ORIENTATION MASTER
Form + Type

STUDIO (2019/2020)
Air Lumnezia

PROFESSOR
Jeffrey Huang

TEAM
Christina Doumpioti, Christoph Holz, Fred Kim, Mikhael Johanes

LABORATORY
Media x Design Lab, EPFL

SUMMARY (1500 SIGNS)
The advent of new digital technologies has had a twofold impact on architectural thinking and the built environment, transforming, on one hand, the processes for form generation and design production through algorithmic and parametric technologies, and, on the other hand, enabling an escape from the static fate of the built environment by facilitating automated spaces and dynamic interaction between inhabitants and their surrounding. Our interest in this orientation “Form & Type” is to examine the design of new “post-digital” typologies. In 2019/20 our studio site will be Val Lumnezia, one of the side valleys in the Surselva region of Graubünden, a beautiful valley, yet remote and today facing the problem of transitioning towards a digital economy. We will design a series of autonomous delivery hubs (i.e. “drone ports”) as patentable inventions in the fall semester, and investigate the tectonics of making a new type of mountain cabin (the “connected refuge 2.0”) in the high alps in the spring semester. Methodologically, we will explore meaningful data-driven form generating processes by the use of algorithmic and parametric tools and introduce the notion of growth typologies in architectural and urban design thinking.

METHODOLOGY
Parametric Design, Data-driven Design, Geometry and Form, Experience Design, Grasshopper, Back-end Infrastructures, Front-end Architecture

DURATION
The studio theme will span the entire academic year 2019/20. Accordingly there will be continuity between the fall and spring semester, but each semester can be followed independently.

FIELD TRIP
A field trip to Val Lumnezia will ordinarily be organized during the semester.

PARTNER INSTITUTION
Department of Digital Architecture and Planning, TU Vienna.

LANGUAGE
The official language is English. Desk crits can occur in English or French.

GROUP WORK
Architectural projects will be developed individually or in groups of two. Some group work may occur in the analysis stages.