

Chair of Christophe Girot

SEELAND RIVAGES

New Flood Infrastructures for the Jura Lake Region

The "Seeland," a region formed by three lakes at the foothill of the Jura Mountains, once was a floodplain of the Aare River. In the largest water infrastructure project ever attempted in Switzerland, the wetlands were drained and turned into one of the country's most important farming regions. Recently, however, increased glacial melt and heavier rain events have strained the system, posing an urgent question: When water levels across the Seeland rise, where should the excess flow?

The goal of the studio is to develop a new landscape project along a stretch of the Zihlkanal that will enable a novel solution to mitigating flooding problems and improving local living conditions. Building on a long tradition of projecting urbanistic and infrastructural utopian ideas on this site, our aim is to transform this high-risk area into a new strategic and complex network of water accumulation structures which offset the three-lake canal-driven flood control system created in the second correction completed in the '70s. Students will be asked to formulate an innovative approach to increasing the capacity for water storage by modifying the existing terrain and creating a set of new topographies using diverse forms which are compatible with the existing structures while also generating innovative and site-specific scenarios.

Introduction to the studio will take place on Tuesday, February 18th, 2020, HIL Foyer H 40.9 at 10 am. For more information on the studio and the compulsory site visit, please visit our website: www.girot.arch.ethz.ch or contact Magdalena Kaufmann: kaufmann@arch.ethz.ch.

Image: Fotoarchiv der Gemeinde Tüscherz-Allermée, F. Perrinjaquet [1955]