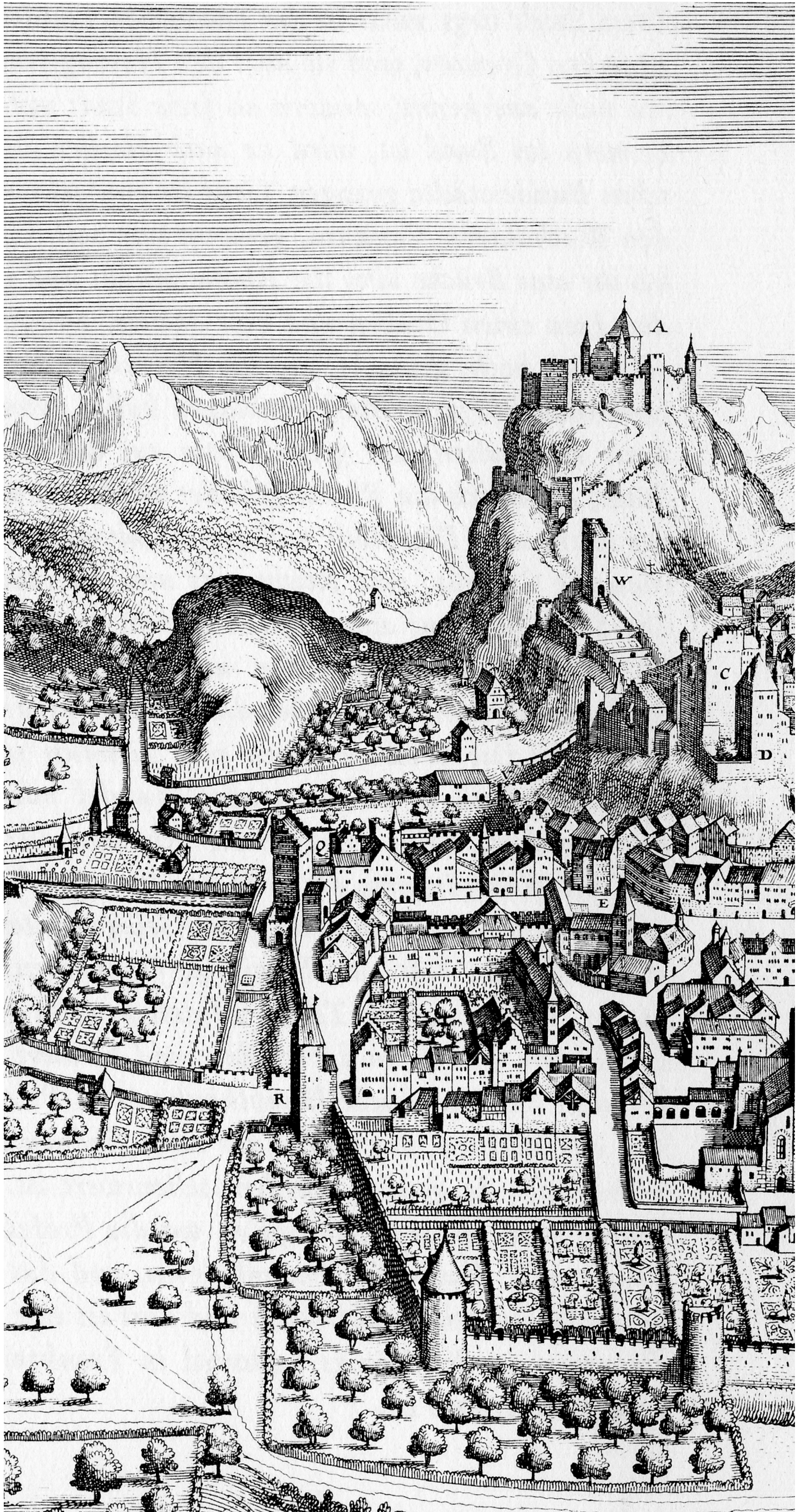


Chair of Architectural Behaviorology



View of the city of Sion, around 1640, copper engraving by Matthäus Merian the older
Source: Topographia Helvetiae, Rhaetiae et Valesiae, 1642 /

Today's local populations and ecologies are confronted by a raft of critical issues that have become manifest at a shared global level. A key worldwide aspect in these interlinked challenges is the dual phenomena of aging societies and the depopulation of rural areas, whereby the development of modern technology and industry in the course of the 20th century has played a huge role in triggering these problems by establishing barriers between everyday life and local resources, such as nature, human skills and accumulated knowledge. Rural communities based on small-scale primary industries, which have traditionally been vital not only in securing national food supplies but also in maintaining a sustainable ecosystem balance between mankind and nature, face a growing struggle in terms of generational succession and transfer. Using the core design approach of architectural behaviourology the research project advocates and demonstrates, both theoretically and in real-world practice, the significance of creating urban-rural commons to rejuvenate community livelihoods with small-scale primary industries (farming, fisheries, and forestry), taking both Asia (Japan) and Europe (Switzerland) as geographically distant yet mutually applicable and promising applied settings.

Design Studio 2020HS Fruit Behaviorology in Switzerland Designing Urban Rural Commons

Architectural behaviorology as an architectural design method focuses on creating better accessibility to the innate resources of rural communities. Urban-rural commons is defined as a notion of commons in both the rural and urban realms, including integrating their crossover interactions and hybridisation. Students will examine the existing livelihood with ethnographic approach and visualize them by actor network drawings. Then, through drawings and models, the students will propose an architectural project to intervene in the network and establish Urban Rural Commons to define a possible future for the study area.

This year, we focus on designing architecture for livelihoods focused on permanent fruit crops, such as vineyards, apple orchards or chestnut forests. Fruit cultivation and the production of fruit based products and architectural as well as landscape design are widely interconnected, often completely blurring the boundaries between agriculture, landscape and architecture.

A variety of specific buildings are needed to cultivate fruit, from growing seedlings, mainting orchards to harvesting, storing and processing fruit. Many of the build structures and buildings are needed to provide specific conditions, such as a certain temperature, amount of sunlight are protection from the weather. We will study the vernacular und modern methods to provide these conditions and reapply them to new design projects.

One of the biggest and most important fruit growing areas and our field of study in the autumn semester will be the lower Valais. There, plantations, retaining walls, irrigation system and other infrastructure have shaped the valley for centuries and fruit plantations reach within the most urbanized centers.

Students choosing this design studio with first priority do not need to choose a seminar week in HS 2020. The trip to Valais during the seminar week is highly recommended and will be credited as a seminar week.

Seminar Week 2020HS Fruit Behaviorology in Switzerland Designing Urban Rural Commons

In the autumn semester 2020, the Chair of Architectural Behaviorology offers a week-long trip to investigate the theme of fruit farming behaviorology in Switzerland.

Field works, lectures by specialists, visits to traditional villages and selected architectures will deepen the knowledge on the theme. We will also visit some contemporary projects in order to understand how new kinds of architectural design can contribute to create Urban Rural Commons.

Exchange between students and local farmers will be an important goal during the seminar week. We aim to present the tentative projects to locals in Sion and actively engage in discussions surrounding architectural design and the existing livelihoods.

The trip will be an integral part of the design studio, giving the students an opportunity to visit the site and to experience its broader context. The students will investigate the interaction between architectural elements, townscape and people's lives, as well as understand cultural and historical implications, all of which would be essential insights for their projects.

Students choosing this design studio with first priority do not need to choose a seminar week in HS 2020. The trip to Valais during the seminar week is highly recommended and will be credited as a seminar week.

Professor: Momoyo Kaijima
Advisor: Yoshiharu Tsukamoto
Assistants: Christoph Danuser, Sandrine Badoux
Language: English

Trip dates: Monday, October 19th - Friday, October 23th
Cost category: B