berlin: Martin Schmitz.
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Lichtenstein, C., Schregenberger, T. (2001). *As found the discovery of the ordinary* (English ed.). Baden: Lars Müller.
Löw, M. (2015). *Raumsoziologie* (8. ed.). Frankfurt am Main: Suhrkamp.
Marini, S., Roversi Monaco, M., Monaci E. (2020). *Guida alle chiese “chiuse” di Venezia*. Melfi: Libria.
Moravanszky, A. (2018). *Metamorphism. Material Change in Architecture*. Basel: Birkhäuser.
Österreichische Gesellschaft für Architektur. (2017). *Umbau 29. Umbau: Theorien zum Bauen im Bestand*. In. Basel: Birkhäuser.
Rowe, C., Koetter F. (2001) *Collage City*. Boston: MIT Press.
Ruskin, J. (1851). *The Stones of Venice*.
Smithson, R. (1972). *Hotel Palenque*.
Stockhammer, D. (2020). *Upcycling. Reuse and Repurposing as a Design Principle in Architecture*. Zürich: Triest.
Valery, P. (). *Eupalinos, or the Architect*. Berlin: Suhrkamp.
Ventury, R. (1966). *Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture*. New York: MOMA

Films

Fellini, F. (1976). *Casanova*.
Segre, A. (2020). *Molecole*.
Soldini, S. (2000) *Pane e Tulipani*.
Tarkovsky, A. (1982). *Stalker*.
Visconti, L. (1974). *Death in Venice*.