

Master's degree programme in Architecture
Design Studio SS 2016

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Climate Refuge City



Jänschwalde Coal Power Station (left), Cottbus University Library (right)

This studio engages in the design of regenerative buildings and cities as havens for refugees. The transformation of a region long dominated by the mining, processing and combustion of coal is our focus. The project is staged in the fascinating region of Lusatia between Berlin and the Polish border, where brown coal is being quarried in vast open-cut fields swallowing up villages, burnt day and night, heating the atmosphere, turning our oceans into acid – and us all into climate refugees. Bold and rapid action is needed to cease and reverse environmental, social and cultural destruction. This studio pursues the model transformation of planet endangering worlds into regenerative oases, confronting global warming and the refugee age through the rise of resilient regions and the transition to renewable energy. Here we develop new approaches to architecture and landscape design.