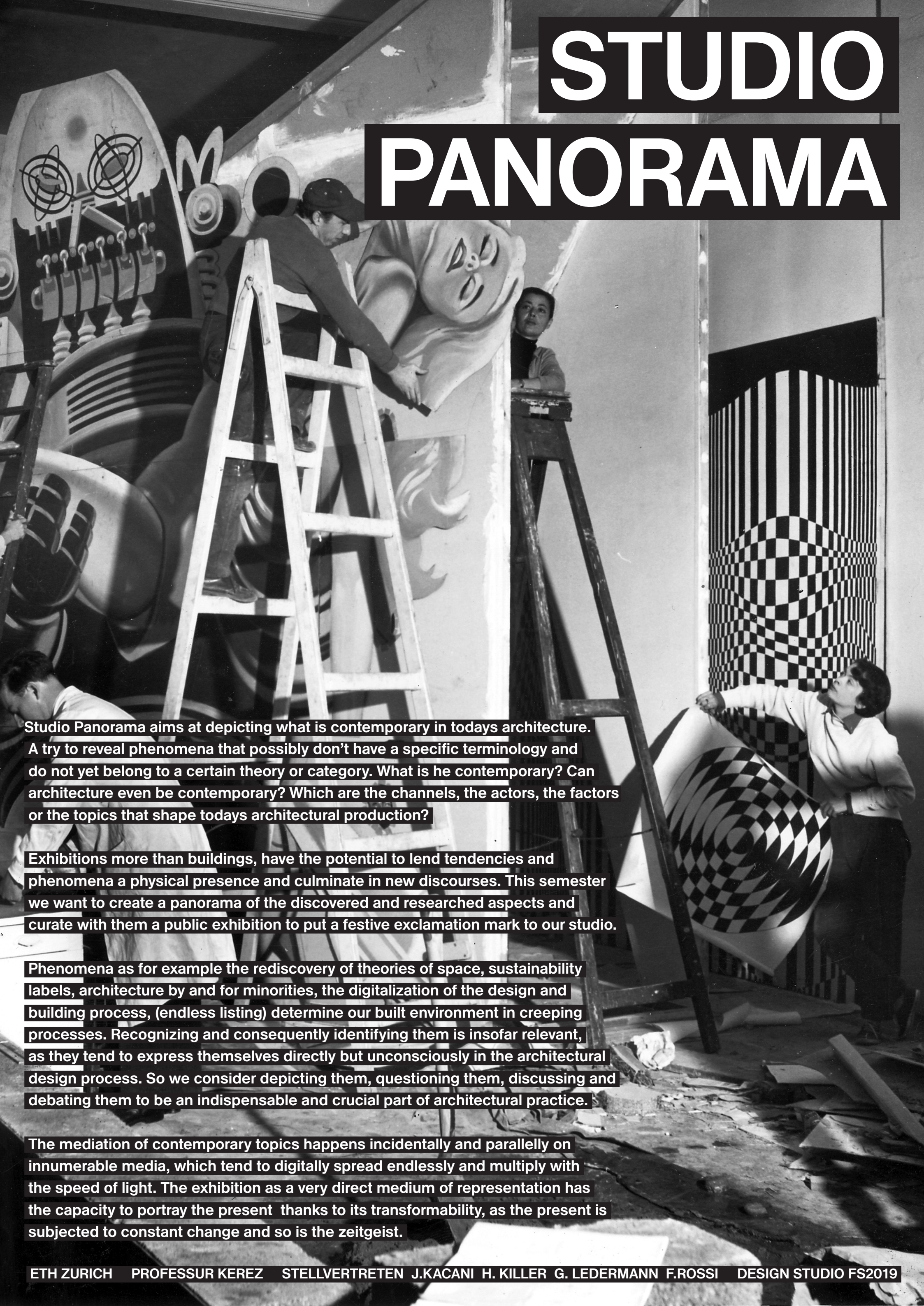


STUDIO PANORAMA



Studio Panorama aims at depicting what is contemporary in today's architecture. A try to reveal phenomena that possibly don't have a specific terminology and do not yet belong to a certain theory or category. What is the contemporary? Can architecture even be contemporary? Which are the channels, the actors, the factors or the topics that shape today's architectural production?

Exhibitions more than buildings, have the potential to lend tendencies and phenomena a physical presence and culminate in new discourses. This semester we want to create a panorama of the discovered and researched aspects and curate with them a public exhibition to put a festive exclamation mark to our studio.

Phenomena as for example the rediscovery of theories of space, sustainability labels, architecture by and for minorities, the digitalization of the design and building process, (endless listing) determine our built environment in creeping processes. Recognizing and consequently identifying them is insofar relevant, as they tend to express themselves directly but unconsciously in the architectural design process. So we consider depicting them, questioning them, discussing and debating them to be an indispensable and crucial part of architectural practice.

The mediation of contemporary topics happens incidentally and parallelly on innumerable media, which tend to digitally spread endlessly and multiply with the speed of light. The exhibition as a very direct medium of representation has the capacity to portray the present thanks to its transformability, as the present is subjected to constant change and so is the zeitgeist.

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How architecture is discussed, mediated, reported about, how it emerges, how it is formed, how it develops, why it looks how it looks, why it costs how much it costs, and why it is used how it is used are questions that will guide us through the semester and be depicted in our collective panorama.

This panorama tries to tie in with exhibitions like “international style”, “this is tomorrow” or “la strada novissima” by giving an overview of aspects, phenomena or tendencies that are not predetermined beforehand. Much more each student is asked to attentive analysis and careful exploration of a great diversity of media that deal with architecture in one way or the other, in order to independently and autonomously work out an aspect of personal importance and relevance. These should then be depicted in form of a thesis not only in as an aesthetic contribution to an exhibition, but also be debated in form of a written paper. Hence all contributions should aim to be in intellectual and physical-spatial relation to one another in order to form our panorama.

For this working method Studio Panorama proposes a horizontal hierarchical structure that welcomes personal initiative and where we will be supported by different figures. Weekly workshops with the sociologists of science Bernhard Böhm and the historian of science Dr. Fabian Grütter will support us in methodic and attentive researching as well as speculatively claiming topics. Irregularly Fredi Fischli and Niels Olsen (gta exhibitions), Philip Ursprung, Anneke Abhelakh (chair for the history and theory of architecture Prof. Dr. Maarten Delbeke), and Tobias Erb and Melissa Vrolixs (chair for the theory of architecture Prof. Dr. Laurent Stalder) and more to come will visit us to throw a critical view on the emerging panorama.

Finally we will confront Alejandro Zaera Polo and his mapping of contemporary architectural practices in form of a political compass (<http://globalarchitecturepoliticalcompass.com>) personally with our panorama of contemporary phenomena in architecture.

The individual contribution to the exhibiton can be further worked out in form of a “Vertiefungsarbeit” at the chair of Philip Ursprung or at our chair subsequently to the semester in order to be published in of the following issues of the publication AETHER (<https://aether.ethz.ch/about/>), which will dedicate a whole issue experimental research arrangement of Studio Panorama.