

A PLAN FOR ZURICH (1)

Studio Sergison
Autumn Semester 2017

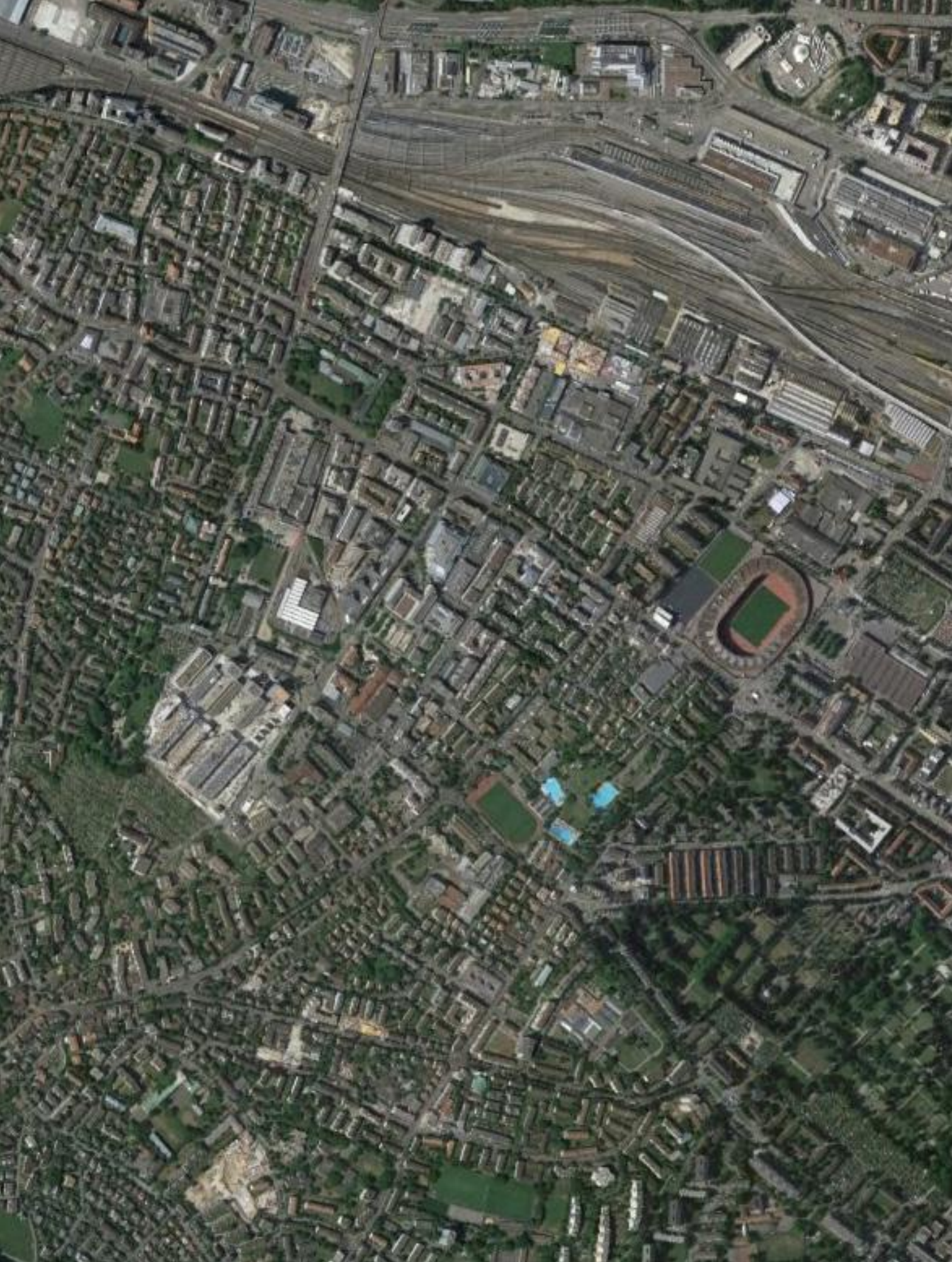
A Plan for Zurich, 1
Albisrieden/Altstetten

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Tram line 3 to Albisrieden



Over the course of the semester we will turn our attention to Zurich, the largest city in Switzerland. This will be the first part of a six-semester research project that aims to produce an urban plan for Zurich as the cumulative result of six separate area studies. In this instance we will focus on the Albisrieden / Altstetten area of Zurich.

Several years ago the Department of Urbanism and Architecture for the municipality of Zurich announced that the future development of the city would prioritise densification within the existing urban area and limit the expansion of building on agricultural land. In other words, denser, more compact urban growth would be promoted. For a city that is so well served by public transport, has a refined public realm and generally experienced well planned urban growth in the past, this ambition seems a logical response to the need for the city to absorb a growing population and deal with the pressures this exerts on housing and other public services.

This is the context we will be operating in. Concrete proposals should be developed for sites that will in future be considered for densification and development. Projects should offer tangible possibilities for various sites and will take the form of realistic proposals based on current buildings regulations.

A commission of experts has been assembled to support you in developing project proposals, and your work will contribute to a wider discussion on the future of Zurich.

Starting in the autumn of 2017, and over six semesters until Spring 2020 we will undertake an ambitious programme to develop a plan for the city of Zurich. This is an academic exercise in the sense that it will have no legally enforceable status, but is nevertheless intended to generate realistic design proposals as a form of propositional planning and to demonstrate that the largest city in Switzerland can absorb the growing pressure on housing without resorting to an expansion of its current territorial limits.

Our work will address questions relating to the evolving image the city and what strategies it might adopt for densification. Each semester we will study on a specific neighbourhood, and will only focus on situations where it is realistic to consider densification and re-building. Naturally, this leaves out the historical centre of the city and some nineteenth century neighbourhoods that are already reasonably dense and protected by planning codes.

Every semester a 1:1000 model of the area under study will be constructed and used as a tool for assessing urban strategies. As in previous semesters, we will survey existing buildings carefully. We hope that by accurately recording older existing examples, it will be possible to offer contemporary solutions rooted in place and in local building culture.

In addition to a study trip to Zurich which will take place at the beginning of every semester, we will travel to another European city that has a similar urban and architectural character to the district of Zurich we will be studying. In this instance we will be travelling to Trieste and Ljubljana.

To assist in our work, we will rely on a panel of experts – architects, planners and people with experience of building and commissioning buildings in Zurich. Every semester Irina Davidovici will give a lecture on themes connected to the work of the semester.

In addition to the studio reviews and programmed critical appraisal of projects we plan to organise a symposium at the beginning of the semester and invite a number of people to address the issues our work will deal with.

On completion of the six-semester programme, the studio will organise an exhibition in Zurich and produce a book documenting the range of proposals developed.



p 7
A courtyard in Zurich
Jonathan Sergison, from 'One a
day' series

Albisrieden and Altstetten lie at the foot of the Uetliberg, slightly higher than the Limmattal, bordering the old city of Zurich.

With their original, well maintained old farmhouses and church, these villages have retained their original urban structure despite becoming incorporated into the city of Zurich in 1934. An urban fabric of housing blocks formed between the two centres until they merged together.

From 1900 workshops and warehouses were built along the SBB railway tracks on the north boundary of these sites, allowing industries to occupy the area between the tracks and the Hohlstrasse. This industrial corridor was enclosed by larger public spaces and sports centres such as the Letzigrund stadium to the south, forming a boundary between the industrial area and the housing blocks to the south-east.

In 1931 the Limmattal housing cooperative built its first housing development next to the Sihlfeld cemetery, but the housing boom only started after WW2, when a very large affordable development by non-profit housing cooperatives was built in Albisrieden and Altstetten.

Today more than 40% of the apartments in this neighbourhood are jointly owned by the city of Zurich and housing cooperatives. Between 1945 and 1955 housing cooperatives built mainly to the south-east and south-west providing people with 3-4 storey apartment buildings, similar in structure and surrounded by green areas, which remained the main architectural and urban characteristic of these quiet and unspectacular neighbourhoods. Between the 60s and the 70s the peripheral areas of both neighbourhoods were densified with large compact housing blocks and towers: the Suteracher Siedlung was built between 1965 and 1975 as a result of a strategy plan designed by the city and non-profit housing cooperatives. Around the same time a number of private owners merged their sites with city-owned sites to build the Grosssiedlung Grünau in the north of Altstetten, creating what would become known as the "Great wall of China", housing apartment of many different types, a school, shops and public spaces for residents.

The gradual transition from an industrial area to a working area attracted many banks and companies to the north of the sites, along the SBB railway lines.



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1
The centre of Albisrieden around 1905, from the historical archive of the City of Zurich

2
Badenerstrasse around 1925, from the historical archive of the City of Zurich

3
Uetlibergstrasse around 1950, from the historical archive of the City of Zurich

Private investors transformed the north boundary of these neighbourhoods by investing in high-density, mixed-use developments of high architectural quality.

These neighbourhoods need to be partially renovated and redeveloped. Building cooperatives are actively trying to meet the constantly growing demand for housing by replacing the small apartments built in the post-war years with more generous apartments suitable for families and senior citizens.

The stark juxtaposition of old and new, low and high, private and public, gives this area its unique character and identity. The urban development strategy for this part of the city is based on these qualities and aims to strengthen them, while respecting its heritage.

The development potential of this area is estimated to provide 5 000 to 8 000 jobs and new housing for 5 000 people. This will require the development of infrastructure, such as schools, sports facilities and public spaces.



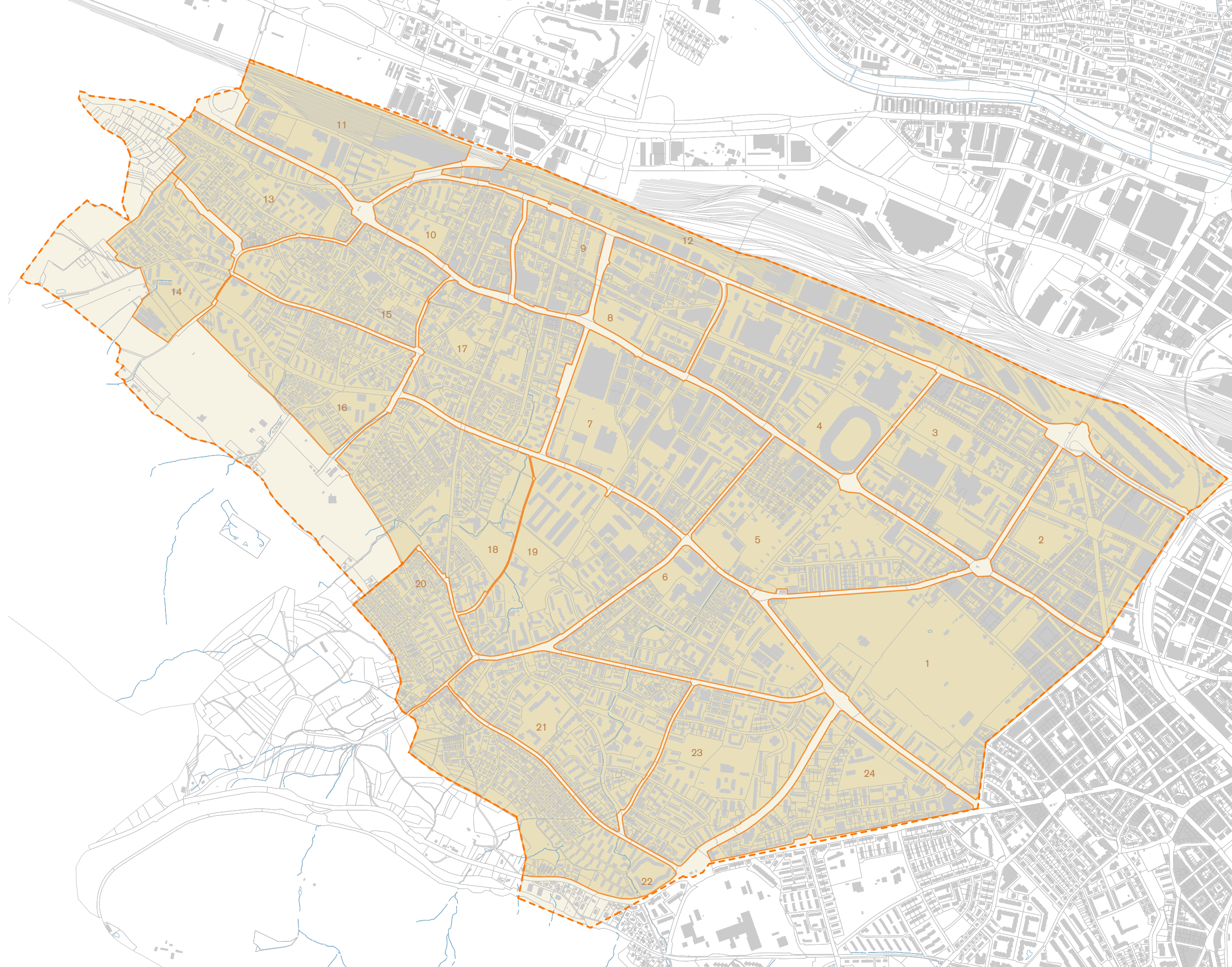
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Lochergut between Badenerstrasse and Seebahnstrasse around 1929, from the historical archive of the City of Zurich

p 7-8
Badenerstrasse, Albisrieden around 1919, from the historical archive of the City of Zurich



Project sites

- 1 Friedhof Sihlfeld
- 2 Bullingerhof
- 3 Hardau
- 4 Letzigrund
- 5 Heiligfeld
- 6 Letzipark
- 7 Koch Areal
- 8 Kappeli
- 9 Röntgenhof
- 10 Herrlig
- 11 SBB Werkstätte
- 12 Gleis Feld
- 13 Im Stückler
- 14 Dunkelhölzli
- 15 Schlierenberg
- 16 Eichbühl
- 17 Krone
- 18 Buchlern
- 19 Freilager
- 20 Bachwiesen
- 21 In der Ey
- 22 Triemli
- 23 Letzi
- 24 Im Gut





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3



5



6

1-6
Albisrieden and Altstetten as
found



1-6
Albisrieden and Altstetten as
found



We believe that invention is a necessary ambition in architecture, although it rarely emerges by spontaneous intuition. Years of study and reflection are necessary before an architect can make a truly unique proposal, and it is questionable whether true originality can ever be achieved in view of the wealth of examples in the history of architecture.

To assist you in understanding the task you are attending to this semester we would like you to undertake a survey of an notable building in Zurich. Your work should consider the organisation of the plan of the building and particular attention should be given to the facade, describing it clearly and analytically with diagrams where necessary. The facade of the building should be drawn at 1:100.

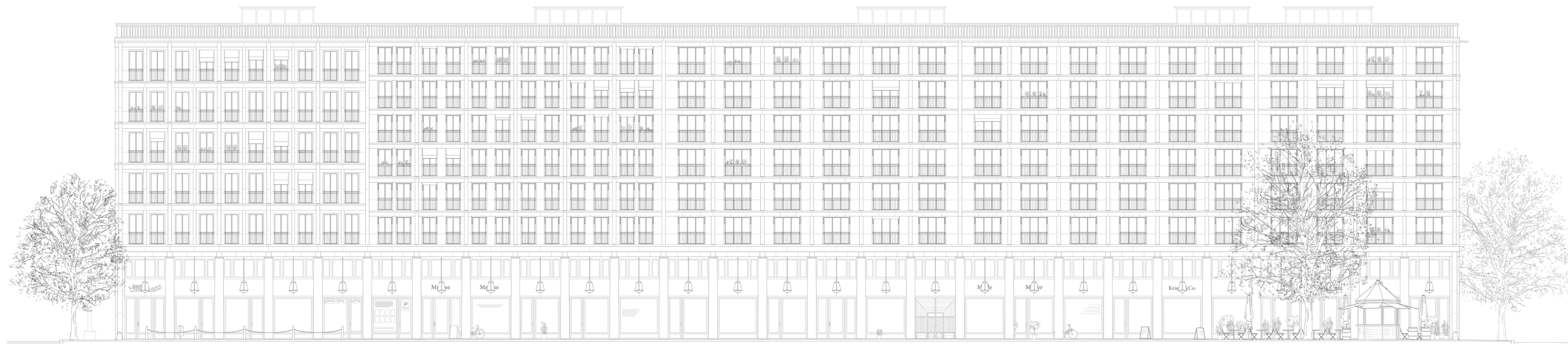
This exercise requires you to look carefully and communicate your observations in a clear and understandable manner. The work you are undertaking at this stage should inform the projects you develop later in the semester and will contribute to a collective piece of research that will inspire and inform the development of their projects.

A lecture will be offered to introduce this exercise.



1
Walter-Benjamin-Platz, Berlin,
1995
Hans Kollhof

2
Christoph Zingg
Walter-Benjamin-Platz, Berlin



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1 Wohnhaus Bienenstrasse, 1997
Miroslav Sik

2 Zürcher Rathaus, 1698
Josephn Furttentbach

3 Hauptwache Kantonspolizei, 1825
Hermann Fietz

4 Villa Rainhof, 1867
Steffen, Trümpler
remodelled by M+E Bösch, 2009

5 Genossenschaft Dreieck, 1996
remodelled by Albers+Cerliani
and Kaspar Fahrländer, 2002

6 Frauenbad, 1888
Arnold Geiser



12

7 Siedlung im Holzerhurd, 1964
Aeschliman & Baumgartner

8 Hegibachstrasse, 1958
Ernst Gisel

9 Museum für Gestaltung, 1933
Adolf Steger, Karl Egernder

10 Rote Fabrik, 1892
Carl Arnold Séquin

11 Siedlung Leimbach, 1930
Karl Kündig, Heinrich Oettiker,
remodelled by Galli Rudolf, 2007

12 Fierz-Häuser, 1880,
Johann Heinrich Fierz



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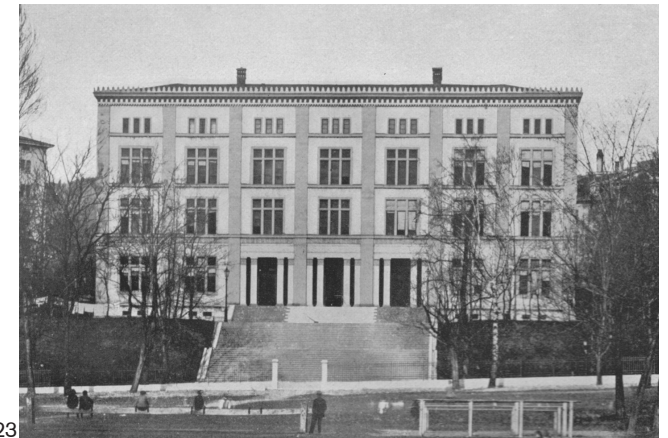
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13
Siedlung Sihlfeld I/II, 1929
Otto Streicher

14
Wohnsiedlung Tramdepot, 1991
Willi Klader

15
Villa Patumbah, 1885
Alphred Chiodera, Theophil
Tschudy

16
Bernoulli Häuser, 1914
Han Benno Bernoulli

17
Ilgen Schule, 1877
Otto Wolff
remodelled by Wolfgang
Rossbauer, 2012

18
Schweizer Nationalbank, 1919
Gebr. Pfister

19
Schulhaus im Rohr, 1940
remodelled by Hasler Schlatter
Partner, 2001

20
Wohnsiedlung Limmat I, 1908
Friedrich Hassler

21
Wohnhäuser Gutstrasse, 2013
Peter Märkli

22
UBS Paradeplatz, 1956
Roland Rohn

23
Alte Kantonsschule, 1842
Gustav Albert Wegmann

24
Sihlporte 3, 1929
Otto Streicher
remodelled by Tilla Theus, 2010

The second component of the work to be undertaken this semester requires you to develop a strategy plan. This can be understood as an urban planning exercise and should result in a clear and appropriate strategy for developing the site you have been invited to study. The principal tool to assist you in this exercise will be a 1:1 000 model. This will be produced collectively and will encompass the area of Zurich under study. Plans and other drawings should be produced to represent and communicate this work.

To begin with, you will be invited to develop a strategy plan for the entire area you will be studying. This should consider public realm and include a strategy for public spaces. You should consider movement and the distribution of non-residential uses, educational needs, medical facilities and other public functions, as well as work spaces. This exercise should also take into account neighbouring site conditions and the place Albisrieden and Altstetten occupy within the city as a whole. This work should be understood as an iterative process and collectively developed research should inform the studies of the specific site or urban block you have been allocated.

We ask you to begin by exploring various options for the location of new buildings and develop a strategy for building use that takes into account the wider needs of the neighbourhood. This should take the form of an appraisal that begins to develop an idea of the project you will be working on throughout the semester. Once this task is completed you should be able to argue the case for how the site should be developed. It is important that you take into account the various planning codes that affect the site you are working on. This includes density and height restrictions, permitted uses and any protected buildings on the site. Your work should also be sensitive to the ideas and proposals of colleagues working in neighbouring sites and should be developed in parallel with their own proposals.

A lecture will be offered to introduce this exercise.



p 27
Project sites in Deptford,
London
from Urban Picturesque
Autumn Semester 2008

Third exercise: Building concept

The next exercise requires you to develop a clearer concept for the new buildings you are proposing for the site. This should be understood as a typological exercise.

You should be able to explain how your buildings address the planning codes and conforms to the wider strategy the studio has developed for the neighbourhood. It is important to consider how any new building would sit in relation to existing buildings and what relationships are being proposed.

At this stage the presentation of your ideas should prioritise the study of plans and the organisation of the different uses or building programmes. When working on this, it is helpful to ask yourself what the organisational role of a building should be, how it might be inhabited and how flexible it might be. Also consider how a building might serve a variety of uses and functions.

You are expected to produce drawings and models at different scales, depending on what aspects of a project they are exploring, and while priority should be given to the plan, you will also need to produce sections, elevations and sketch models. You should build on the lessons learnt in the first exercise and draw upon the precedents visited in our study trip to Zurich.

A lecture will be offered to introduce this exercise, and your work will be subject to an intermediate review.



p 29
'Salzburg' site models
Diploma 2017

Fourth exercise: Urban facade

You will now need to focus on the overall appearance of the building. The plans you have developed will need to be adjusted to include a clear volumetric idea and the organisation of the facades.

You need to explain why your project appears as it does in the manner that you propose it, and what it says about adjacent buildings and local building traditions.

Priority will be given to model making to assist this stage of the work. Models should be produced quickly to explore options and then adjusted and remade as necessary. We are interested in using models as a way of describing the atmosphere of streets and spaces, and photography will be used to explore their atmospheric potential.

A lecture will be offered to introduce this exercise.



p 31
Escher-Wyss Areal, 2017
Sergison Bates architekten
Competition entry

As a convincing set of ideas for your buildings emerges, you will need to produce a careful set of drawings at appropriate scales.

A landscape plan at scale 1:200 should describe landscape surfaces, hard and soft elements and a general approach to the public realm. This should be complemented by the 1:1 000 model revised to include your project.

The main piece of work will be the final version of a model at an appropriate scale. This should be made giving careful consideration to the choice of materials and should be accompanied by plans, sections and elevations produced at a scale of 1:200 or 1:100.

Finally you should produce a pdf or powerpoint presentation. This is an important tool for presenting your project and should explain the development of your work and the strategy you propose, drawing upon references where appropriate.



p 33
'On participation and power'
Discussion panel, Zurich,
June 7, 2005

Date	Event	Details	Assignments
21 September	Studio introduction		
22-24 September	Symposium	Autumn semester studio presentation by Jonathan Sergison (JS). An introduction to Zurich with Patrick Gmür, and Anna Schindler Introduction to survey exercise (JS) Site visit, 23-24 September	Survey and site visit
28-29 September	Review	Survey drawings presentation Introduction to strategy plan (JS) Introduction to the 1:1000 site model (MSB)	1:1000 site model
5-6 October	Tutorial	Initial ideas for all of area of study (undertaken collectively)	1:1000 site model 1:5000 and 1:2000 site plans
12-13 October	Review	Urban concepts 1:1000 Models 1:1000 Lecture: "Recent Swiss architecture" by Irina Davidovici	1:1000 site model 1:5000 and 1:2000 site plans
19-22 October	Tutorial	Building concepts Review of model 1:500 plans, sections and elevations	1:1000 site model 1:500 plans, sections, elevations
26-27 October	Tutorial	Building concepts Review of model 1:200 plans, sections and elevations	1:500 site plans 1:200 site model 1:200 plans, sections, elevations
2-3 November	Intermediate review	Project reviews with guest critics	All materials and elements
9-10 November	Study trip	Detailed programme to be issued	
16-17 November	Tutorial	Revisions to material produced for intermediate review	1:200 site model 1:200 plans, sections and elevations 1:1000 site model
23-24 November	Review	1:200 plans, sections and elevations 1:100 facades and material concept	1:100 facade model 1:100 plans, sections, elevations

Date	Event	Details	Assignments
30-1 November	Tutorial	Review of facades	1:100 / 1:50 facades 1:100 plans, sections, elevations
7-8 December	Review Hand-in of all drawings	Review of plans, sections elevations	1:100 / 1:50 facades 1:100 plans, sections, elevations
14-15 December	Tutorial	Plans, sections, elevations submission	Submission of of final drawings 1:200 ground floor plan 1:100 plans, sections, elevations
21-22 December	Final review		PDF presentation 1:1000 site model 1:200 model 1:200 ground floor plan 1:100 plans, sections and facades Exterior perspectives (from models) Others materials as appropriate

Reading list

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, 1995

Dichte / Density

Archithese, Niggli Verlag, 2011

Forme forte

Martin Steinmann, Birkhäuser, 2003

The seduction of place: the city in the twenty-first century

Joseph Rykwert, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, 2004

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

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