

Studio Anne Holtrop

ETH Zürich

design studio FS19

MATERIAL GESTURE:

GYPSUM

introduction:

Tue, Feb 19, 9–12 am

HIR C 11



**Studio Anne Holtrop
ETH Zürich**

design studio FS19

**MATERIAL GESTURE:
GYPSUM**

introduction: Tue, Feb 19, 9–12 am, HIR C 11

For this first semester, we will work with GYPSUM, as part of our six-year MATERIAL GESTURE research and design. Our interest starts from a geological understanding of mining our source materials and consequently its irreversible change of the environment. In order to build, we mine and therefore we work in parallel on two sides, the sourcing of our material and the construction with it.

Gypsum is widely used within the realm of architecture, either as part of the process of making architecture, or in constructing architecture itself, such as the mass production today of plaster, gypsum board and building blocks. Gypsum has been used since the ancient Egyptians as a painted plaster finish inside the pyramids and as a structural material for the mortar in between the large stone blocks. As a prototyping material gypsum is used for model making: think of the recent Incidental Space by Christian Kerez for the Venice Architecture Biennial, for which he started with casting amorphous substances in gypsum, as a way of spatial form-finding.

We can find gypsum as a casting material for ceramics, glass, bronze or aluminium. The Magnetically Assisted Slip Casting, a research done at the ETH, uses a 100-year-old manufacturing technique in combination with contemporary material research to create complex materials that are almost perfect imitations of their natural models.

When we take all aspects of the material in consideration: the geology, the mining, its different properties, the craftsmanship, the specialised techniques and the cultural significance, we can deploy the full potential of the inherent qualities of the material itself and our way of working it, in what we call MATERIAL GESTURE. We will define our gestures of making and working material(s) in which gypsum is as a key element, in order to produce an architecture, where the reality of the work lays within the materiality, the space, and the act of making.

assistants: Iris Hilton, Stephan Lando, Yuiko Shigeta