HOUSE EUROPE! Core Programme Master-Thesis HS 2024
Re-Imagined Contaminated Industrial Sites – Strategies of Urbanisation

Cooperation Partners:

Chair of Architecture & Construction
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Chair of Architecture & Urban Design
Prof. Hubert Klumpner
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Chair of History & Theory
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In cooperation with:

Frank and Tom Kurrer, A&A Liegenschaften ONA
Daniel Mettler, Bautechnologie und Konstruktion Dozentur Mettler/Studer

Abfalldeponie Bärengraben in Würenlingen, 1970

Industrial sites are often located close to growing urban settlements, and their grounds have been exploited and contaminated for decades. Although the current condition of such sites is critical from an environmental viewpoint, cities have grown around them creating polluted islands within the urban fabric. The master students' design task includes searching for such specific sites, evaluating their urban potential, developing a conceptual framework, and translating the learnings into a contemporary urbanistic and architectural project.

Our past dependency on cheap energy, unlimited growth, and mass consumption manifests in centralised large infrastructures. For example, Zurich's largest district heating plant Aubrugg (Arch. Pierre Zoelly, 1977) with more than 134,000 m3 below and above ground space, which follows Zolley´s idea of Terratektur, has been burning since the seventies oil and gas and more recently also wood for generating heat and electricity for the city of Zurich. Today we are confronted with an urgent need for energy transition and the task to regenerate contaminated ecosystems, including air, water, and soil while densifying cities in more socially diverse systems and repairing the damage that we have left behind.

Master students will re-imagine how industrial monuments can be redesigned into hybrid contemporary landmarks on different scales for densifying housing, living, working, and creating.

Potential sites:
HHKW Wallisellen (Zürich CH), Alter Schlachthof beim Letzigrund (Zürich CH), Schiessplatz Albisgütli (Zürich CH), Coal Mine Regeneration, Ruhr Coalmine (DE), Three Chimneys (Barcelona ES)

Size comparison Heating Plant and Grossmünster church, 1977, Pierre Zoelly

Preparation phase:
Conceptual mapping and constructive analysis of potential sites and their specific conditions.
Based on the findings and synthesis, an urbanistic and architectural concept is formulated.

Elaboration phase:
Elaboration of programme, an urban-design project and an architectural project.
Prototypical development elaboration, materialisation and expression.

Further details:
Max. 5 Students, individual work
Weekly tutorials with the assistant, regular interim critiques with the professors

Expected outcome:
Urban and architectural analysis in plan and model
Architectural project in plan and model, 1:500/1:200/1:50

Grading (Ratio of grading by cooperation partners for preparation and elaboration phase)**:**
Preparation phase: 40%
Elaboration phase: 60%

Design/Conception (AD): 33%
Design/Urban strategies (HK): 33%
Conception/Applied Theory (LS): 33%

Readings:
Klumpner Hubert, Papanicolaou Klearjos Eduardo, Theodore Georgeen, SDG 11:
Transitioning to Sustainable Cities and Communities, 2023
Jan Schweizer:
Limits of the Landscape: A Waste Incinerator for Zurich's Countryside, 2024, Arcadia Spring