VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE IN THE ALPS

STUDIO CAPAUL & BLUMENTHAL – AUTUMN SEMESTER ENAC – EPFL – 2019
For centuries, the limited local availability of building materials determined the construction methods in the alpine mountain village. Building types were developed, modified and continuously further developed. Industrialisation and the individualisation of society led to a break with traditional building culture. Vernacular architecture is not imperative today. However, it has the potential to enrich the local context and provide answers to current global architectural questions.

The village of Lumbrein, located in Graubünden, will be an opportunity to understand the evolution of an alpine village and its architecture. The different relationships, between topography, pathways, collective spaces and buildings will be analysed as well as houses typologies and the uses related to it.

The project has the ambition to build in the core of the village using the cultural and constructive knowledge developed, to produce a contemporary architecture that is respectful towards heritage.

A study trip to Graubünden is scheduled to visit the site for the semester as well as buildings by Peter Zumthor, Gion Caminada, Capaul & Blumenthal and other architects, with Jürg Conzett as guest.
economic foundations of settlement development
dispersed settlement – compact village
structure
typology
material and craftsmanship
the site
context – continuity