MONUMENTAL MATTERS.

As our cities are expanding into increasingly vague territories, being generic and alike, we are in need of places of identity, significance and character. Architecture and urbanism have an on-going urgent role in this formation of identity: how to design a spatial environment that fulfils this need? An efficient, standardised diagram for a domestic environment is only a partial answer, it is the role of the expression and language of architecture which is of primary importance.

Since monuments and monumentality play a specific role in the construction of a collective memory and identity, this studio aims for the development of a contemporary monumental vocabulary. The focus is on the study of monuments, monumentalism and the tools used for these throughout history. This requires both an understanding of classical conventions of architecture as well as the translation or reinterpretation of these into the current discourse. For this, specific moments throughout history will be topic of study, where classical architecture was reinterpreted in a figurative way.

A DIPTYCH: BRITISH CLASSICISM AND VIENNESE MODERNISM

London has a continuous connection with classical languages and the reinterpretation of these, although the current vertical development of the townscape expresses merely market-pressure. Vienna was a focal point of translations of the classical, at the turn of the twentieth century, while the ambition for growth in contemporary Vienna lacks any notion of this impressive heritage. Both capitals host an intriguing range of monuments.

COMPACT LIVING:

Our daily places for living are becoming simultaneously increasingly compact or, on contrary luxurious and comfortable. During this studio we focus on the densified option. A compact house puts leverage on the quality of shared moments such as collective spaces and formats of co-living as well on the development of the architectural sequence between the public towards the most private.