

# JAPAN STUDIO

## Designing and Building with Unknown Performances of Elements



Image: Exhibition at Venice Biennale 2021, Co-Ownership of Action: Trajectories of Elements, Curated by Kozo Kadowaki, Exhibition by Jo Nagasaka, Ryoko Iwase, Toshi Kiuchi, Taichi Sunayama, Daisuke Motogi and Rikako Nagashima, photo by Alberto Strada, 2021

The **Japan Studio** fosters architectural **cultural exchange** between Japan and Switzerland, seeking innovative solutions to global **sustainability** challenges. The studio is collaboratively curated by an accomplished teaching team from Japan, including **Kozo Kadowaki**, a distinguished theorist, practitioner, and architect; **Ryoko Iwase**, an adept architect and landscape designer; and **Takahiro Kai**, an architect, construction engineer, and skilled craftsman.

The task: design and construct a captivating **tea room** encircling the **Alumni Lounge** on **ETH Campus Höggerberg**. The distinctive twist lies in the utilization of **construction waste** materials originating from the former **Huber Pavilions** and other structures. Unlike other studios, the designed structure and its components will be assembled and produced for **real-scale use** in Alumni Lounge.

Drawing inspiration from Japan's early modern wooden architecture, known for its **circular economy principles** and resource efficiency, students will reinterpret these concepts for contemporary Switzerland. This **architectural heritage**, rooted in recycling and reusing resources, resonates with modern challenges like **resource scarcity** and **urban complexity**. The project aims to cultivate a new architectural philosophy and technology as a response to the impending era's demands.

@japanstudio2023eth



Instructors: Kozo Kadowaki, Ryoko Iwase, Takahiro Kai  
Assistants: Tazuru Harada, Elias Knecht  
Collaboration: Alumni Lounge, SV Group  
Circular Engineering for Architecture,  
Prof. Catherine De Wolf, D-BAUG  
Organizer: Chair of Architectural Behaviorology  
Prof. Momoyo Kaijima, D-ARCH

Dates: September 2023 - December 2023  
Studio Location: ONA Langhalle  
Students: 18 students  
Site: Alumni Lounge, ETH Höggerberg  
Cost: No additional costs  
Contact: Tazuru Harada, harada@arch.ethz.ch  
Time: Tuesday and Wednesday  
Review Dates: 10.Okt / 14.Nov / 19.Dez