

Core Program Master-Thesis FS 2022:

Cooperation Partner 1: Annette Gigon – Gigon/ Guyer

Cooperation Partner 2: Marcel Bächtiger



“Durability and Change”

Our topic is twofold – “Durability and Change!” How can existing buildings be preserved and at the same time repurposed and extended? This question is especially relevant with regard to the current situation, where a large portion of the existing buildings in Switzerland have to reduce their operational carbon footprint in the near future, while keeping the corresponding embodied energy and emissions in balance.

We know that about 30% of CO₂ in Switzerland is generated by buildings, but the process of construction and renovation also entails substantial greenhouse gas emissions, which has to be taken into consideration.

The title “Durability and Change” also expresses our interest in the ongoing transformation of people’s working environment and the gradual dissolution of the spatial barrier between working and living. The connection between living and working is important from an architectural and urbanistic point of view, as well as from a sociological, economical, ecological, and most recently also public health perspective.

In analogy to the topic “Durability and Change”, we will follow a specific approach – static and in motion –, because when engaging with existing buildings and their context, film and photography are important tools, along with the usual plans and models.

The result of the master’s theses will be both digital and physical: The designs and the preceding research will not only be presented in plans, sections, detail drawings and renderings, but also in moving images.

preparation and elaboration phase:

Video and photography as media will be used to critically assess the existing buildings. Besides audio-visually witnessing and documenting the buildings, their mood and everyday use, film serves to make the potential of a conversion visible and audible: The possibilities of imagination that are implied in the cinematic means of motion, framing, montage and sound not only allow to show what is, but also what could be.

Marcel Bächtiger, lecturer “Spatial Concepts in Architecture and Film”, will support the master’s thesis semester in both phases.

Filmmaker and cameraman Severin Kuhn, who has several years of experience shooting architecture, will also be available for consultation during the preparation phase.

Towards the end of the semester (elaboration phase) David Klemmer will join us for advice concerning the production of moving images and the merging of film and rendering.

Ratio of grading by cooperation partners for preparation and elaboration phase:

Preparation phase: ca. 25%

Percentage designer(s): 75%
Percentage non-designer: 25%

Elaboration phase: ca. 75%

Percentage designer(s): 75%
Percentage non-designer: 25%