



Urban Legends

Trieste

The GayMenzel Studio addresses the context as a source of development of a narrative linked to the site itself.

This highlighting tool reveals the inherent qualities of the place and integrates projections or personal aspirations into it, with the broad ambition of re-connection to the environment. Students will develop housing projects in the post-industrial zones of Lausanne and Trieste.

Urban legends are short fictions that come close to myths, contemporary tales, which spread in popular culture by oral transmission and proliferate through social networks. These stories that circulate and that everyone knows. Your uncle told you about that alligator living in the sewers of New York, your father's girlfriend confirmed it. These legends are mysterious, terrifying or funny. They are adapted to the local folklore by word of mouth, through hearsay. Each city produces these murmurs. Like an echo.



The Making of Sense

In this time of crisis a reassessment of our way of life is essential. The quality of our relationship with nature, with the territory, with our way of living is questioned. Maybe a solution would be «resonance», of which the German sociologist Hartmut Rosa speaks, proposing to us to redefine our relationship with the world, to create what he calls the axes of resonance?

Architects are actors at the heart of these fundamental questions. They have a role to play in implementing visions of how to live and work, as well as in shaping the environment: to establish a link between people by promoting the social, to reconsider the relationship to the built and the non-built, to think of new strategies in order to generate quality and meaning, in the contemporary context of responsibility.



Unveiling Narratives

The development of a project strategy is addressed through the narrative, as a crystallization of a specific site vision (understanding) and personal imagination. How does the architect, as a person, as a user, influences and generates anchor points to make places legible, porous and appropriable in order to give them meaning?

The studio explores the way the project operates. It studies how the design process is constructed and develops reading keys for the establishment of a coherent discourse. The narrative becomes the tool for the fabrication of the architectural project. The objective is to develop the proficiencies of observation, reading of site complexity, and imagination. Furthermore it is the ambition to create, in spite of all the constraints of the project, an architecture which refers to something and which revives collective and shared experiences.

The studio develops a coherent idea of a project starting from the territory and its landscape all the way up to the very detail. A prototype of a lamp will reflect these influences and enable evocation. This is an opportunity for you, students, to assess what you can contribute to architecture by revealing your secrets.



Transpositions

The city of Trieste is dominating the homonymous bay and is positioned on a narrow territory below the Karst plateau, connecting the Venetian plain and the peninsula of Istria. Due to its strategic position, the city is an area of great historical density and coexistence of several cultures, local and foreign. From 1717 and for almost 200 years Trieste flourished as a free port being the main entry of the Habsburg Empire creating a multicultural environment where commerce and arts flourished.

Trieste will give us the opportunity to discuss the plural languages of architecture. During the semester, fragments of the city's history, in the form of vestibules of characteristic buildings, will be studied and transposed to Switzerland. These will become starting points for the development of housing units in relation to the cities' industrial heritage – first in Lausanne and then back in Trieste.

The first semester will start with the site(s) visit. The site of retrieval (Trieste) and the site of transposition (Lausanne). Students will receive one of the various vestibules selected in Trieste. The specific revealed qualities of these spaces will be transposed to a site in Lausanne in order to develop housing projects in a post-industrial environment. In the second semester a housing project of larger scale will be developed for Trieste. Projects will be developed both individually and in groups of two.