LEARNING ABOUT A HOUSE
MAKING YOUR OWN HOUSE
LIF Program of the year 2025-2026

A house is the simple topic of this studio. A matter of simple complexity.
Learning about a house is learning about architecture.
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First part of the year is about learning about a house. Second part is about making your house.

FALL SEMESTER
MOVEMENT I
Exercice in duos

Collapsing house -
First part of the year is about learning about a house. You will choose a house among a list of reference to work on. But then—disaster strikes. A portion of the house collapses. What will you do ? You are the master of collapsing. Working in pairs, you will reconstruct your own fragment, rebuilding within and among the ruins left by the catastrophe.

The result project will be a FRAGMENT of the collapsed reference house built by a composition of constructive elements.

20 references of houses (one duo choose one house):

1. René Heyvaert, house G. Heyvaert
2. Smiljan Radic, Wood house
3. OFFICE Kersten Geers David Van Severen; villa Buggenhout
4. Sverre Fehn, house Norrköping
5. Peter Märkli, studio house
6. Kazuo Shinohara, House in Uehara
7. Lacaton & Vassal, House Latapie
8. Melnikov, Melnikov house
9. Casa malaparte
10. Xaveer de geyter, house in braasschaat
11. Venturi, Vanna Venturi house
12. Wendy Chessman and Norman Foster, Creek Vean House
13. Siza, Casa carlos Bereis
14. Neuenschwander, House im Binzen
15. Schröder house, Rietveld
16. Zoelly / House for a sculptor
17. Glenn Murcutt, Alderton House
18. Asplund, Villa Snellman
19. EMI Architekten,Haus für einen Gärtner, Hinterforst, St. Gallen, 2006–2007, Direktauftrag, 2006
20. Luc deleu, Hotel stok

Assignments :

- 1:200 Wooden block model of your reference : light wood for existing, different wood for the collapsed part (small model you make on light wood full model, then cut out and paint differently the part you choose to destroy)
- 1:20 Fragment model of your project (project : free media and material) with connexion with existing (existing only in white paper)
- 1:50 Analog drawing
  - Type : Simple plan of the existing with no representation of the collapsed part of the house + your fragment project in 45° isometric axonometry
  - Drawing technique : medium are free to experiment
  - Format : A1 landscape or portrait, multiple A1 if needed

Characteristics

The first semester's exercise is about construction, structure, composition of elements, and certainly about atmosphere. How details make spaces and how construction makes composition are central focuses of our teaching.

Calendar 2025 fall semester :

Week 1
8.09-9.09.2025
- Atelier presentation
- Choice of reference : think/sketches/model
- Postcards exercice « what is your personal idea of architecture ? »

Week 2 to Week 3
15.09-16.09 to 23.09
- making the 1:200 wooden model
- choose your demolition/collasping part
- color the wooden part that has been « destroyed ».

Week 4 - OUTPUT
29.09-30.09
- 1:200 wooden model
-sketches/thoughts on your project fo fragment

Week 5 to Week 6
6.10-7.10 to 13.10—14.10
- Think/draw/sketch/model on your project

Autumn Break

Week 7
25.10 from 9:00 to 27.10 12:00
- Field trip to Venice

Week 8
3.11-4.11
- Think/draw/model/sketch on your project

Week 9 - OUTPUT - Mid-term review
10.11-11.11
-1:20 working model of the fragment
-1:200 wooden model
-Sketchbook

Week 10
17.11-18.11
- introduction of the analog drawing

Week 11 - OUTPUT
24.11-25.11
- Draft of the 1:50 analog drawing

Week 12 to Week 14
01.12-2.12 to 15.12
- Working on final elements

Week 14 - OUTPUT - Final jury
15.12-19.12
- Exhibition set-up on 15.12
- Final jury on 17.12
    -1:200 wooden model
    -1:20 final model fragment
    -sketchbook
- Exhibition clean-up on 19.12

SPRING SEMESTER
MOVEMENT II
Exercice in duo

Second part is about making your house. Find opportunities where there is no evidence. Where you normally don't built, there you will make your own house. You will have to choose among 8 locations (one location per 4 people, per 2 duos) at first. Then, you will start building your house (one house per duo) in this location taken into account all of what you learned in terms of construction, structure and composition in the previous semester to apply it to the bigger scale : A HOUSE.

Assignments :

- 1:50 site model of 1m^2 painted white/white paper (made by 2 duos)
- 1:50 project model (one per duo) is free medium/material/techniques of representation to put inside the site model
- 1:50 Analog drawing (one per duo)
  - Type : Unfolded plans technique (projection de monge, plan in the center and developping of sections from the main plans).
  - Drawing technique : classic technical drawing made with fixpencil with hierarchy of lines.
  - Format : A1 landscape or portrait, multiple A1 if needed

Characteristic

It is about living. About construction, structure, about making.
The question of dealing in an existing context will be tackled and how as an architect can we implement our intervention in it, here, one compact house. The goal will be to define a relationship between the site and the house, formulate it by the design choices. Analyzing the existing context and its qualities and then composes and position yourself in it. One house for two students in pairs.

Calendar 2026 spring semester :

Week 1
14.02 from 9:00 to 16.02 to 12:00
- Field trip to Gent
- Choice of site : think/sketches

Week 2 to **Week 3 (OUTPUT)**
23.02-24.02 to 2.03-3.03

- making the 1:50 site model of 1m^2 (in real life, the model is 1mx1m, making a implantation site of 50mx50m). The situation model of the existing context is all white (white paper or material painted white)
- first sketches project intentions

Week 4 to Week 6
09.03-10.03 to 23.03-24.03
- think/draw/model on your project

Week 7 - OUTPUT - Mid-term review
30.03-31.03
- 1:50 site model + 1:50 working project model included
- sketchbook

Easter break

Week 8
13.04-14.04
- introduction of the drawing

Week 9
20.04-21.04
- think/draw on your drawing

Week 10
27.04-28.04
- ENAC week

Week 11 - OUTPUT
04.05-05.05
- Draft of the 1:50 analog drawing (unfolded plans)

Week 12 to Week 14
11.05-12.05 to 18.05-19.05
- Working on final elements

Week 14 - OUTPUT - Final jury
27.05
- Exhibition set-up on 25.05
- Final jury on 27.05
    - 1:50 site model (made by 2x duos) + 1:50 project model, by duos, free medium/ material/techniques of representation
    - 1:50 analog drawing (unfolded plans)
    - sketchbook
- Exhibition clean-up on 29.05 (to be precise by Section AR)

Assessment methods

- Semester I: 30% - 14 weeks
  Mid-term jury will take place on the 10.11.2025 - 15% or the final grade
  Final jury will take place on the 17.12.2025 - 15% or the final grade

- Semester II : 50% - 14 weeks
  Mid-term jury will take place on the 30.03.2025 - 20% or the final grade
  Final jury will take place on the 27.05.2025 - 30% or the final grade

- General progress of the student : 20%; through curiosity and research, development of an opinion for architecture, readings, general attitude, involvement, progress, etc.

Criteria of evaluation :

Quality of the drawing, readability, cleanliness of the models, coherent use of materials in the representation, development of a detail with understanding of the structural and constructive system, understanding and consistency of the structural system used in the project, quality of the rendering in cohesion with demand of the exercice, development of a personal imagination via the project, decision-making capacity and independence, coherent application of the exercise data, oral presentation.

Logistic and organisation of the course

The course is structure around outputs listed in the calendar given on moodle. The rest of the days of course is ongoing work without mandatory outputs for students. A model is not needed every week. The goal is for the student to define their own media (between drawing and model making) to explain their ideas and to have constructive discussion with the teaching team. Sketchbook and tracing paper drawings are always a good way to explain to the teaching team your ongoing work. Models can be test model to express ideas if needed for your working process.

Discussions / Tutorat

- Mondays : Project 9:15-12:00 / 13:15-18:00

Two teaching team are walking around for tutorat and discussions at the desk around your project to help you in progressing. A paper is produce by your assistant team with key words for following each student the best way possible within the teaching team and to communicate effectively. The goal of those discussions is guidance and answering your questions the best way possible for you to enjoy and succeed the course.

- Tuesdays : Project 9:15-12:00

Teaching team is present for answering remaining questions and understanding details.

Cost

The amount may vary to lower as the students are free to use cheaper materials and are strongly encouraged to recycle and up-cycle material to produce easy-to-assemble, cheap working models. The LIF Studio Taillieu does not impose upon students a certain material but focuses on the thinking of the student through its pencil, notebook, and paper. Simple tools, complex thinking.

Overall cost estimation of the field trip for the fall semester: 250 CHF maximum

Field trip fall semester: Venice, 25.10.25 to 27.10.25 : 250CHF

Field trip spring semester: Belgium, 14.02.26 to 16.02.26 : 250CHF - 60CHF subvention = 190CHF

Overall cost estimation for model making, drawing, and production: approx. 150 CHF (depending on student choice of material, size of project, etc.)

FR version

Une maison est le simple sujet d'étude de cet atelier. Un sujet d'une complexité simple. Apprendre à construire une maison, c'est apprendre à construire l'architecture. Le programme de l'atelier est le logement fonctionnaliste et sa composition adéquate face à un contexte bâti ou paysager.

Field trip

Venise
Saturday 9:00-18:00
Sunday 9:00-18:00
Monday 9:00 to 12:00

List of places
- Olivetti
- Scapa, cemetery brion
- Palladio, villa rotonda
- Chapel biennale, souto de moura
- Biennale of Architecture (monday morning)

List of hotels

List of restaurants (in case)

List of travel options