



## **WATER PROOF – Hostels in Lavaux**

**Team:** Teresa Novais, Paolo Tombesi

**Duration:** Spring Semester

**Content:** If the Sri Lanka atelier in Semester 1 dealt with the critical management of abundant resources in population-pressured environments, the atelier in Semester 2 is bound to reflect on the role of architecture and technology in an environmentally sensitive, production-specific and culturally rich setting. The place selected for this investigation is Lavaux, the terraced vineyards stony landscape east of Lausanne that stretches along the south-facing northern shores of Lac Lemman. Exploiting a system of land use dating back over one-thousand years, Lavaux was inscribed in the UNESCO list of world heritage sites in 2007, and is now protected from development. But what does development mean in this instance?

Could one consider infrastructural interventions aimed at ameliorating the local organizational capacity of the wine-making industry while expanding the service offer for environmentally conscious and culturally attuned tourism? In the belief that answering a question such as this is critical at the more general level of the possible living relationship between heritage sites and places of production, the atelier will concentrate on a design proposition for hosteling facilities within the Lavaux terraces, for year-round trekkers as well as seasonal harvesters. Given the link that has long existed between the area and Portuguese harvesting workforce coming from the Douro region, cork-based building systems will constitute a privileged terrain of architectural discussion.

**Organisation:** As a group, students will produce an analysis of the environmental and industrial context of Lavaux against its cultural significance. This is aimed at articulating the potential of the program while teasing out its structural constraints. Students will then work in small teams of up to 3 to develop a building proposal that will address the opportunities identified in the analysis whilst embedding a possible blueprint for the future integration of infrastructural and cultural activities in the area.

The progression of the work will be facilitated by a parallel series of lectures dealing with: a) the economic history of Lavaux and the socio-environmental issues defining its functioning; b) the use of cork or other industrial waste by-products as construction material; and c) the potential of architecture to respond reflectively to strict normative frameworks.

Unlike Sri Lanka in Semester 1, the Lavaux atelier will benefit from direct physical experience of the locale and close conversations with the actors involved.

**Resources:** Documentation of site, industrial context, social conditions and architectural references will be provided by FAR.

**Language:** English

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