

Atelier Scheidegger Keller

it's about space!

ex. 1
the room,

ex. 2
society of rooms,

ex. 3
the house as a society of rooms,

semester
fall 25
spring 26

it's about space!

The spaces are small, following one another in rapid sequences, constantly shifting direction, light, views, form, furniture and use. This is living. A rich spatial experience that goes far beyond fulfilling functional requirements and measurable parameters.

Over the course of two semesters, we explore the spatial potential of housing on an individual site. The goal is to create generous and versatile spaces within a small area. A way to respond to limited resources through spatial strategies.

We experiment with parametric tools to transform familiar rooms and apartments, explore variations, refine spatial relationships, discover geometric possibilities, and define architectural principles. Simultaneously we are using analog spatial techniques, to analyse, develop, and present the projects.

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the room,

Many of us live in a rectangular room of around 14 m² with a single door and a basic window opening. These rooms are the result of supposedly functional, economic and legal requirements. They follow established conventions and have been designed top-down, without any explicit spatial intention.

In the exercise *The Room* we question these apparent self-evidences in which we live. With the help of parametric tools, we transform our own room in such a way that a conscious spatial idea becomes perceptible. We ask ourselves: What relationship does the room have to the façade and to its surroundings? What about view, light, noise and exposure? What is the form, orientation and wall development of the room? How is it accessed? Do different areas, transitions, spatial hierarchies or subdivisions emerge? How do I move through the room? How do I use it? Is the furniture arranged linearly, field-like or in clusters?

The aim is to develop spatial qualities beyond the purely functional requirements and to represent them in plan and model.

Conditions: the floor area or volume of the room and the furniture remain unchanged.

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society of rooms

We can understand an apartment as a sequence of small rooms, changing in orientation, form, size, light, view, and use in a rapid rhythm. The rooms are deformable and stretchable. They can adopt different geometries and proportions, relate to one another in various configurations, and be interconnected. In the exercise *Society of Rooms*, we explore these characteristics, which define housing and offer great spatial freedom.

Using the apartment we live in as a starting point we transform it so that rooms with independent identities and a shared logic emerge. We explore how rooms and zones are formed and connected, how we move from space to space, what we see and what possibilities the rooms offer to live in.

Supported by parametric tools and analog techniques, we develop the projects and present them through plan and image.

Conditions: the area and volume of the apartment, as well as the furniture, remain unchanged.

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the house as a society of rooms

A house is not simply a functional arrangement of rooms within a three-dimensional boundary optimised by building regulations. Rather, it is a community of individual rooms that are in a reciprocal relationship with one another and with the building structure. The building volume generates space — and space, in turn, shapes the volume. A constant dialogue from inside to outside and from outside to inside negotiates the complex relationship between urban, typological and spatial interests.

In the exercise *the House as a society of rooms*, we explore this interaction through the design of a house on the site on which we live. We ask ourselves, what relationship does the building have to its surroundings and what spatial idea does it imply? What spatial logic underlies the building form? Is the building the consequence of the internal spatial structure, or does it conceal it? How does the façade shape interior and exterior spaces? Which views does it open up and how does light enter the rooms?

The aim is to densify the site and develop apartments with a small spatial footprint per person, while generating a sense of spatial generosity on reduced floor area. The spatial insights gained in the previous exercises *The Room* and *Society of Rooms*, together with the precise use of parametric tools, form the basis of the design process.

Conditions: maximise gross floor area and minimise floor area per person.

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parametric tools

Parametric models – like sketches, plans or physical models – are design tools that we use to work on architectural questions. They allow us to model spatial relations and dependencies, derive variants and systematically analyse complex geometries.

In the semester it's about space, we use parametric models as open, experimental tools. They serve to deform spaces, to simulate spatial relationships or to study the interaction between building structure and space. Together with sketches, drawings and physical models, we question the generated variants, develop them further and represent them.

The aim is to develop a playful and efficient use of parametric models and to employ them precisely and with a clear intention.

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framework

exercises

- ex. 1 the room
- ex. 2 society of rooms
- ex. 3 the house as a society of rooms

teamwork

- ex. 1 individual work
- ex. 2 individual work
- ex. 3 groups of two

schedule

- ex. 1 ≈ 3 weeks
- ex. 2 ≈ 3 weeks
- ex. 3 ≈ 8 weeks

tools

parametric and analog tools

assessment criteria

idea
spatial resolution
process
presentation

assessment methods

- ex. 1 20%
- ex. 2 20%
- ex. 3 60%

theory

discussions on housing
lectures on parametric tools

language

english

study trip

fall 25 Zurich and Bern, november 8-9
spring 26 TBD

costs

material (model): chf 50.00
rhino 8: free with VDI
study trip (half fare): chf 200.00

lecturers

Christian Scheidegger
Jürg Keller

assistant

Damian Cortés