

Chair of Christophe Girot

KATZENBACH STADTPARK



Shaping the New Peri-Urban Park in Zürich Nord

Glacier, ice lake, swamp, nature reserve, and now an edge-city in the making: the plain east of the Katzensen marks the largest remaining open cultural landscape in the metropolitan region of Zürich. Heavily transformed throughout the 20th century from a pastoral landscape of scattered farmsteads into the city's largest growing residential district with a projected population growth rate of over 17% until at least 2038, Affoltern has yet to develop an urban landscape strategy, which not only designates but structures and develops public spaces and recreational facilities within the already incoherent pattern of urbanization and infrastructure. Viewing the 'space in-between' Affoltern and Seebach from the perspective of open space, the area holds significant value as a potential site for Zürich's first large-scale urban park.

The goal of the FS 2021 studio is to design a new public park on the Katzenbach plain. First students will be asked to analyze the periphery of Affoltern and Seebach, to designate and structure public space along the urban edge, and then to use the Katzenbach as a strategic backbone for developing a park that connects the urban context of Glattpark with the rural setting of the Katzensen. Students will work with microtopography and the topology of water to restructure the plain into a patchwork of public programs.

The landscape design method used will be that of topology. Analog design methods will be combined with digital design and fabrication tools, which will be taught in a series of workshops including 3D and point cloud modelling, and visualization techniques, to guide students in developing their own urban landscape design strategies.