METHODOLOGY OF ASSEMBLY

Assemble
BA Architecture
@ EPFL
Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
The Land We Live In
Content & Objectives

Effects of a good government on countryside
Content & Objectives
Vaud
Tools
Burtigny, Vaud
Approach

Yardhouse under construction, London, Assemble

Left: Kamikatsu, Japan, Assemble

Cairns Street, Construction Site, Assemble
Teaching Principles

a_ Situated Practice

As a studio we want to work in a specific place in a sustained way and with recognition that in doing this, we need to offer something equal to what we are getting from the situation ourselves. Drawing on the work of people like Tim Ingold, we want to develop approaches to working in a place which is not extractive or exploitative, which is based on there being a mutual and equitable exchange of knowledge and information.
Teaching Principles

a_ Situated Practice
b_ Collaborative Approach

We are interested in working in larger groups, of 5-6 students, with the belief that it allows for a richer, more open dialogue with students and more focussed work on skills. It offers more scope and space for different skills within a group to be valued, while in practice the ability to co-operate effectively, take responsibility for specific aspects of a project and trust in the judgement and capacity of others are critical skills.
Teaching Principles

a_ Situated Practice
b_ Collaborative Approach
c_ Tools of the Trade

We will place an emphasis on developing students’ ability to draw and model clearly, capably and efficiently. Specific sessions run by assistants or guests at the start of each semester in technical drawing and modelling techniques will be organised to ensure that all the students have a solid grounding in basic principles of drawing and representation of space and construction.
Teaching Principles

a_ Situated Practice
b_ Collaborative Approach
c_ Tools of the Trade
d_ Models

Models will play an important role in our approach to teaching - they are intuitive and intelligible in a way that more codified and abstract drawing is not, and through the production of models at various scales as the primary tool through which we encourage design development we are able to encourage students to develop their spatial skills, knowledge of construction an interest in the way that things are made.
Teaching Principles

a_ Situated Practice
b_ Collaborative Approach
c_ Tools of the Trade
d_ Models
e_ Scales

In principle we want to work with a range of key scales at 1:1, 1:5, 1:25, 1:100, 1:500 and 1:2500, with a primary focus on making really large scale study and propositional models and full scale samples and prototypes.
Teaching Principles

A skill acquired and refined in one discipline can be applied to others, but technical skill in making is now relatively rare in students studying architecture. As an extension of the programme, we want to provide the tools and material to enable students to participate in recurring evening session in ceramics or joinery, providing an opportunity to develop their level of technical skill over the course of the semester.
Last Year

Felling the tree for the term, Burtigny

Sawing the tree for the term with Roland, Mobile Sawmill 2 Rivière, Burtigny

Felling the tree for the term with Jean-Pierre, Burtigny

Felling the tree for the term, Burtigny
Last Year
This Year

Brief 1 - The Land as It Is

We will begin with a series of workshops and exercises that will give us a good understanding of the context we will be working in throughout the year. Ranging from physical description to fieldwork and sustained social research.
This Year

Brief 1  - The Land as It Is

Brief 2  - The Land as It Might Be

We will build on this early work to begin developing a series of missions and agendas - broad strategies that are described through compelling imagery and which are developed into project proposals that will be taken forward in the 2nd Semester.
This Year

Brief 1  - The Land as It Is

Brief 2  - The Land as It Might Be

Brief 3  - Copy, Collage, Construct

The second Semester will begin by looking at a range of architectural projects that we will study before using key ideas and aspects of their spatial organisation and construction to develop our own architecture projects in Burtigny.
This Year

Brief 1 - The Land as It Is

Brief 2 - The Land as It Might Be

Brief 3 - Copy, Collage, Construct

Brief 4 - Projects for Burtigny

The project proposals will be developed through architectural workshops and seminars to provide technical expertise, culminating in a public presentation of the work in Burtigny.
Collective Practice & Studio Culture

As a young teaching group we believe the best way to build good working relationships and an enjoyable and productive studio culture is through good communication, clear expectations and a shared sense of responsibility for making good work in a positive and supportive environment.

To enable this, we will begin the year with an exercise to co-author a ‘Constitution’ for the studio that we - the teaching group, and students - will agree on and sign. We hope that this will establish a common set of expectations for what we want to achieve together and how we want to go about our work over the next 9 months as colleagues and collaborators.
Evaluation

Evaluation will be based on the work produced throughout the year and presented at each of the final reviews for each of the 4 Briefs.

The studio places an emphasis on working in groups and the evaluation will reflect the strength of the work of your group project, but will also consider an individual student’s engagement, individual production and wider contribution to the studio culture and atmosphere.

Briefs are given the following weighting as part of the evaluation.

- Brief 1 - 15%
- Brief 2 - 25%
- Brief 3 - 25%
- Brief 4 - 35%

Students will receive individual written feedback at the end of each Semester.
Provisional Timetable

Week 1 – 19.9.22
Mon – Public Holiday - no teaching
Tue – General introduction to the term, timetable and different briefs.
   Talks by Guest speakers

Week 2 – 26.9.22 / EPFL
Mon – Tutorials
Tue – Workshop (AM only)

Week 3 – 3.10.22 / EPFL
Mon – Collective Review of Work-in-Progress
Tue – Workshop (AM only)

Week 4 – 10.10.22
Mon – Final review of Brief 1.1/Introduction Brief 1.2
Tue – Workshop (AM only)

Week 5 – 17.10.22 / EPFL
Mon – Tutorials
Tue – Workshop (AM only)

Week 6 – 24.10.22 / EPFL
Mon – Collective Review of Work-in-Progress
Tue – Workshop (AM only)

Week 7 – 31.10.22 / EPFL
Mon – Final review of Brief 1.2
Tue – Introduction Brief 2.1

Week 8 – 7.11.22 / EPFL
Mon – Working Groups
Tue – Workshop

Week 9 – 14.11.22
Mon – Tutorials
Tue – Final review of Brief 2.1/Introduction Brief 2.2

Week 10 – 21.11.22
Mon – Workshop
Tue – Workshop continues

Week 11 – 28.11.22
Mon – Collective Review of Work-in-Progress
Tue – Tutorials

Week 12 – 5.12.22
Mon – Final review of Brief 2.2/Introduction Brief 2.3
Tue – Workshop

Week 13 – 12.12.22
Mon – Tutorials
Tue – Collective Review of Work-in-Progress

Week 14 – 19.12.22 - Burtigny
Mon – Production and preparation for Final Review
Tue – FINAL REVIEW