

A PLAN FOR ZURICH (4)

Studio Sergison
Spring Semester 2019

A Plan for Zurich, 4
Gewerbeschule, Escher-Wyss, Hardhof

Contents



5	Introduction
6	A Plan for Gewerbeschule, Escher-Wyss, Hardhof
8	A short history of Gewerbeschule, Escher-Wyss, Hardhof
14	Project sites
16	Gewerbeschule, Escher-Wyss, Hardhof as found
20	First exercise: Strategy Plan
22	Second exercise: Survey
24	Survey buildings
26	Third exercise: Building concept
28	Fourth exercise: Urban facade
30	Final review
32	Programme: Spring Semester 2019
34	Reading list
35	References
36	Contacts

Introduction

Over the course of the semester we will continue to work in Zurich, the largest city in Switzerland. This is the fourth 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 Gewerbeschule, Escher-Wyss and Hardhof areas 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. This was endorsed by a public vote. The result of this strategy will ensure that denser, more compact urban growth is promoted. For a city that is well served by public transport, has a refined public realm and has generally experienced well planned urban growth, this ambition seems a logical response to the need to absorb a growing population and deal with the pressures it exerts on housing and other public services.

This is the context we will be operating in. Concrete proposals should be developed for sites designated for future densification and development. Projects should offer credible options and will take the form of realistic proposals based on current building 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.

p 4
Aerial view of Gewerbeschule,
Escher-Wyss and Hardhof

Our ambition to develop a plan for the city of Zurich is an academic exercise in the sense that it will have no legally enforceable planning status. Nevertheless, it is 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 of the city and the strategies it might adopt for densification.

Each semester will focus on a specific neighbourhood, and situations where it is realistic to consider densification and re-building. Naturally, this leaves out the historical centre and nineteenth century neighbourhoods that are already reasonably dense and protected by planning regulations.

At the beginning of the 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, although unlike in previous semesters this task will occur later in the semester and will be part of the study trip we undertake to Copenhagen. We hope that, by accurately recording older existing examples that address similar needs it will be possible to offer contemporary solutions rooted in place and in local building culture.

We will rely on a panel of experts – architects, planners and people with experience of building and commissioning buildings in Zurich – to assist us in our work. 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, a number of lectures will be organised to address relevant themes.

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
View of Kreis 4 and 5



Kreis 5, located between the Limmat and SBB-Areal, was not always a trendy area. Until 1913 it was part of the Aussersihl working-class district. Next to the railway station and with numerous large industrial sites and warehouses, the neighbourhood historically housed a high proportion of immigrants and foreigners. As vocational colleges and technical colleges, offices and apartments gave way to factories, the industrial quarter became home to a younger demographic: in 2006, 50% of the residents were aged 20 to 39 (City of Zurich 36%). The two-storey Fierz houses surrounded by gardens built in 1870 by socially progressive builders are the oldest examples of non-profit housing. The name of the founder Johann Heinrich Fierz lies hidden in three street names in this idyllic small settlement.

At the end of the nineteenth century speculative building led to what is now the typical density of the neighbourhood, with its mixed perimeter blocks and backyards. In 1906, to alleviate the chronic housing shortage, the city chose this industrial quarter as the standard for the first communal apartment buildings. The Limmatt 1 housing estate, built in 1907, differed from private speculative buildings in that it included front gardens and inner courtyards. Innovative floor plans and the original rich ornamentation of the facades characterised the settlement.

In the course of the 1920s, a real cooperative neighbourhood formed along Röntgenstrasse. The characteristic sweep of the alley-lined street follows the curve of a former railway embankment. Until after the First World War, the adjoining properties belonged to the Swiss Federal Railways (SBB) and were then allocated to cooperatives interested in building on those sites. To this day, the quarter is largely owned by Federal employees and their building cooperative BEP. Around the same time, the Bernoulli Houses with their gardens and courtyards were built on the outskirts of the town as an urban planning manifesto. The à Porta Stiftung owns numerous properties in the Hardturm area and in the upper Kreis 5, which are let according to social criteria.

New cooperatives and the PWG municipal foundation have also been actively involved in the renewal of the Kreis 5 neighbourhood since the late



1

1
Josefstrasse with Viadukt
around 1910
from the historical archive of the
City of Zurich

1990s. PWG acquired whole groups of properties in the upper part of the quarter creating a speculation-free living area, as well as an important centre for arts, crafts and emerging fashion labels. In the Hardturm area, on the lower reaches of the neighbourhood, the Kraftwerk 1 power station has been transformed into an impressive new building which accommodates the most diverse forms of living and working. This innovative project was conceived and built by the City, as the result of the the real estate crisis and lack of private investors at the end of the 90s.



1



2



3

p 12-13
Zurich West around 1900,
from the historical archive of the
City of Zurich

1
Hardturmstrasse around 1900,
from the historical archive of the
City of Zurich

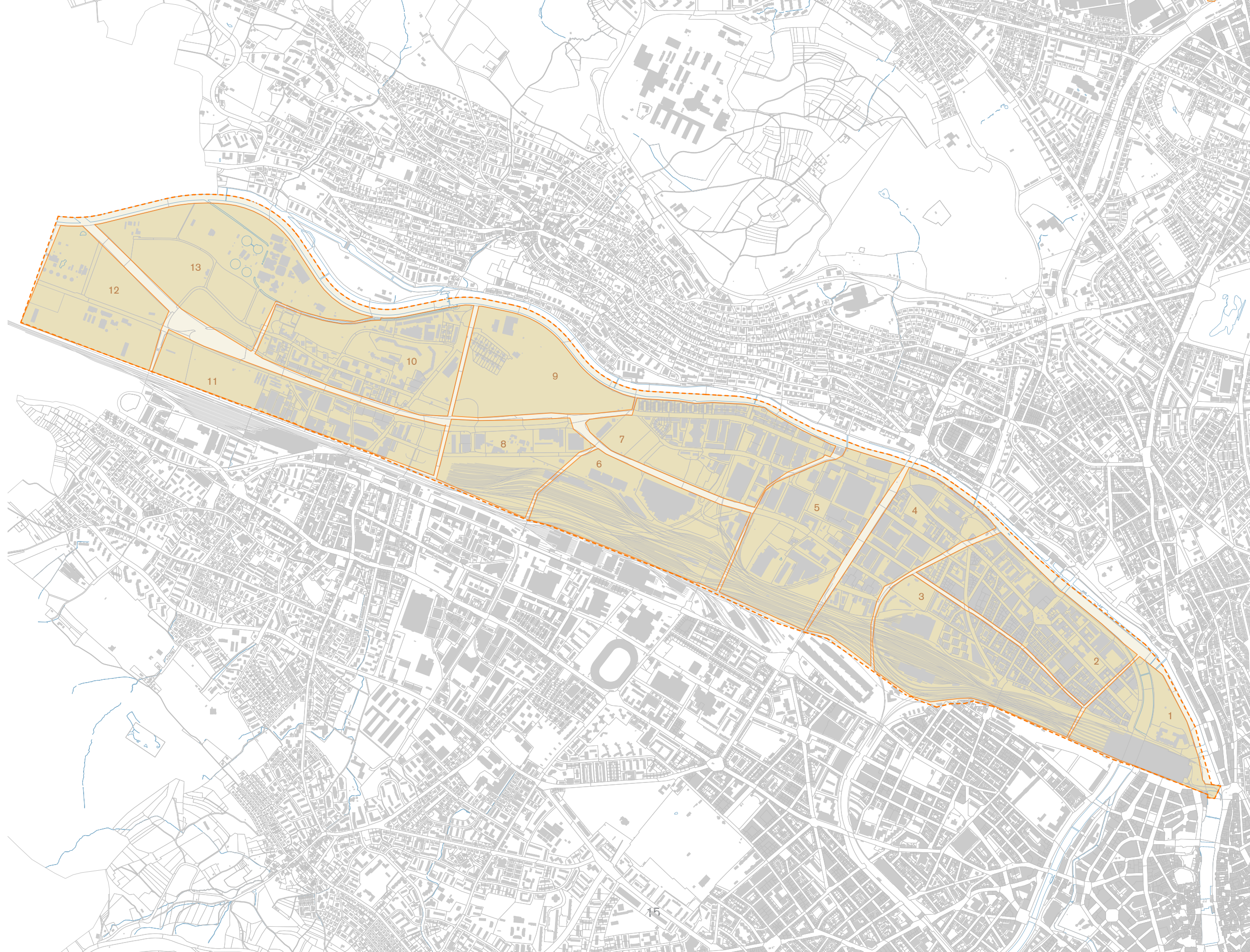
2
Escher-Wyss Platz around 1910
from the historical archive of the
City of Zurich

3
Limmatplatz around 1930,
from the historical archive of the
City of Zurich



Project sites

- 1 Landesmuseum
- 2 Limmatplatz
- 3 Josefswiese
- 4 Löwenbräu
- 5 Technopark
- 6 Pflingstweid
- 7 Toni-Areal
- 8 Würzgraben
- 9 Hardhof
- 10 Grünau
- 11 Vulkanstrasse
- 12 Juchhof
- 13 Familiengarten







The first 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 urban concept for developing the site you have been invited to study. The principal tool to assist you in this exercise will be a 1:1000 model. This will be produced collectively and will encompass the area of Zurich under study this semester. Plans and other drawings should be produced to represent and communicate this work.

To begin with, you will be invited to develop a collectively produced strategy plan for the entire area under study. This should consider heritage and building preservation and include a strategy for the public realm. 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 consider neighbouring site conditions and the place Gewerbeschule, Escher-Wyss and Hardhof area occupy within the city as a whole.

This is an iterative process and the 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 to develop a strategy 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 bear in mind 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 21
Project model
from 'A Plan for Zurich 3'
Autumn Semester 2018

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.

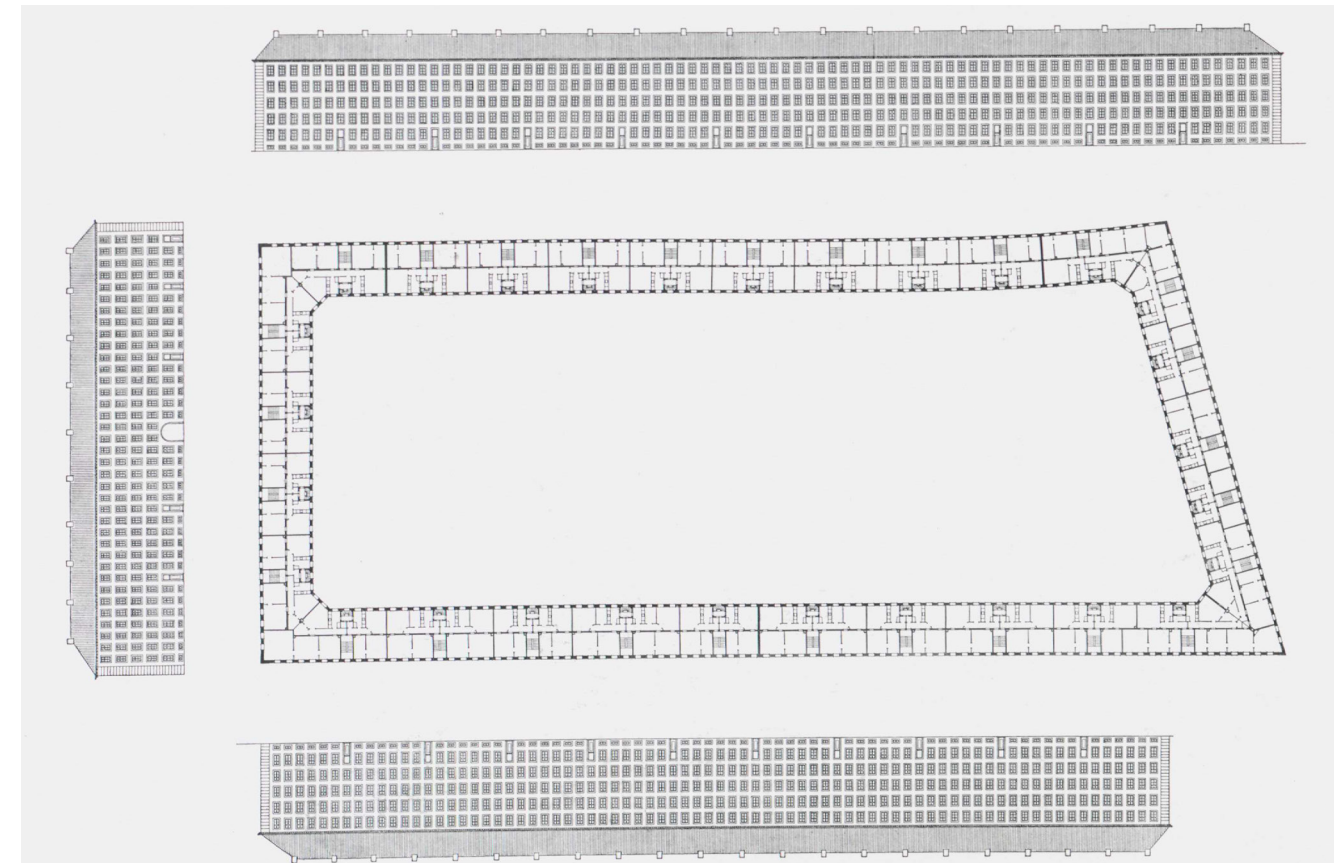
To help you understand the task you are attending to this semester, you will survey one of the six notable building in Copenhagen we have selected. This is intended to be a group exercise.

Your work should consider the organisation of the plan of the building and particular attention should be given to the facades, describing them clearly and analytically with diagrams where necessary. The plans and facades of the building should be drawn at 1:100. A number of representative details should be selected and drawn at 1:20. Drawings should not include textures or shadows.

In addition to the drawings, you should take a series of photographs that portray the building, its character and atmosphere.

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 will contribute to a collective piece of research that will inspire and inform the projects you will develop later in the semester.

A lecture will be offered to introduce this exercise.



p 23
Hornbækus block, Nørrebro
1922-23
Kay Fisker



1
Hornbækus Housing block
Nørrebro
1922-23
Kay Fisker

2
Vestersøhus Housing scheme
Indre By
1935-39
Kay Fisker

3
Gullfosshus
1926-32
Kay Fisker

4
Gullfosshus
1926-32
Kay Fisker

5
Ågade Housing
Nørrebro
ca. 1930
Povl Baumann

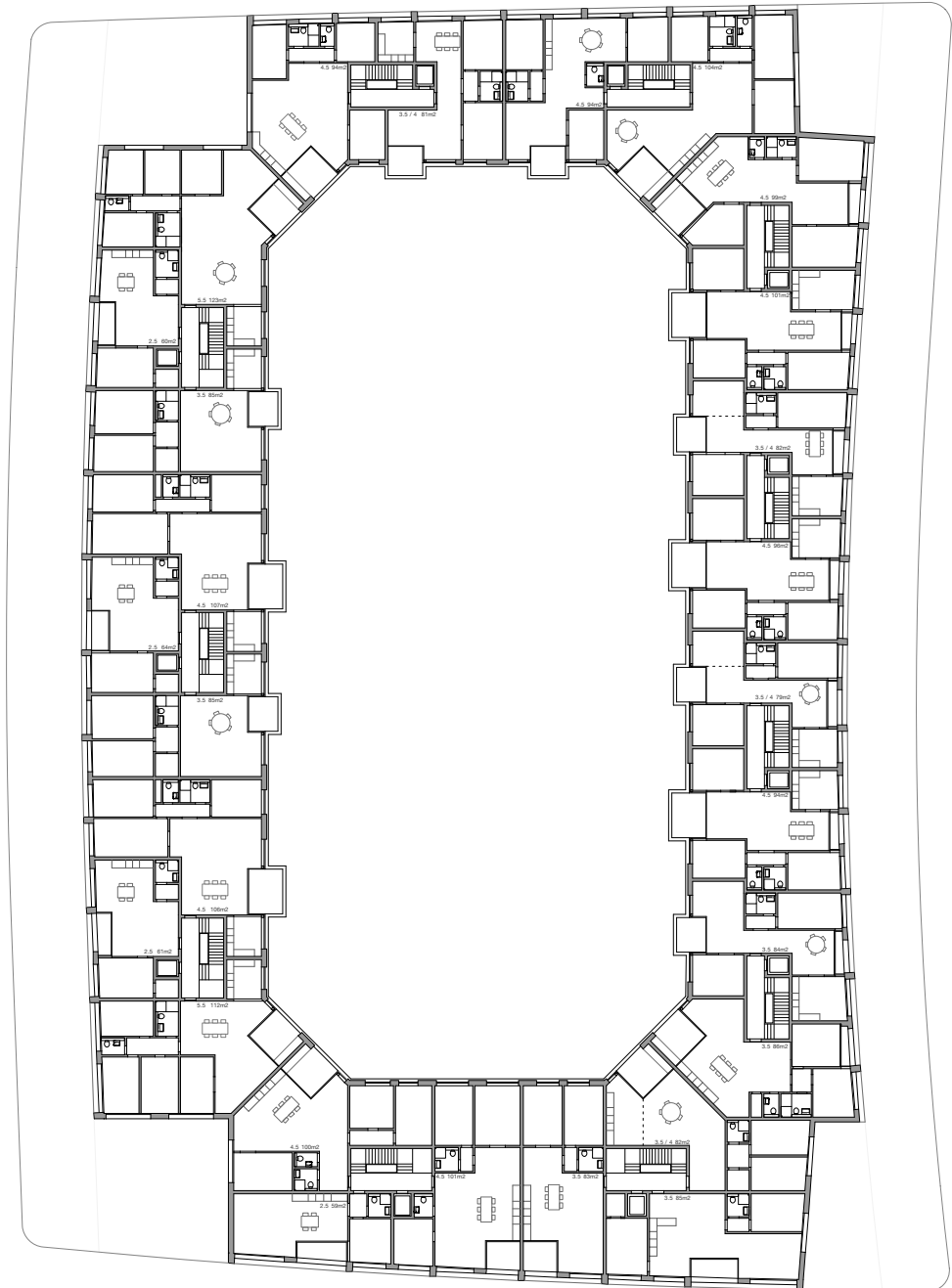
6
Tavsengade Housing Block
Nørrebro
ca. 1920
Povl Baumann

The third component of the work to be undertaken this semester 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 conform 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. At this stage in the semester your work will be subject to an intermediate review.



p 27
Sergison Bates architekten,
Typical plan, from a competition
at the Seebahnstrasse
2015

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.



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1
Martin Glenn
Project model from
'A Plan for Zurich 1'
Autumn Semester 2017

As a convincing set of ideas for your buildings emerges, you will need to produce a series 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. Careful consideration should be given to the choice of materials and the model should be accompanied by plans, sections and elevations 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 31
Final reviews,
Autumn Semester 2018
with Jean-Paul Jaccaud and
Susann Vécsey

Date	Event	Details	Assignments
21 February	Studio introduction		
22-24 February	Symposium in Zurich	An introduction to Zurich, with David Ganzoni, Amt für Städtebau Spring semester studio presentation by Jonathan Sergison (JS) Lecture on Strategy Plan (JS) Introduction to the 1:1000 site model (MSA and JW) Individual site visit, 22-23 September	Survey and site visit 1:1000 site model
28 February - 1 March	Review	Presentation of the chosen site Lecture "Zurich Cooperatives 2" by Irina Davidovici	1:1000 site model Strategy plan
7-8 March	Review	Strategy plan presentation	1:1000 site model 1:1000 model studies Strategy plan Diagrams
14-15 March	Tutorial	Urban concepts 1:1000 Models 1:1000	1:1000 site model 1:500 plans, sections, elevations 1:500 model studies Diagrams
21-22 March	Review	Building concepts Review of model 1:500 plans, sections and elevations	1:1000 site model 1:500 plans, sections, elevations 1:200 model studies
28-29 March	Intermediate review	Project reviews with guest critics	All previously produced material PDF 1:1000 model 1:200 plans, sections, elevations 1:200 / 1:100 models in plaster
4-5 April	Study trip	Detailed programme to be issued	Group work on survey of building and detail
11-12 April	Review	Presentation on survey work from study trip	1:200 site model 1:200 plans, sections, elevations
18-19 April	Tutorial	Lecture on representation and images (MSA and JW)	1:200 site model 1:200 plans, sections, elevations 1:100 facades

Date	Event	Details	Assignments
25-26 April	Easter break		
2-3 May	Review	Revisions to all plans, sections elevations	1:100 facades 1:100 plans, sections, elevations
9-10 May	Tutorial	Revisions to all plans, sections elevations	1:100 facades 1:100 plans, sections, elevations Drafts of exterior image, interior image
16-17 May	Mandatory hand-in of all plans	Revisions to all plans, sections elevations	1:100 facades 1:100 plans, sections, elevations Drafts of exterior image, interior image
23-24 May	Tutorial	Revisions to images and models	Exterior image, interior image 1:100 models
29 May	Final review		PDF presentation 1:1000 site model 1:100 ground floor plan 1:100 plans, sections and facades Exterior image, interior image 1:100 models Other materials as appropriate

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

Mehr als Wohnen, Genossenschaftlich Planen. Ein Modellfall aus Zürich

Margrit Hugentobler, Andreas Hofer, Pia Simmendinger (Hrsg.), Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, 2016

Mehr als Wohnen - Gemeinnütziger Wohnungsbau in Zürich 1907-2007

gta Verlag, Zürich, 2007

Bauen und Wohnen in Gemeinschaft

Annette Becker, Laura Kienbaum, Kristien Ring, Peter Cachola Schmal (Hg. / Eds.), Birkhäuser Verlag, Basel, 2015

Zürich - für eine neue Planungspraxis

Archithese, Niggli Verlag, 2015

Wohnen in Zürich - Reflexionen & Beispiele 1998-2006

Axel Simon (Hrsg.), Niggli AG, 2006

Building Zurich: Conceptual Urbanism

Angelus Eisinger, Iris Reuther, Franz Eberhard, Regula Lüscher, Birkhäuser Verlag, Zürich, 2007

Urbanity and Density in 20th-century Urban Design

Wolfgang Sonne, Berlin: Dom 2017

Zürich Als Industriestadt

Hans-Peter Bärtschi, Zürich: Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale, 1980

INSA Inventar der neueren Schweizer Architektur 1850–1920

Nr. 10, Winterthur, Zürich, Zug. Hg. von der Gesellschaft für Schweizerische Kunstgeschichte, Orell Füssli, Bern 1992

Zurich Housing Development 1995–2015

Heinz Wirz, Christoph Wieser, Quart Verlag, Luzern 2017

Wohngenossenschaften in Zürich

Dominique Boudet, Park Books, Zürich 2017

Baukultur in Zürich: schutzwürdige Bauten und gute Architektur der letzten Jahren

Hochbaudepartement der Stadt Zürichm Amt für Städtebau, Neue Zürcher Zeitung Verlag, Zürich 2013

Städtebau als politische Kultur

der Architekt und Theoretiker Hans Bernoulli (1876-1959)

Sylvia Claus, Lukas Zurfluh, gta Verlag, Zürich 2018

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