

Studio Sergison  
Autumn Semester 2020

The *palazzina* as a building type



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Aerial view of Lugano



## Introduction

Over the course of this year we will be working in Ticino. In the autumn semester we will work on a site in Lugano that holds significance for the way it can be developed and the impact this will have on the surrounding area. The studio will consider the *palazzina* as a building type .

The site we have selected for our work this semester is in an area that was previously designated as an industrial/infrastructural zone. The existing buildings on the site were originally commissioned by the Swiss Post Office.

Following the relocation of its original functions, the area can now accommodate a large-scale building programme. While we imagine that most of the area will be redeveloped for residential use, we also believe that it is necessary to consider other complementary programmes, particularly at ground floor level.

A street to the south of the old city

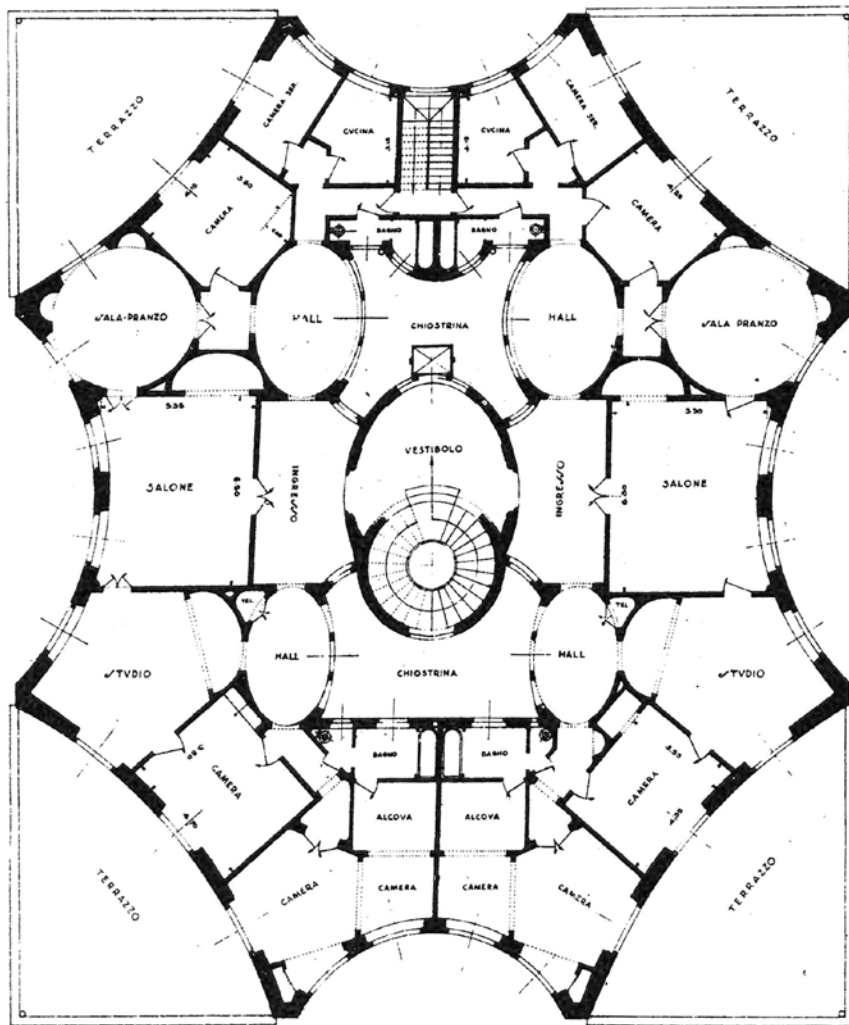
In a previous semester we studied the *palazzo* as a building type and its ability to support contemporary urban development, this semester we are interested in working with a similar building type, the *palazzina*. In simple terms the difference between the two is that a *palazzo* is a large house, while a *palazzina* is a multiple occupancy dwelling that is volumetrically similar to a *palazzo*.

We invite you to consider this building type and the manner in which it can support a well-defined urban arrangement. This will require you to study precedents and existing examples.

From the lessons you learn from your research you should develop an urban strategy that tests how *palazzine* can create a new neighbourhood. The space between buildings and the scale of the buildings themselves should be carefully developed by testing various options.

Attention should be given to the character and quality of the landscape and shared amenity. It is also necessary to consider the site and the impact any project has on its immediate neighbourhood and wider surroundings.

Later, further attention should be given to the design of a single building and to the internal organisation of apartments, as well as to the potential for it to be repeated or adjusted.



PIANTA DELLA SOPRAELEVAZIONE  
ING. ARCH. G. CAPPONI



1



2 3



1  
A busy boulevard in the city centre

2  
A view of the lake from Via della  
Posta

3  
Portico in the old town

4  
Via Pazzalino

5  
Via Campo Marzio

6  
Salita Viarno

7  
Via Campo Marzio





4 5



6 7



The origins of Lugano date back to ancient times: the earliest mention of its existence is in a document of 875 that refers to Lake Lugano as *Laco Luanasco*. A hundred years later, in 984 a decree named Lugano as a market town. Lugano was the object of continuous disputes between Dukes of Como and Milan until it became a Swiss dominion between 1513 and 1798, when Napoleon conquered the Swiss Confederation and created the Helvetic Republic. From 1513 until the end of the nineteenth century Lugano hosted one of the most important livestock fairs in Europe.

In 1815 the Congress of Vienna decreed the integrity of the new cantons, thus laying the foundations of contemporary Switzerland. The cantonal constitution of 1814 had resolved competing claims to the status of cantonal capital by stipulating a six-year rotation between the towns of Bellinzona, Locarno and Lugano.

Between 1880 and 1910, following the opening of the San Gottardo railway, Lugano experienced rapid demographic growth, its population rising from 6,949 to 14,998 inhabitants. At the beginning of the nineteenth century, further demographic and economic growth led to important urban changes that radically altered the structure of the historic centre and the surrounding neighbourhoods.

The construction of *palazzi signorili* in 1830 was followed by the expansion of the city towards the Cassarate and Paradiso areas. Improvements in transportation instigated strong growth in the tourism sector and the construction of numerous hotels. The first of the grand hotels was the Du Parc (now the Grand Hôtel Palace, since it was renovated and expanded in 1904), housed in the converted convent of S. Maria degli Angeli, a project initiated by the Ciani brothers in 1855. Between 1880 and 1906, the number and size of hotels rapidly increased.

During the first decade of the twentyfirst century, the Nuova Lugano project was approved by the population, paving the way for the merging of several neighbouring municipalities into the city, including Viganello in 2004. As a consequence, the population more than doubled, and the city territory increased from 11 to 32 km<sup>2</sup>.

In 2013, a new phase of territorial mergers extended the Lugano area to 75.81 km<sup>2</sup>. With an urban agglomeration of more than 68,000 inhabitants, Lugano is today the second largest city in Switzerland in terms of territorial area and the ninth most populated city in the country.

Reflecting on housing typologies is crucial for the city today, as it seeks to respond to the challenges of climate change, digitalization, densification, waste management and urban mobility.

The Lugano Planning Department has established the innovative “2000 Watt” building certification system that prioritises environmental and urban quality in the 2018- 2028 development plans for the city. The aim is to create more sustainable homes, using low-impact construction methods and addressing the design of the public realm.

### Viganello

Viganello lies to the northeast of Lugano, between the Cassarate river and the foothills of the Brè mountain. The area was an autonomous municipality until it was incorporated into the city of Lugano in 2004.

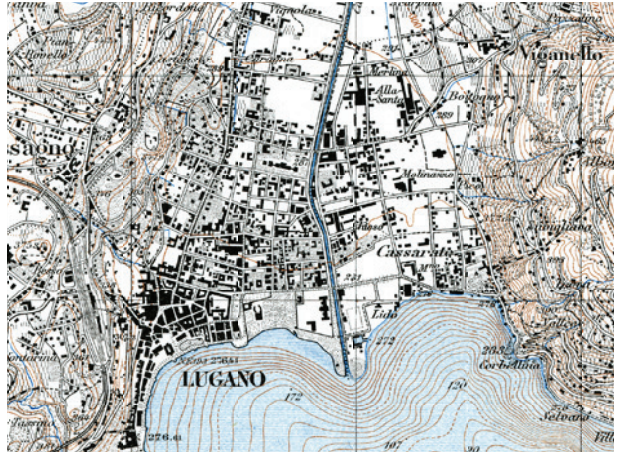
Historically, Viganello was a rural area until the construction of mills led to it being designated as an industrial zone. A suburban railway connected Lugano, Cadro and Dino until it was cut back in 1967 to run only from Piazza Manzoni to Piazza Indipendenza, and eventually closed in 1970.

The area has dramatically changed since the 1960s, when it became a residential area, and various projects are planned for the future, including the Meridiana care home / Villa Rava area (2021-2027), the USI/SUPSI University campus (opening in the autumn 2020), a school canteen (2020-2021) and the redevelopment of the area of the former Abattoir into a cultural hub, amongst others.

Viganello's population density is now comparable to the city of Zurich, with over 5,000 inhabitants/km and further growth is expected until 2040.









pages 12 and 13  
Aerial view, nineteenth century

- 1  
City plan 1891
- 2  
City plan 1945
- 3  
City plan 1959
- 4  
City plan 2009

Project site









1



2 3



1  
A view of the site from Via al Roccolo

2  
A view of the site from Via Generale Guisan

3  
Via Generale Guisan

4  
Via Crocetta (top side)

5  
View from Residenza alla Meridiana care home

6  
Via Crocetta

7  
Existing trees on site



4 5



6 7



## First exercise: Survey one

We all have experience of what it means to live in an apartment. All of you probably started the day in an apartment, a horizontally arranged dwelling with a number of rooms serving different purposes – sleeping, cooking, and so on. We would like you to explore in greater depth what it means to live in an apartment and how the structure and atmosphere of a dwelling affect the way we inhabit a space or a collection of spaces.

We ask you to choose an apartment, preferably not your own, but one you can gain access to. Once you have selected it, you should study a space or a collection of rooms and find a good angle for photographing it, being careful with the light level and composition of the photograph. It is important that the photograph is taken for the purposes of this exercise rather than one taken at some point in the past.

You will then be asked to make a model of the room(s) at a scale of 1:10 based on a print of the photograph you took. The model should accurately recreate everything that can be seen in the print.

Having done this, you should photograph the model you have made. Care should be taken to recreate the lighting levels and atmosphere you observed in the room you selected, as illustrated in the photograph you took. You will then need to take a photograph of the model and print it at the same size as the original print.

An introductory talk will explain how to carry out this first assignment.

1

Photograph of an apartment  
Patrick Zeller  
Autumn semester 2015

2

Photograph of the final model  
Patrick Zeller  
Autumn semester 2015



1



2

## Second exercise: Survey two

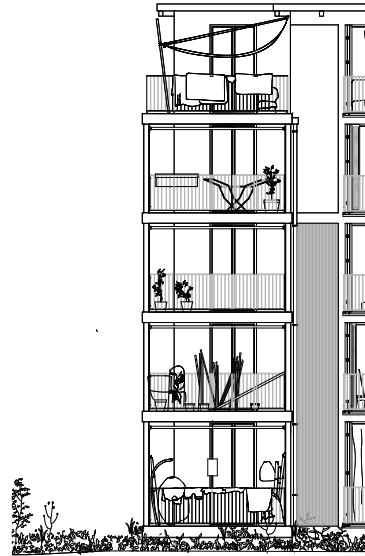
We hold the position that invention is a necessary ambition in architecture, but it rarely emerges by spontaneous intuition. An architect can only hope to make a truly unique proposal after many years of study and reflection. Indeed, it is debatable whether true originality is achievable.

To help you understand the task you are attending to this semester, we would like you to undertake a survey of an existing urban block in Lugano. We believe that by surveying an existing building you develop a deeper understanding of its qualities, a useful corrective to the belief that it is possible to come up with entirely original solutions. The information recorded in your survey will be drawn upon and referred to throughout the semester and will inform your subsequent work.

You should consider the plan organisation of a block and will be expected to describe it clearly and analytically, employing diagrams where necessary. You should concentrate on understanding the quality and arrangement of the facade by drawing a measured survey of an existing series of elevations. This will require you to look very carefully at buildings, making sketches and taking photographs as a way of recording their condition.

We also ask you to make a precise photographic portrait that conveys the atmosphere of the buildings and the manner in which they are situated in the city. You might also make a photographic portrait of an internal space and record the relationship of the building's interior with the city outside.

A seminar will be given to assist you in understanding this exercise.



Hunziker Areal Haus B  
Hagenholzstrasse  
2015  
Miroslav Šik

Survey drawing  
Jasper Rumbelow and Isaac Colin  
i Ramió  
Autumn semester 2019



Buildings to be surveyed  
Lugano



1  
Salita Viarno 33

2  
Via Guggiolo 1

3  
Via alla Chiesa 17



12



3





4  
Via Luigi Taddei 3

5  
Via la Santa 29

6  
Via Bertaro Lambertenghi 6  
1933  
Giuseppe Franconi

7  
Via Crocetta 7



6 7



8



9 10



8  
Via del Tiglio 11

9  
Via del Tiglio 3  
1963  
Peppo Brivio

10  
Via Campo Marzio 13

11  
Via Campo Marzio 1

12  
Viale Carlo Cattaneo 27

13  
Viale Carlo Cattaneo 17A



11 12



13



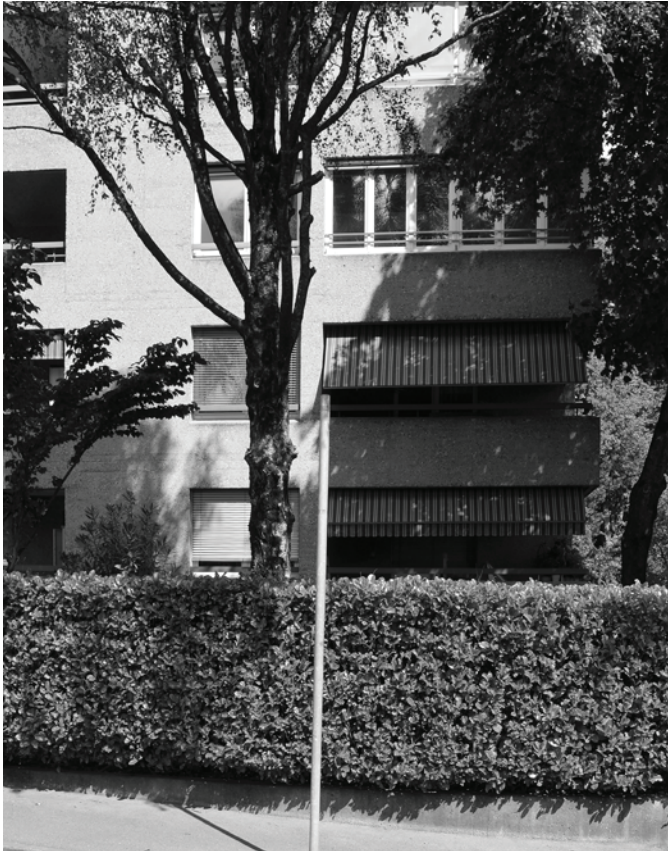
14 15



16



17



14  
Via del Tiglio 19

15  
Via delle Scuole 16

16  
Via delle Scuole 10

17  
Via Curti 19  
1933  
Orfeo Armadò

18  
Via Pedemonte 24

19  
Via Crocetta 11

20  
Viale Castagnola 25



18 19



20



21 22



23

21  
Via Tesserete 3, Massagno  
1958  
Peppo Brivio

22  
Salita Carlo Bossoli 7  
1934  
Augusto Guidini

23  
Via dei Faggi  
1986  
Aurelio Galfetti



24  
Via la Santa 18

25  
Via Pedemonte 7

26  
Via Maggio 9



24 25



26

## Third exercise: Urban strategy

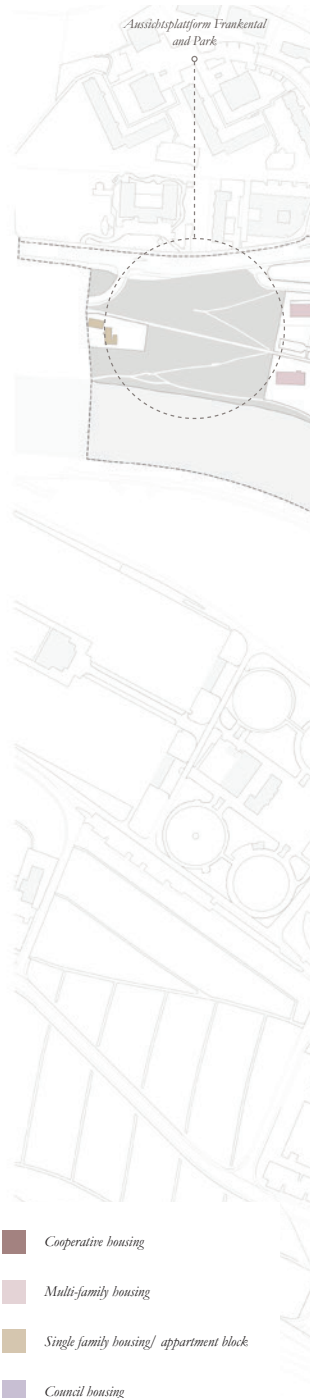
The next component of the work to be undertaken this semester requires you to develop a strategy plan. This can be understood as a typological and massing study. The principal tool to assist you in this exercise will be a 1:500 model. This should encompass a wider area of the neighbourhood in which your site is located. The base model will be made collectively by all members of the studio.

We ask you to begin by exploring a number of solutions that would allow the site you are studying to be developed to a reasonably high density through the introduction of building blocks. The scale of these blocks and the distance between them should be carefully considered. Each option you propose should be recorded photographically and then critically appraised and tested to determine the density it yields. This should be developed further and refined or discarded as appropriate.

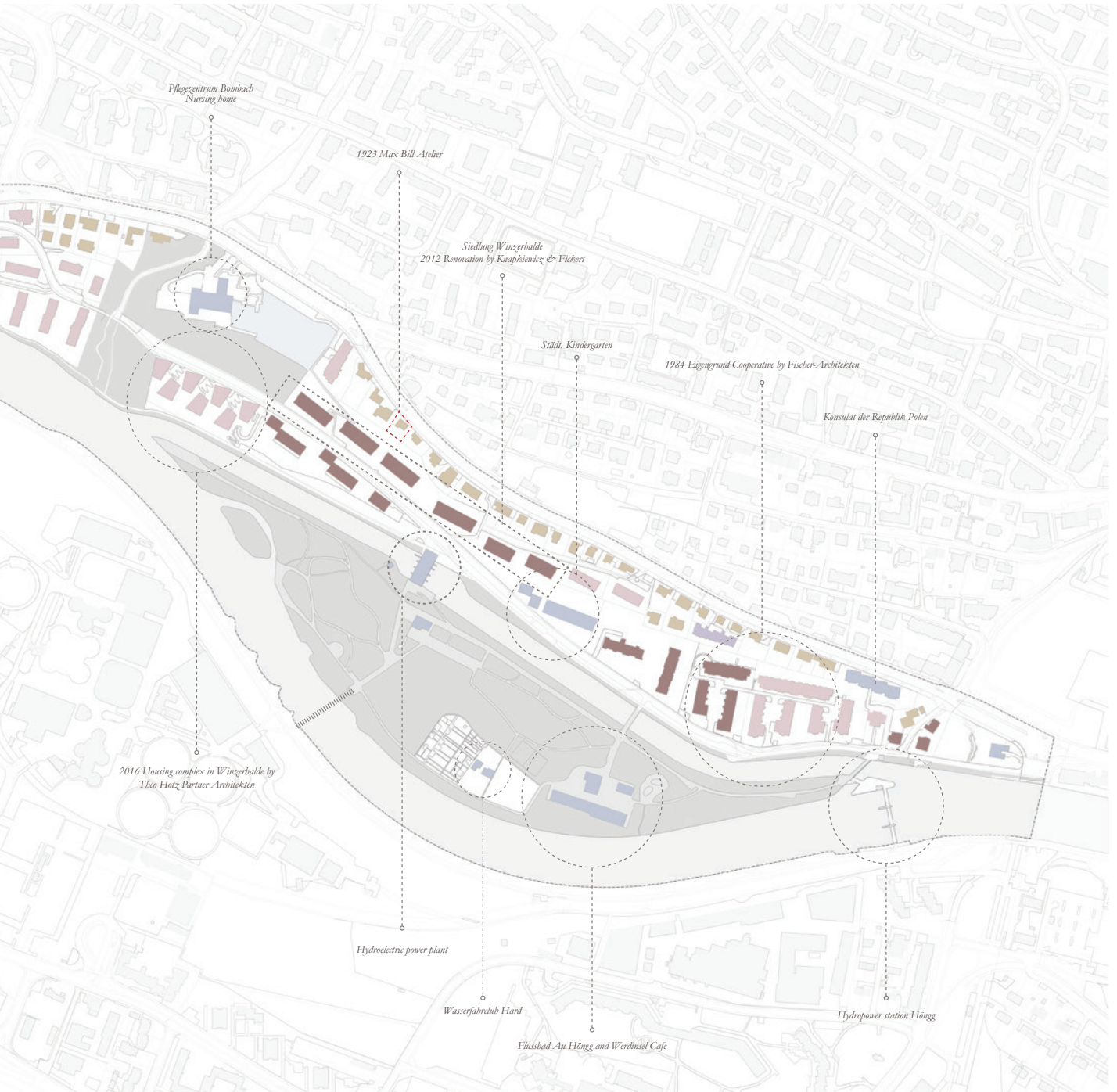
This work should be understood as an iterative process that will begin to develop the idea for the project you will be working on throughout the semester. You should use the study trip to Lugano as an opportunity to understand the scale and urban fabric of the city.

A lecture will be offered to introduce this exercise.

Strategy plan, Public realm and mobility, from 'A Plan for Zurich 5' Autumn semester 2019







Pflegezentrum Bombach  
Nursing home

1923 Max Bill Atelier

Siedlung Wingerhalde  
2012 Renovation by Knapkiewicz & Fickert

Städt. Kindergarten

1984 Eigengrund Cooperative by Fischer-Architekten

Konsulat der Republik Polen

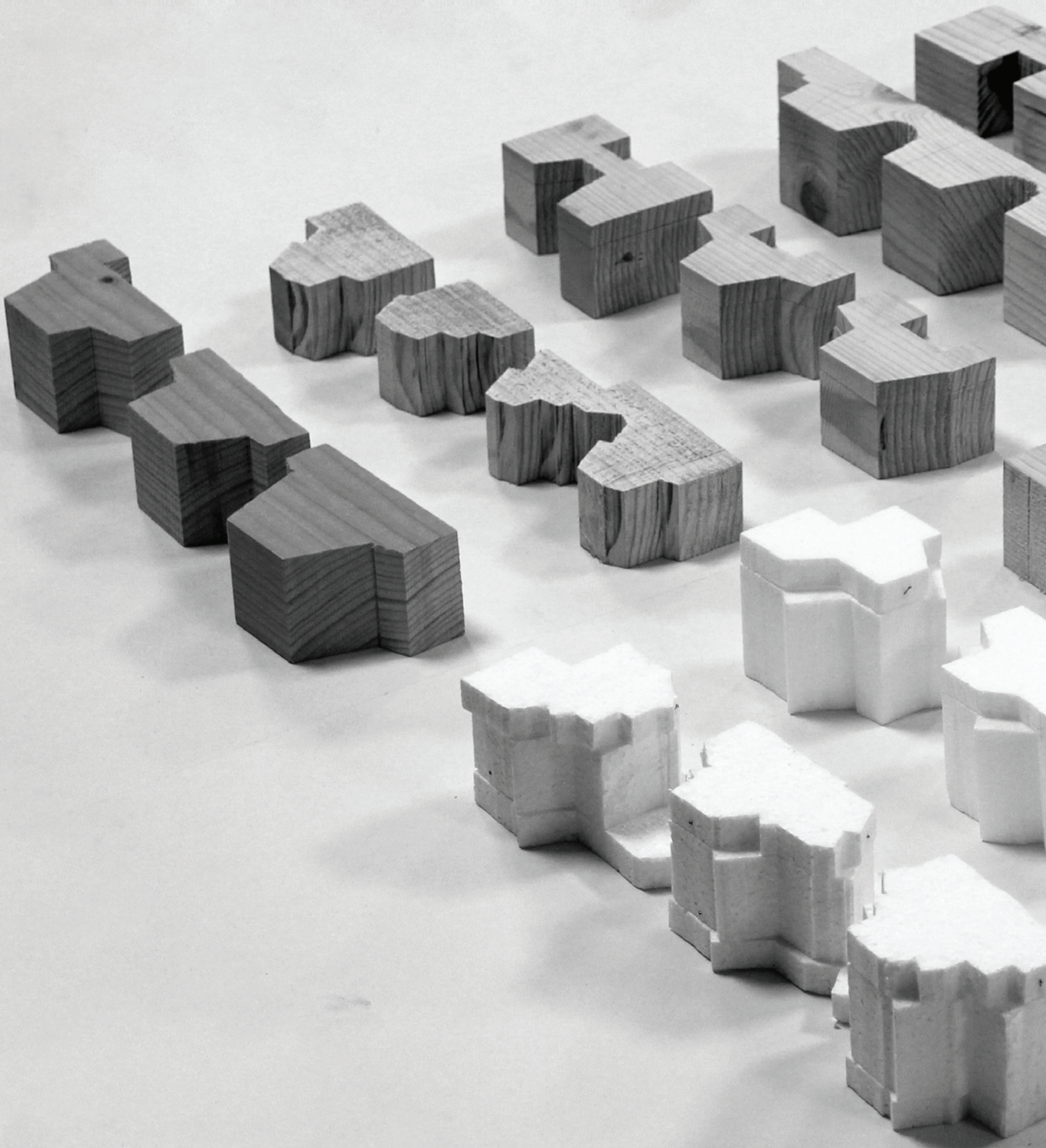
2016 Housing complex in Wingerhalde by  
Theo Holz Partner Architekten

Hydroelectric power plant

Wasserfabrik Hard

Flussbad Au-Höngg and Werdnisal Café

Hydropower station Höngg





## Fourth exercise: Developing types - cast model

For the intermediate review we require you to produce a 1:100 cast model of one of the buildings you are exploring in your strategy plan. While it will also be necessary to produce plans, sections and elevations, the cast model will enable a more accurate assessment to be made of the formal properties of the project.

The model should be made from unpigmented white plaster and should represent window openings, the roof and any overhang the building might have.

At this stage in the semester you will be expected to present your work at an intermediate review.

**pages 34 and 35**  
1.200 model studies  
Jasper Rumbelow and Isaac  
Colin i Ramió  
from 'A Plan for Zurich 5'  
Autumn semester 2019

**page 37**  
Cast model  
Maria Minic and Alessio  
Pavani  
from 'A Plan for Zurich 5'  
Autumn Semester 2019



## Fifth exercise: Building and facade concept

The results of the previous studies should now be reappraised and drawn upon to produce the next instalment of this semester's work. We would now like you to develop a more precise concept for a building or buildings and their relationships to the wider context. The principal tool we ask you to employ is a 1:100 study or sketch model, which should include an appropriate amount of context. This is really the beginning of the key piece of work you will be producing this semester. We are interested in the qualities of the buildings you design and the way they are expressed through the organisation of the facades.

Your work should concentrate on the critical appraisal and further refinement of your earlier studies. While a model will be the principal piece of work, we expect your project to be developed with study plans, elevations, sections and sketches. It is also important that you measure the density of your proposal. The facades of your buildings should be drawn at 1:100 (as unwrapped elevations) and translated into three-dimensional models.

This piece of work should be undertaken with a clear concept of the image of your building in mind. What materials is the building made from? What is your attitude to the arrangement of window openings? How does the building meet the ground and how is the top of the building resolved? There are numerous additional questions you should be asking yourself about the facade of your building.

Urban housing  
Marta Cassany and Francesco  
Colli  
from 'A Plan for Zurich 5'  
Autumn semester 2019



## Sixth exercise: Atmosphere and image

As a final piece of work, you are required to produce two images. No specific graphic technique is prescribed, although you should be able to explain why the technique you choose is appropriate.

These images should represent the atmosphere and the presence of your building. One of the images should depict the exterior of the building and its relationship with the existing urban tissue and the site of the project within the city and its immediate context. The second image should represent the interior of a block and its qualities as a partly public, partly private space.

Interior model  
Jack Della Santa and Hanna  
Bergh  
from 'A Plan for Zurich 5'  
Autumn semester 2019





With the emergence of a convincing set of ideas for your building you will need to produce a careful set of drawings of some of the facades you have developed and a number of sections at scale 1:100.

You should also give due consideration to the plans for the project. These should be developed at 1:200, 1:100 and at a larger scale where appropriate. Consideration should be given to repetition and variation in apartments and to what other programmes might be introduced, particularly on the ground floor.

A landscape plan should be produced at a scale of 1:200 indicating an approach to the landscape surfaces, hard and soft elements and the public realm in general.

The main piece of work should be the remaking of a final model at a suitably ambitious scale. You should choose the material for this model carefully. It should feel special!

A further two 'atmospheric' perspectives should be produced of the final version of your project.

Finally, you should produce a .pdf or Powerpoint presentation describing your project. This should be understood as an important tool for presenting your project at the final review. It should explain the development of your work and the strategy you propose.



Date	Event	Details	Assignments
17-18 September	Studio briefing	Jonathan Sergison (JS) presents studio and autumn semester. Lecture by JS 'Room Survey' Lecture by JS 'How to survey a building'	Survey Photographs of apartment Preparation for 1.500 site model
24-25 September	Trip to Lugano	Trip to allocated project site Survey studies	Apartment and model photograph
1-2 October	Review	Review of survey drawings Lecture by JS 'The palazzo type'	Survey photographs and drawings
8-9 October	Tutorials	Review of initial ideas for strategy Lecture by CR 'The palazzina'	1.500 models Initial ideas for the building
15-16 October	Review	Review of initial ideas for strategy	1.500 models Initial ideas for the building
22-23 October	Review	Review on types Lecture by JS '20 ideas about housing'	1:200 drawings, plans, sections and elevations
29-30 October	Tutorials	Building concept review of model, plans, sections and elevations	1:200 model studies, Plans, sections and elevations
5-6 November	Intermediate review	Project reviews with guest critics	Pdf presentation Ideas for a strategy plan 1:100 cast model 1:200 plans sections , elevations Perspectives 1:500 models
12-13 November	Tutorials	Lecture by JS: 'Representing atmosphere'	1:200 plans, sections, elevations 1:200 models
19-20 November	Tutorials	Review of plans, sections and elevations	1:100 plans, sections, elevations 1:100 models

Date	Event	Details	Assignments
26-27 November	Review	Review of final drawings	Images
3-4 December	Tutorials	Submission of final drawings	Images
10-11 December	Tutorials		Prepare presentation
17-18 December	Final review	Invited critics tbc	Pdf presentation 1:500 model 1:200 situation plan (roof plan) 1:50 model 1:100 plans, sections and facades Interior and exterior perspectives

## Reading list

### Rino Tami: opera completa

Kenneth Frampton, Rino Tami, Riccardo Bergossi  
Mendrisio Academy Press, 2008

### Storia di Lugano

AA. VV., 2 voll., 1975<sup>3</sup>

### Ticino medievale

AA. VV., 1990

### Il Ticino nel periodo dei baliaggi

O. Weiss, Locarno , October 1998

### Storia della Svizzera italiana dal Cinquecento al Settecento

R. Ceschi, Bellizona, January 2001

### Un borgo prealpino in età moderna. Momenti di storia luganese all'epoca dei baliaggi

G. Negro, edizioni Città di Lugano, 2006

### Le industrie nel cantone Ticino

I. Schneiderfranken, Istituto editoriale ticinese, Bellinzona, 1937

### Borgo e Vicinìa di Lugano

A. Galli, 1940

### Casualità e disegno. Edilizia residenziale e spazio pubblico a Lugano

M. Pedrozzi, Edizioni Casagrande, Collana 'Alfabeti', Bellinzona, 2020

### Architettura italiana oggi

C. Pagani, Hoepli, Milano, 1955

### Metamorfosi, dal 'villino' alla 'palazzina' Roma 1920/40 'Architettura FF02

Quaderni di architettura

### Il disegno della palazzina romana

C. Mezzetti, Kappa, Roma, 2008

### Italy Builds: its modern architecture and native inheritance - L'Italia costruisce: la sua architettura moderna e la sua eredità indigena

G. Everards, K. Smith, Edizioni di Comunità, Milano, 1954

## References

L'architettura della città

Aldo Rossi, Marsilio, Padova 1966

Das Haus und die Stadt / The House and the City

Diener & Diener, Städtebauliche Arbeiten/Urban Studies

Roger Diener, Martin Steinmann, Birkhäuser, Basel, 1995

Dichte / Density

Archithese, Niggli Verlag, Zürich, 2011

Forme forte

Martin Steinmann, Birkhäuser 2003

The Seduction of Place: the City in the Twenty-first Century

Joseph Rykwert, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, New York, 2000

Papers 3

Jonathan Sergison and Stephen Bates, Luzern: Quart Verlag 2016

Critical Regionalism: modern architecture and cultural identity

Kenneth Frampton in: Modern architecture. A critical history, Thames & Hudson (1980) 2007

Die Stadt im 20. Jahrhundert. Visionen, Entwürfe, Gebautes

Vittorio Magnago Lampugnani, Wagenbach Verlag, Berlin, 2010

## Contacts

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