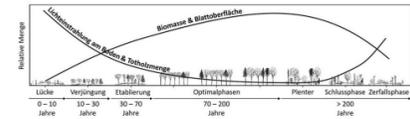


Successional Dwellings

This is going to be an experimental semester, based on the concept of 'succession'. Succession is an ecological term describing the sequence in which plant and animal communities replace one another over time at a given site. We adopt this concept to re-imagine building and inhabiting as a form of succession: every moment in a building's life hosts a particular community of inhabitants, only to be succeeded by others. Construction and dwelling, therefore, are processes that are deeply intertwined and never truly end.



Secondary Succession type of ecological succession (the evolution of a biological community's ecological structure) in which plants and animals recolonize a habitat after a major disturbance—such as a devastating flood, wildfire, landslide, lava flow, or human activity (e.g., farming or road or building construction)—significantly alters an area but has not rendered it completely lifeless.

1 Disturbances



Landfill The earth excavated from tunnels dug between Lausanne and Ouchy was used as fill to create a platform within the city.

A successional sequence usually begins with a disturbance—whether storm, wildfire, clearance or sealing of the soil. However devastating such damage may be, it also opens space for pioneer organisms and, in turn, for the many follow-on communities they invite. In the studio we will build our houses on plots in Lausanne that have also been disturbed: by rockfalls, landfilling or dioxin pollution. Carefully studying these sites, with all their visible and invisible histories, will be an important first step for us.



Dioxin Dioxin and furan pollution was discovered in early 2021 in the soil of the Lausanne metropolitan area, mainly attributed to the former Vallon incineration plant, active between 1958 and 2005.

2 Pioneers



Pioneer Fast-growing, light-demanding species that are first to colonise a disturbed site. In Latour's Amazon study ("Circulating Reference," 1989) the field team debates whether a single tree they encounter is a genuine pioneer—sign of recent clearance—or a long-standing "relic". Latour uses the dispute to show that such labels are not fixed botanical facts but outcomes of measurement practices and disciplinary viewpoints.

Directly afterwards we will start to build on those 'disturbed' sites. Just as pioneer plants put down roots in disturbed ground, we start with the foundations of a house, asking, for example, whether screw piles or rubble-stone footings can become part of a larger 'root system'. We test these questions in pairs at large working models that evolve throughout the semester.



Granit The office Konfink Schels used solid granite blocks as foundations for their house in Hinterschmiding, Germany (2022-2025). Three blocks were stacked on top of each other and connected with a metal rod.

3 Passing-on



Passed on This model from 2nd year Bachelor-Studio at UdK Berlin has been passed on from one group (left hand site) to another group - and undergone some major transformations... Katharina Danielmeyer, Tobias Rivera Hisge, David Kirchmann, Anton Koimbauer

Now—after a few weeks in the studio—something unusual will happen: we pass on our project to another group and receive a project in return. Yes! We as architects will become 'successors' ourselves throughout the whole semester, several times. That makes us aware that everything we create will be subject to change at some point in the future—but also that this is a joyful way of working collectively in the studio. One might think this could be the end of authorship in architecture. Actually, it's the opposite: a condensation of

multiple authorships, merged in constantly growing projects. We will not have traditional 'crits' or 'presentations'. Instead, we will hold four handovers, in which groups collectively hand over and take over.



Fraction of a collaborative transformation project by UdK students Josina Matthiessen, Lara Brenner, Greta Ovzar, Iria Moreau-Faugere, Lenz Anker, Emil Holthausen, Marwin Seeber, Yu-Wen Chen

4 Stratifications



Trunks Kristina Hendker and Kalle Niemann from UdK Berlin worked on a derelict site piece by piece as part of their master's thesis. Without knowing the next step, they first placed tree trunks on their screw foundations as supports. The end wood is protected from moisture with inclined metal sheets.

We proceed step by step – building onto the building's roots without fully knowing what the next step will look like. Gradually we realise that, while we are subject to environmental processes, our own actions also redirect them: where a roof throws new shadows and sheds water elsewhere, new ecologies arise. At this point our role becomes that of the „gardener“



Hybrids This model by UdK students Edwin Pfeiffer and Benjamin Rieser condenses various scales in one structure. Mind the 1:500 roof model in the center and the 1:1 joinery connections just next to it.

Being constantly passed around through the studio, our houses grow denser and denser. Although always under construction, they are inhabited. We record this simultaneous building and dwelling through photographs of our large models and additional drawings. To capture all scales, we will combine 1:1 to 1:1,000 in a single model. Daring! Over time we learn which materials can 'grow along' with the house. We delight in wandering components and puzzle over invasive elements; we test which materials can serve as a solid wall for one season before 'migrating' to another part of the project.



Migration Bathtub that has the potential to migrate through the house at Dieksaustraße Leipzig

5 Roles

If buildings are constantly evolving like organisms, the question arises as to who will take on these ongoing construction tasks.



Can those who live in the buildings also build walls, lay bricks and move doors themselves? On a study trip to Leipzig (Germany), we will immerse ourselves in the world of self-build for a long weekend. We will lend a hand in a non-profit building project and learn about guided self-build strategies that go beyond the cliché of DIY. The practical experience will help us develop alternative forms of building and living for our studio projects.



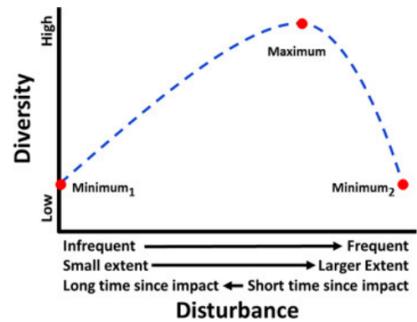
Tools In a former factory in Berlin's Kreuzberg district, occupied in 1980, the squatters used the building's own carpentry workshop to repair windows, doors and support beams.

6 Clearings



Mowing The old cottage garden on Hambroich Museum Island had become overgrown with brambles and was almost inaccessible. It has now been made accessible again by atelier le balto with a wide mown axis from which the old shrubs were previously removed and transplanted into the ash tree frame. The trees were pruned, the pergola uncovered and the herbs, shrubs and grasses found were used to create a herbarium as an inventory for future work.

Mid-semester our houses reach a stage of maximum density and diversity. Now we learn how important it is to thin, prune and clear—creating space for yet further communities and thus keeping the process of succession alive. We discover the productive power of selective felling, so different from demolition or destruction.



This is a very important moment within the semester: We will partly „clear out“ our projects, disturb the equilibrium by removing walls and doors, only to ensure diversity. We try to find out what we can learn from the „intermediate disturbance hypothesis“ in ecological successions, that is based on this thought.



Dust In a cost calculation semester at UdK Berlin students estimated the costs of a wall removal - realizing that the work to protect the other parts were far more expensive than the moving of the wall itself (Kei Gate-Urayama, Nicolai Löffler, Elias Richter, Jana Warko)

7 Compost



Compostable building waste Layers of different building materials, all compostable, at the Europäische Bildungsstätte für Lehm- und Wangelin

8 Collection

By term's end we stand before large models that have passed through many successive states, gone through many hands, and been captured in series of images and drawings. It is this evolving process—with all its interim conditions—that interests us far more than any final, fixed stage. We will spend the last few weeks finishing the documentation of this process: together, we will distil the most intriguing moments and insights from the previous phases and transformations. We will record these in the form of a cross-project, illustrated glossary. The final step will be a joint review of all 'successions'.



Series Wolfgang Tillmans: Process (Apple Tree), 2012

9 Environment

The studio is aimed at students who are open to experimental teaching and working formats. Students generally work in groups of two. However, each group also works with the other groups by 'passing on' work stages several times during the semester. Projects are rotated and developed by many students in succession—a continuous process of transformation. Students should therefore have a particular interest in collaborative working methods. A particular focus of teaching is on very practical, material-related construction techniques for experimental forms of living. In the studio, we work with large models that show scales from 1:1 to 1:1,000. The semester is accompanied by guest lectures from external contributors on topics such as process-oriented construction, self-build techniques and material cycles.

10 Costs

Study trip to Leipzig, Germany (3 days): approx. CHF 300-400.

11 Team

Anne Femmer, Florian Summa, Emma Ammeter



Benjes facade UdK students Kristina Hendker and Kalle Niemann used cuttings from their site to turn the facade of their house into a pretty moist environment