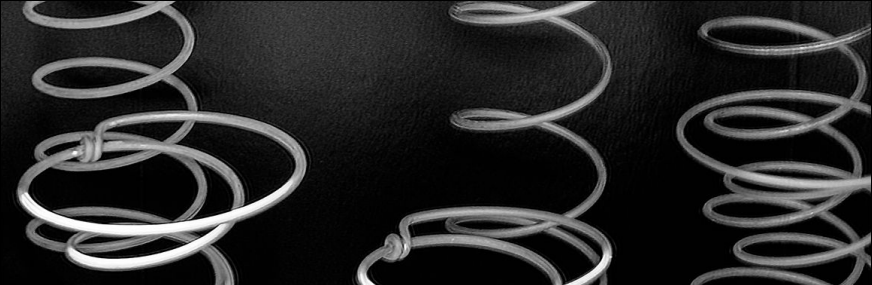
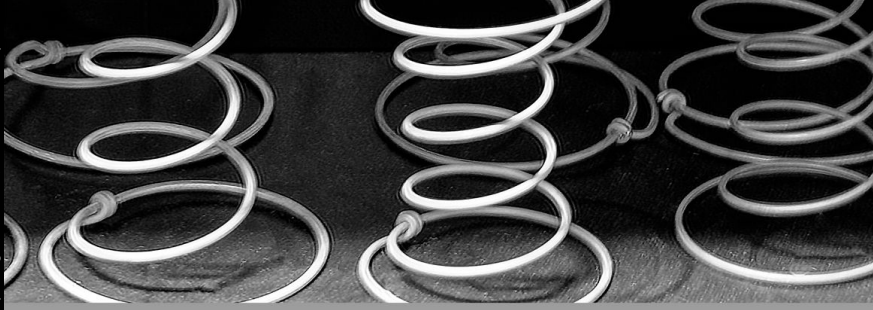


Walter de Maria, The Lightning Field

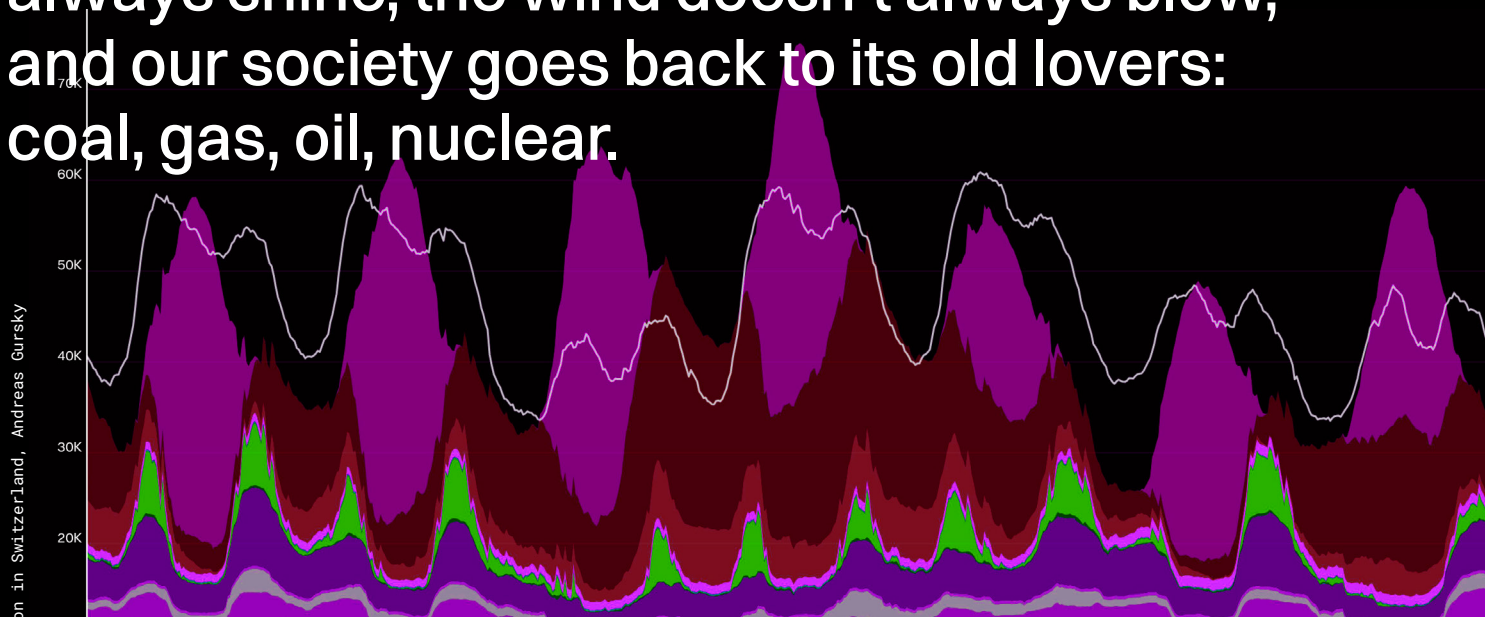
LATENCY

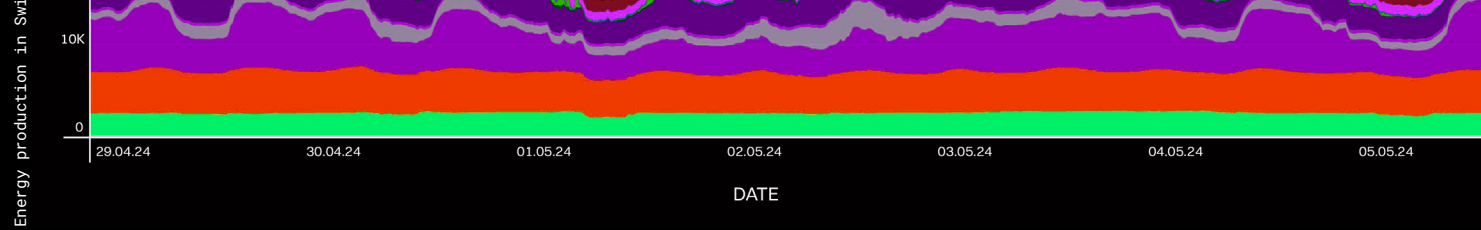




Everything Is a Battery

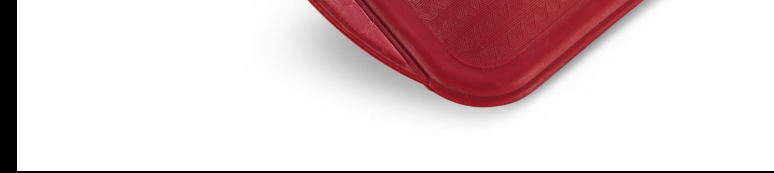
One hour of sunlight reaching the planet provides enough energy for a whole year of human consumption. We build vast fields of solar panels, plant windmills across the ocean, flood valleys with water. Yet renewable energy is still not considered reliable. The sun doesn't always shine, the wind doesn't always blow, and our society goes back to its old lovers: coal, gas, oil, nuclear.





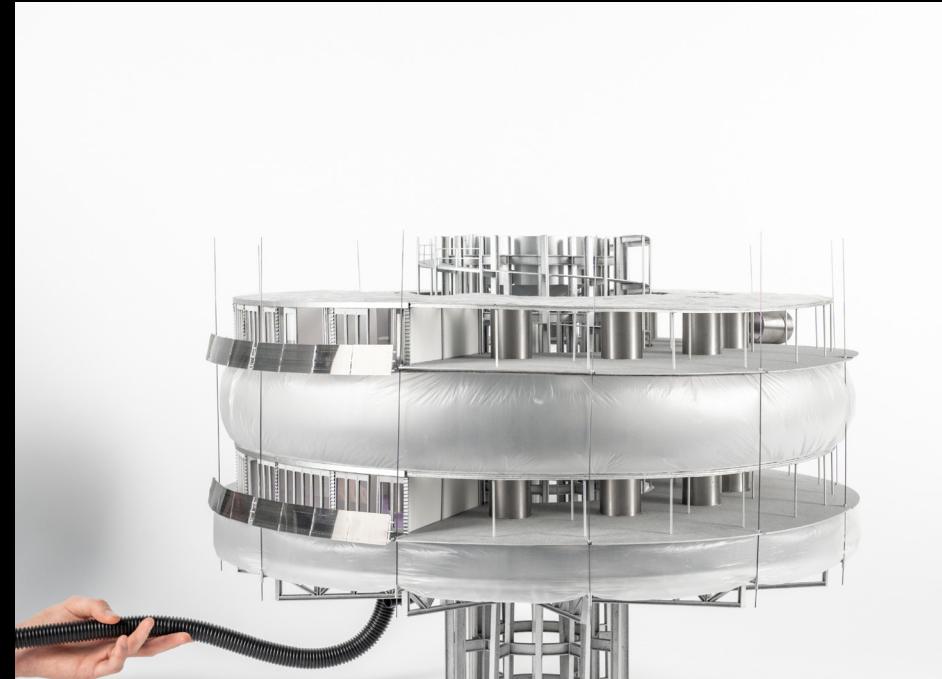
Scarcity isn't the issue - the missing link is the ability to store energy. In an era fixated on the lithium-ion panacea, on sleek batteries forged from rare metals scraped from the ocean floor or extracted from distant, exploited territories, we have neglected a simple fact: everything is energy storage. A suspended volume of water, a coiled spring under tension, a mound of salt - all are reservoirs waiting to be tapped. The potato on your plate is as much a battery as the high-tech cells we covet.

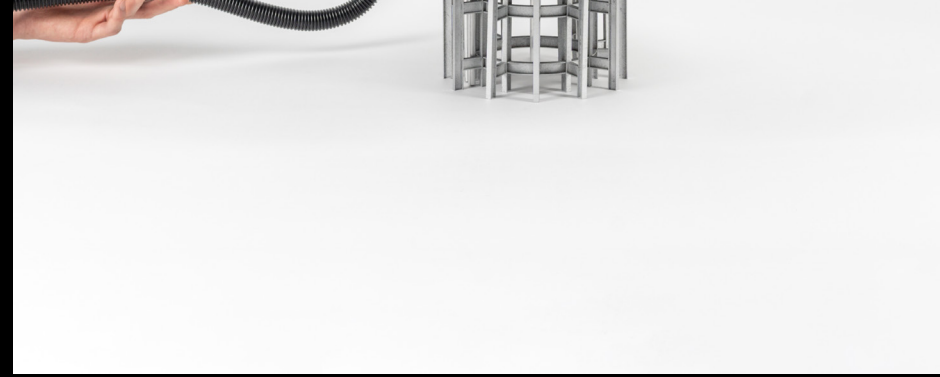




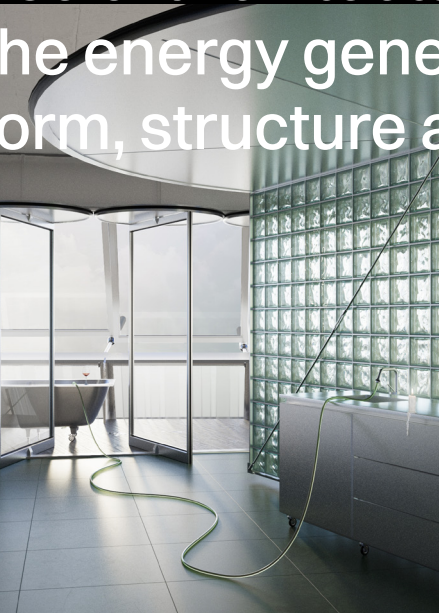
A Love Affair

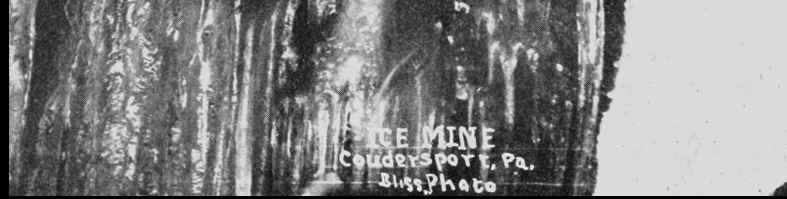
Low-tech energy storage has one fundamental limitation: to store a meaningful amount of energy, it must be big. The sheer size needed to create a viable battery often leads to its dismissal. Architecture, on the other hand, inherently possesses both qualities.





Buildings are, by definition, composed of hundreds, if not thousands, of tonnes of inert material. When energy storage is conceived not as an isolated object but as part of the building itself, these shared requirements form a symbiotic relationship: the storage makes use of architecture's mass and scale, while the energy generates productive distortions of form, structure and space.

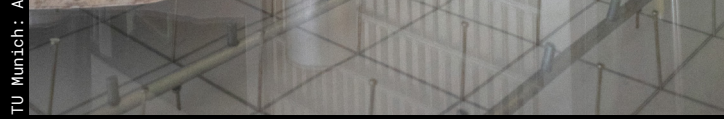




Energy as a design tool

As architects, we have abdicated part of our role, relegating energy to a peripheral concern addressed by engineers and technocrats. We bolt solar panels onto facades, plant trees on our balconies, and congratulate ourselves on sustainability. By reclaiming energy as the very bones of our buildings, the typological principle around which design revolves, architects can initiate a paradigm shift in making it visible, palpable and an integral part of daily life.



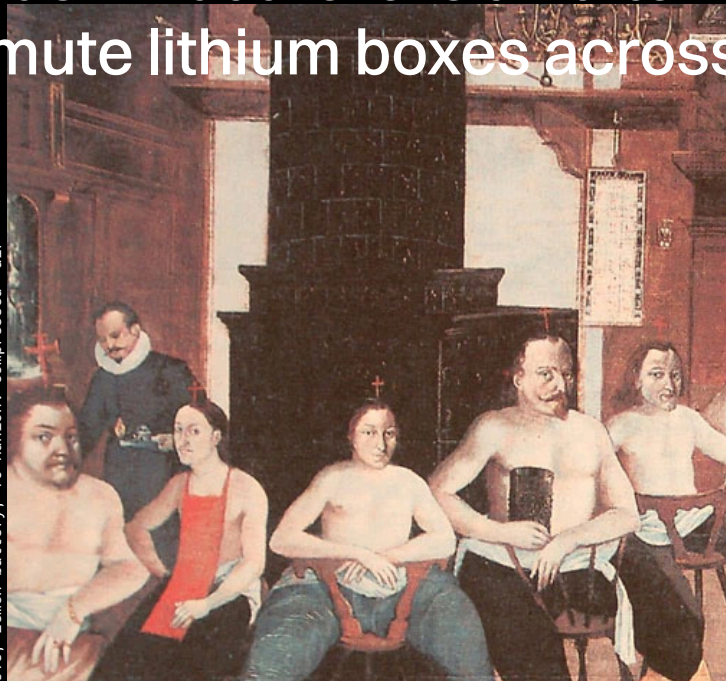


TU Munich: A

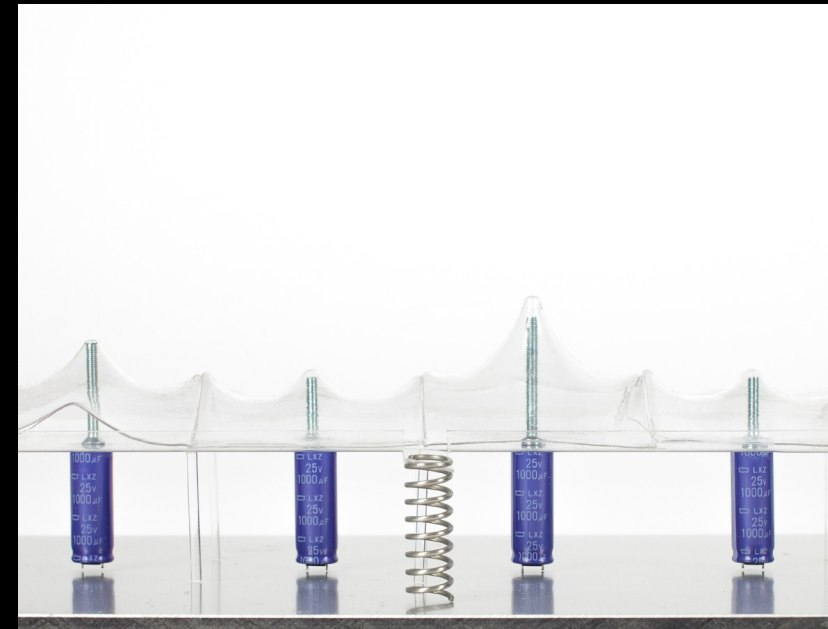
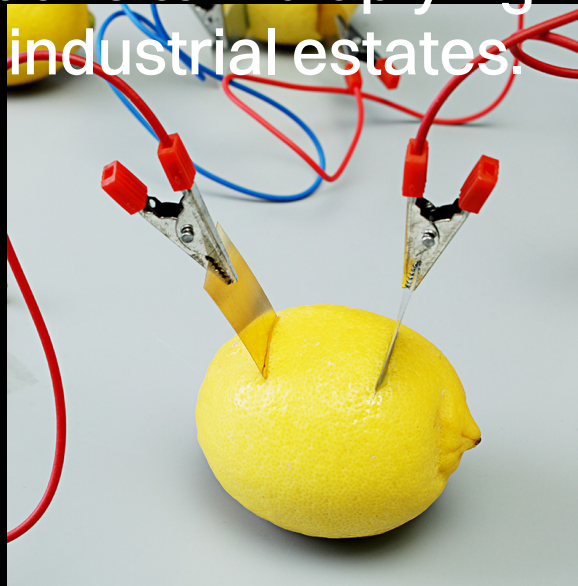


A Not-So-New Type of Civic Architecture

The twentieth century saw the rise of immense power plants and endless, centralised electrical grids. Energy production became increasingly remote, invisible. Energy storage, however, may well become this century's gold rush. But there is an alternative to multiplying mute lithium boxes across industrial estates.



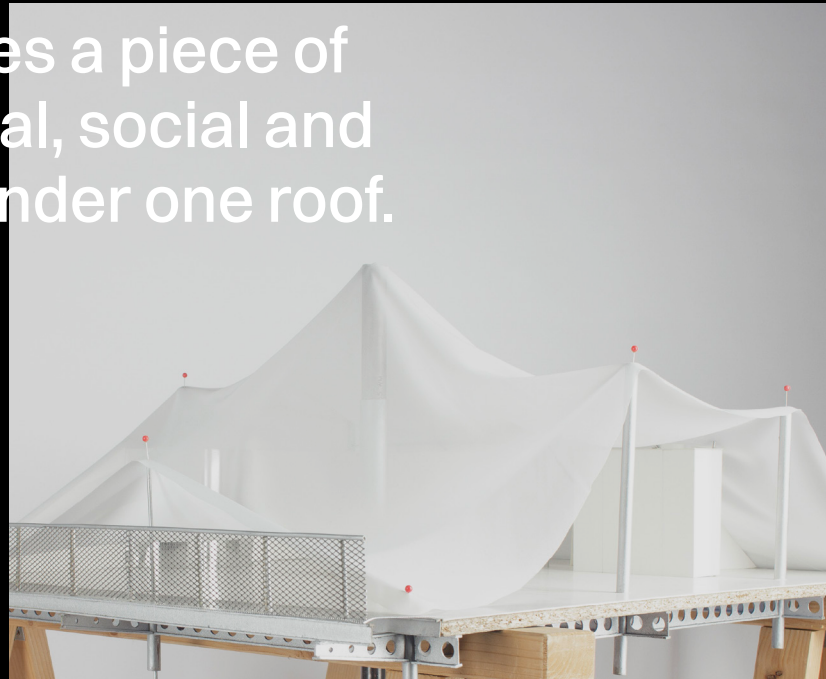
ove, Lemon battery, TU Munich: Compressed air

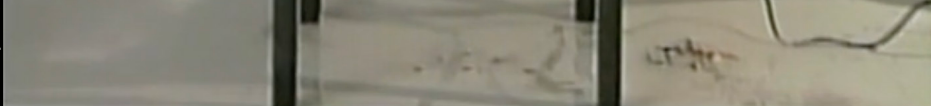




Renewable energy unleashes another possibility: smaller, decentralised systems embedded within communities. An extinct archetype returns: the village mill, not merely a piece of infrastructure but the centre of communal life, where farmer, baker, blacksmith, and miller work together as its agents. In this case, energy transcends

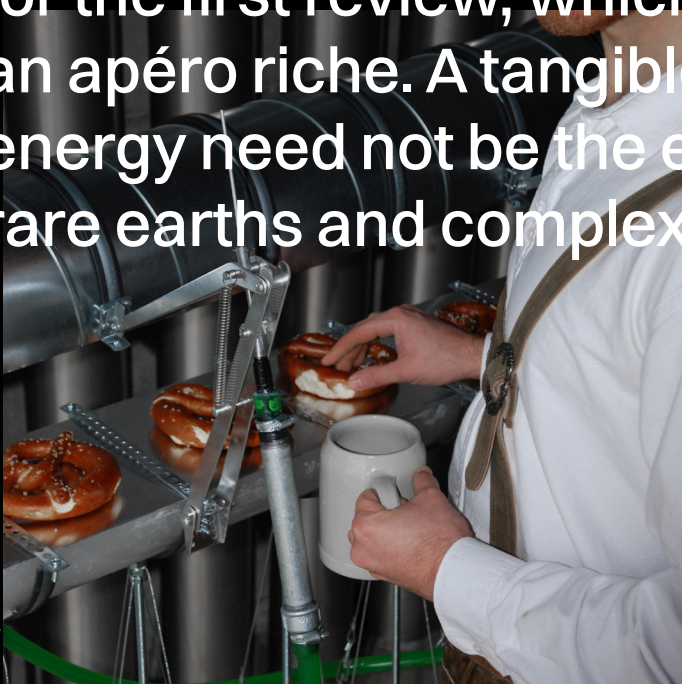
its infrastructural role and becomes a piece of civic architecture, whereby cultural, social and energetic interactions coalesce under one roof.





PHASE ONE Apéro Riche

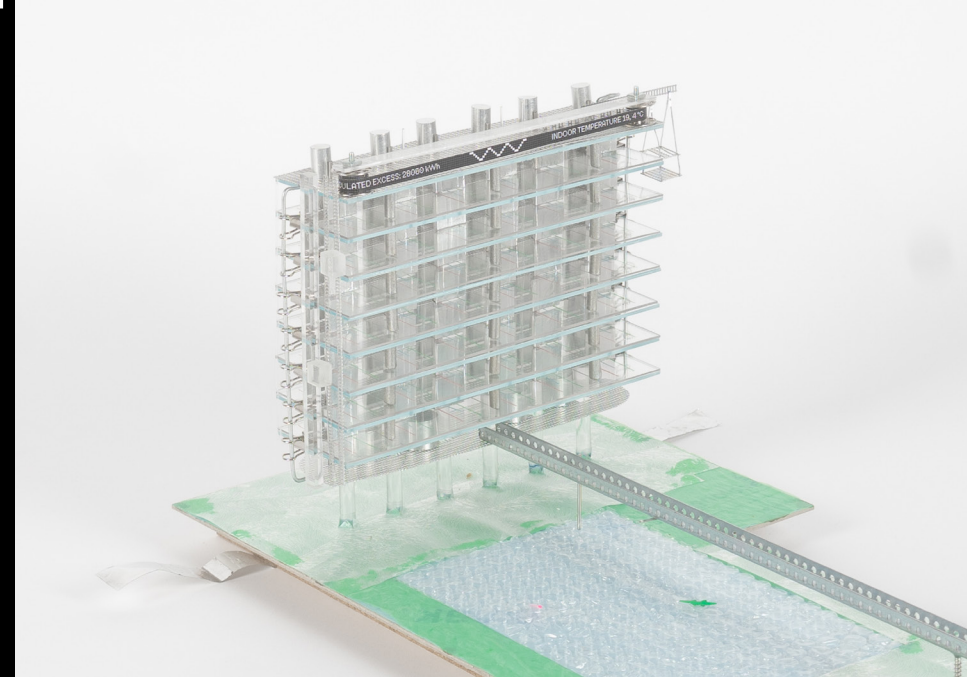
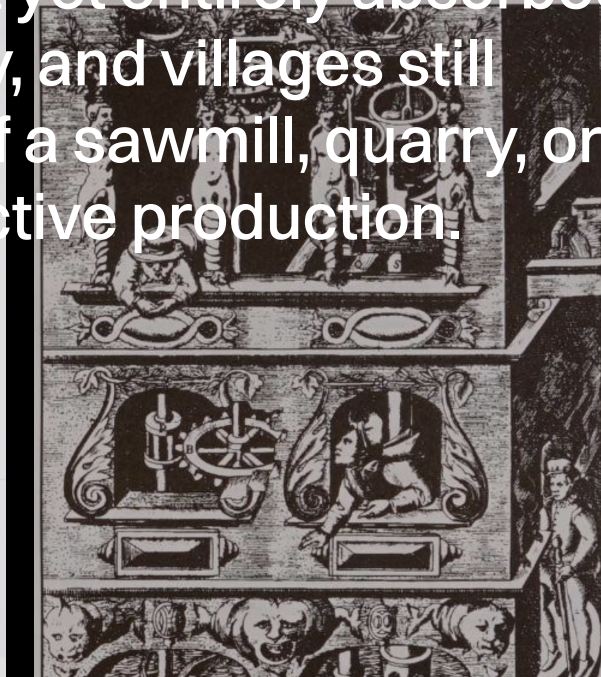
Our method is unapologetically empirical, like pseudo-scientists, each group begins by constructing a 1:1 battery made of low-tech materials: potatoes, soil, ice, water, salt, etc. This prototype must be able to produce a dish for the first review, which will take the form of an apéro riche. A tangible demonstration that energy need not be the exclusive domain of rare earths and complex chemistry.





PHASE TWO Latency

Having developed extensive energetic expertise (and hopefully feeling full), each group will then scale up their storage principle into an architectural project. We have selected sites on the periphery of Lausanne: towns not yet entirely absorbed by the expanding city, and villages still marked by the loss of a sawmill, quarry, or other centre of collective production.





The projects will explore how energy storage can generate a new typology of civic architecture that combines energy infrastructure with public life and becomes embedded in the everyday practices and rituals of its inhabitants. The battery shifts meaning, becoming a building as opposed to an object, intentionally blurring the lines between infrastructure and civic space.



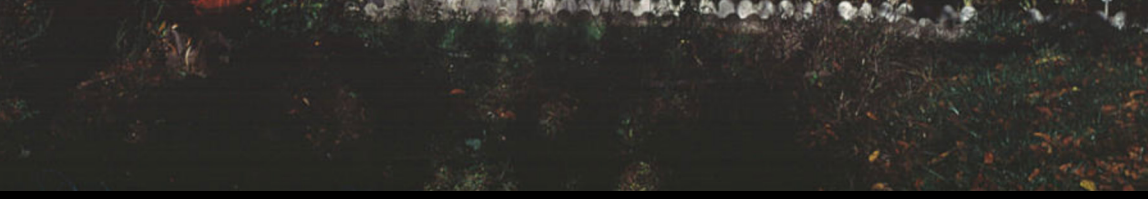


STUDIO TRIP: DRIVE DOWN THE SOUTH WEST

Freewheeling down towards Toulouse and the Pyrenees in some rented vans, exploring Félix Trombe's solar furnaces, fantastical energy infrastructures built decades ahead of their time, disguised as follies in the landscape. Along the way, we'll encounter the architectural scene of the southwest: BAST, Lacaton & Vassal, practices that

share a stubborn faith in simple, direct construction. And as the sun sets over the Atlantic, we'll top it off with a glass of Armagnac and a slice of Cabécou.





SPOILER SPRING SEMESTER 27: Sweat

The human body is a remarkably self-regulating organism. It must maintain a constant internal temperature of 37 degrees. During heatwaves, it sweats. Eccrine glands distributed across the entire skin and particularly dense on the palms, soles of the feet and forehead secrete a watery fluid that cools the body through evaporation. The skin thus becomes a state-of-the-art heat exchanger: silently, instinctively, organically.





Roman Signer, Martin



Make it sweat

Today's buildings don't know how to sweat. They accumulate heat, trap it, and then have to resort to heavy machinery to suck it out. Our ways of building are oriented towards resisting the cold, contrary to the desperate yelps of our heating climate. Thermal comfort, relegated to HVAC engineers and air conditioner manufacturers, should however dictate space, form and daily rituals. When we sweat, so should the building.



Mrs. Farnworth overheating



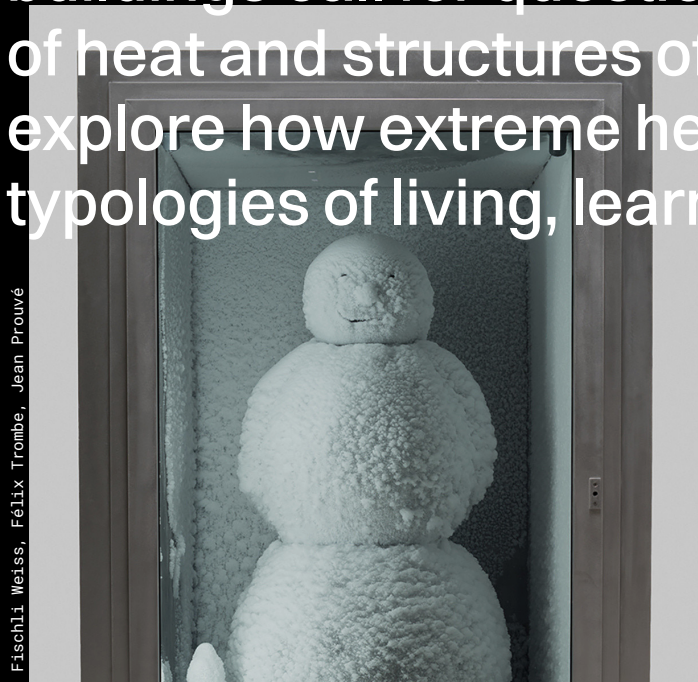


Max Haacke, SITE, Mrs. F.

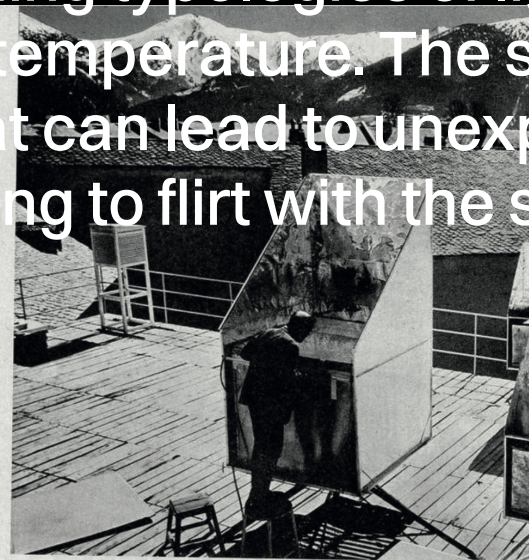


Thermal Mischief

Swiss architecture has spent centuries learning how to fight the cold : thick walls, high-performance insulation and airtight envelopes. As the climate changes, this insulative madness approaches its limits, asking us no longer to retain heat but to get rid of it. Today's boiling buildings call for questioning typologies of light, forms of heat and structures of temperature. The studio will explore how extreme heat can lead to unexpected typologies of living, learning to flirt with the sun.



Fischli Weiss, Félix Trombe, Jean Prouvé



Étonnante découverte française :

froid gratuit



TEAM

Axel Chevroulet, Anna MacIver-Ek, Juliette Simeone

LANGUAGE

English

STUDY LEVEL

3rd year Bachelor/1st year Master

KICK-OFF

07.09.2026

MEETINGS

Mondays+Tuesdays / Room TBC

INTERMEDIATE REVIEWS

05.10.2026 / 09.11.2026

FINAL PRESENTATION

15.12.2026

STUDY TRIP

18.09-22.09.2026



Roman Signer