



IM BESTAND: HOUSEEUROPE!

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A citizens' initiative for an EU-legislation against demolition, speculation and planned obsolescence of existing buildings

To the overall arching theme of 'Enough', we respond by exploring new forms of taking action. From this semester on, the studio at station+ will be dedicated to a political initiative with the goal of implementing a legislation on a European level. *HouseEurope!* addresses the challenges of the existing building stock, which currently contributes to economic speculation and neglects its potential to support the social and ecological transformation. The goal of the initiative is to achieve a cultural and legislative shift of the building sector by promoting the adaptive reuse of existing buildings.

STUDIO BRIEF

This studio aims to explore the potential of adaptive reuse as a means of sustainable architecture. Within the various typologies that have a future reuse potential – such as offices, malls, store fronts, parking garages, banks, we will focus this semester's master thesis topic on the reuse of existing parking garages into

Image Credits

Left: New World Mall, Bangkok turned giant fish pond. Image by Jesse Rockwell.

Right: Detroit's Michigan Theatre turned parking. Image by Stan Douglas.

living spaces. Students will choose a parking garage as their case study, which is structured into four tasks, each focusing on one of the following principles: preservation, adaptation, renovation, and transformation.

We encourage students who have previous knowledge in adaptive reuse, housing, time-based media and an interest to translate them into legislation and campaigns.

PHASE 1 (WEEK 1-3) PRESERVATION

Task: Students will identify an existing building that is at risk of demolition or neglect due to its perceived lack of economic and/or cultural value. The goal is to prioritize the preservation of the building and its embedded energy, including its whole life cycle. Students will create a knowledge base that proofs the building's cultural, social, and environmental value.

Inputs: Bombyx – design-integrated parametric tool for real life cycle assessment (Chair of Sustainable Construction)

Deliverables: Building Analyses and Research Paper

The results of this research phase will be the common ground for the rest of the Design Studio students. Master Thesis students will create the knowledge base that will be presented in the first week of the Design Studio and function as the starting point for the Bachelor and Master students.

PHASE 2 (WEEK 4-8) ADAPTATION & RENOVATION

Task: Students will adapt the existing structure and underused spaces into a living space echoing the notion that our existing building stock is the foundation for a right to living, as they hold a lot of energy and value. Within this phase, students will find a new narrative for the building and propose an adaptive reuse plan that takes into account its future potential, and make the building a so called *Intelligent Ruin*.

To do so, students will develop a 'future-proof' renovation plan for the building. This includes repairing and updating the building's (infra)structure to reduce waste and CO2 emissions, as well as adapting and/or adding necessary new building parts.

Inputs: Oana Bogdan (Architect and Former Politician), Ludwig Engel (Futurologist)

Deliverables: Design Proposal (1:50-1:250)

PHASE 3 (WEEK 9-13) TRANSFORMATION

Based on the design proposal, students will propose a campaign. This will include the final narrative – comprising of the title, tagline, and a time-based media format – as well as a legislative proposal or strategy that promotes systemic change and foster social-

ecological transformation. The focus is on implementing policies that ensure equity, resilience, and community-building.

Inputs: Carsten Berg (Expert for Direct Democracy and Campaigner), Severin Bärenbold (Technical Seminar on Time-based Media)

Deliverables: Campaign Proposal (various formats) and Campaign Trailer (max. 2 min)

TAKE PART

Preservation, Adaptation, Renovation, Transformation. To achieve this shift – raise awareness and change legislation – involves recognizing and taking into account the embedded energy and the speculative momentum of these buildings to support sustainability in terms of ecology, society, and economy. In other words, the initiative seeks to overcome the either-or mindset and promote a both-and approach that takes into account all three factors.

HOW DO WE ACHIEVE THIS?

The ECI (European Citizens' Initiative) is a tool of direct democracy aligned with the Swiss tradition of referendum. It enables citizens to bring a legislative proposal into the European parliament by collecting one million signatures from at least seven countries within one year. The ECI has two phases: the preparation and campaign phase, followed by the collection of people's votes. Our *HouseEurope!* ECI is in the preparation phase and will be launched in October 2023 as part of the POWER exhibition at CIVA in Brussels.

From October 2023 until May 2024, our aim will be to foster an awareness campaign to educate people on the value of existing buildings and to advocate for a cultural transformation in the building sector. In May 2024, we will start collecting one million signatures. If we succeed, the EU Parliament will be obligated to discuss our proposal and dedicate a working group to it. In parallel, we have been and are working with an international law firm to draft a model law on the existing building stock that takes into account the trifold of society, ecology, and economy.

WHO IS BEHIND HOUSEEUROPE! ?

HouseEurope! is supported by a group of architects and scientists dedicated to creating a sustainable future for Europe's existing building stock. Organized by station+ (DARCH, ETHZ), the initiative has already gained the support of Lacaton&Vassal, who are our first ambassadors, with more ambassadors from all European countries to follow soon! Furthermore and beyond the design studio, we are seeking for supporters to join our cause, and we invite you to be a part of this endeavor. We welcome all (international) students to help us better understand the different cultural narratives to promote our goal.

TEAM**station.plus**

Arno Brandlhuber, Severin Bärenbold, Ludwig Engel, Olaf Grawert,
Pan Hu, Alina Kolar, Jolene Lee, Bing Liu, Meghan Rolvien

Prof. Dr. Silke Langenberg

Chair of Construction Heritage and Preservation, Institute
of Construction History and Preservation (IDB) / Institute for
Technology in Architecture (ITA), Department of Architecture
(D-ARCH)

Students are encouraged to visit the Kernfach Future Monuments
and the seminar week's design-built project at Schatzalp.

More collaborators to be announced soon**GRADING RATIO**

Research Phase, 40% of the Final Grade
Studio Brandlhuber, 80% (designer)
Collaborators, 20% (non-designer)

Design Phase, 60% of the Final Grade
Studio Brandlhuber, 80% (designer)
Collaborators, 20% (non-designer)

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