

INHABITING

Freedom, Pleasure
and Luxury for all

Studio
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Lacaton & Vassal

DESIGN STUDIO HS18

In this design studio we explore and define qualities of housing in urban cohabitation. From inside out, with feet on the ground, from the smallest to the largest, and valuing the already existing, we approach an occupied urban situation at the center of Zürich.

With reuse, refurbishment, transformation, adaptation, superimposition, reconstruction and new construction, the students transfer their design objectives to architectural and spatial proposals. Far away from masterplans, the range of fragments will form the coherent and entire project for the site.

Inhabiting

is the most wonderful challenge of contemporary architecture. *Inhabiting* implies pleasure, generosity, the freedom to occupy a space, beyond the functional. It challenges us to think about the possibilities and capacities of the space around and ahead of oneself.

Architecture is about building multitudes of situations of usage, connected and intersected. These situations are mobile and build the act of *Inhabiting*. Designing architecture on the basis of the notion of *Inhabiting* means to construct space from the inside, and not from the outside as an indifferent and distanced act.

The space for living must be generous, comfortable, adaptable, flexible, luxurious and affordable.

The dwelling must offer the inhabitant opportunities to move around, to appropriate space, offer freedom of usage to generate possibilities of evolution and interpretation.

It is the aim, in every project, to create living spaces as big as possible, much more generous as the standards or the programs in general too small, too restricting.

A dwelling must offer extra space, as much extra space as programmed space. This extra space is a non-defined space, free for use. It is added to the traditional spaces of the dwelling or to the programmed space. The combination of both allows freedom and appropriation.

Every dwelling must have a private outside space, as a balcony, a terrace, a winter garden, which offers the possibility of living outside, of having a garden, like in a single house.

Large spaces bring a vital feeling of freedom.

More space means building larger

– twice more is the goal –

with the same cost as the standard

to be affordable for everyone.

Enlarging does not mean wasting.

It means inventing space, to create other possibilities,

other freedoms, new ways of inhabiting.

Building double, for any program,

to loosen the constraints, to loosen norms,

to multiply the uses and

foster appropriation and improvisation!

Offering twice more space to each person

is a necessary and an essential condition

to any project of densification.

A dwelling should give the same facilities as a villa.

The idea of luxury is therefore redefined in terms of generosity, freedom of use and pleasure.

Inhabiting is neither norms, nor rules, nor the minimum.

A maximum of pleasure, comfort and freedom on every floor.

Anne Lacaton & Jean-Philippe Vassal

INTRODUCTION

Tuesday
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10 am

STUDIO

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