

ARCHITECTURE OF
TERRITORY
New Ecologies
Spring 2023

Semester
Programme

AGRARIAN PROJECT

Commoning Land and
Labour around Zurich

Colophon

Studio Series
NEW ECOLOGIES

Spring Semester 2023

AGRARIAN PROJECT
Commung Land and Labour around Zurich

NEW ECOLOGIES is a studio series at Architecture of Territory dedicated to ecologising architecture. Ecological thinking, which foregrounds the interactions between organisms (or by extension between objects, or social and technical systems) and their environments, is applied in considering design practices in their social and environmental effects. The studio series is affiliated with the Future Cities Laboratory and the ETH EPFL Master of Advanced Studies MAS UTD. Citizens, experts, fellow designers and artists accompany us in the process.

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AGRARIAN PROJECT

Commoning Land and Labour around Zurich

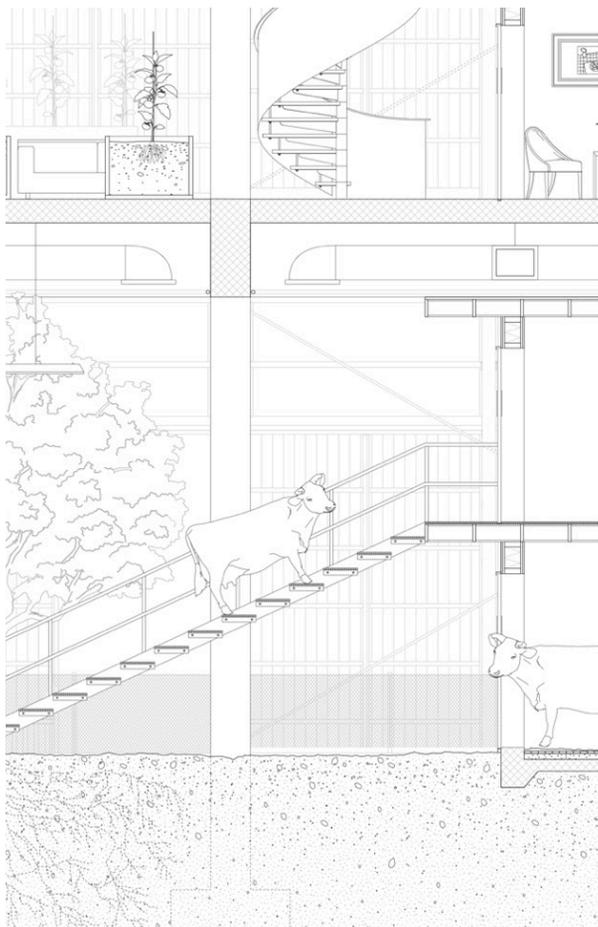
Agricultural land is all around. Nearly half of the surface of the Canton of Zurich is dedicated to agriculture, yet the traditional Swiss pastoral has all but disappeared. Non-agricultural economies and ways of life have spread across the former rural areas. Much of the landscape has been homogenised through large scale commercial farming based on industrial monocultures supported by seasonal labour. Right next to agricultural fields—and seemingly a world apart—are areas of housing and working marked by rising rents, exorbitant prices of land and real-estate, a pressure on urban fabric to grow and on people to commute further.

Throughout the modern history, both states and people's movements have tried to bring about various agrarian projects in form of land reforms, to varying degrees of success. Jeffersonian democracy in the US realised its vision of simplicity and superiority of rural life on colonised indigenous lands in form of a uniform grid extending across the entire continent. Peasant movement of Zapatistas in Mexico fought for a socialist revolution through land redistribution. On the other side of the world, Soviet Russia and the Maoist Great Leap Forward forced mandatory communal living and collectivisation of farming, leading to ecological breakdown and famine. But what we see today in pioneering initiatives around Switzerland and Europe is a different kind of agrarian vision based on organising from below and on commoning land and labour. Alternative farming practices such as Solidarische Landwirtschaft (SoLaWi) or Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) have shown the potential of agroecological approaches to integrate the former passive consumers as active contributors in solidary economies of shared agricultural work and shared risks protecting against changing prices or bad harvests. Despite their social and environmental benefits, such practices currently account for only a tiny fraction of the agriculture in the Canton. The studio will follow and extrapolate on these pioneering ideas to create a contemporary agrarian project which promotes social equality and ecological change.



The first track of our investigation concerns land labour: Who will work the land around Zurich in the future? Farmer's numbers have dwindled steadily since decades: Today they make up just 1.1 % of the population of the Canton. Most of them run family businesses faced with long working hours, low incomes, absence of social benefits and social recognition, and pushed into a risky reliance on direct payments, automation, chemical fixes and the use of seasonal labour. Research has shown that in contrast to such model of intensive monoculture production, a pathway of diversity of a landscape, whether biological or cultural, and of better quality of food, requires more human work, and more care. Post-growth economists are convinced that "if agriculture is to be practiced according to ecological and social principles ... more people will have to work in agriculture again." (Seidl et al.) How can we make such change possible?

The second track of our investigation concerns the questions of land property. The crisis of agriculture linked to the capitalist land-use regulation currently favours commodification of land, intensification of production and an ever-increasing size of farms over time. One of the strictest land laws in Europe, the Swiss Bundesgesetz über das bäuerliche Bodenrecht, regulates the agricultural land market by maintaining fixed land prices at low levels to promote farmer land ownership. Owning or buying land in Switzerland is only possible for professional farmers within 10 km radius from their place of residence, making it hard or impossible for landless or aspiring farmers to acquire land and enter agricultural practice. In contrast to this condition, historic and contemporary practices of commoning offer a different picture. Private ownership of farmland in Switzerland is a relatively recent phenomenon. The common lands, Allmende, have for centuries constituted a prevalent form governing common pool resources including land, forest and water. Many recent initiatives explore similar land-sharing models and other types of resource pooling. In the studio, we will follow such examples in order to create novel and attractive spaces of living and working in the countryside based on the governance of common pool resources.



The semester consists of investigative journeys and intensive studio sessions. Architecture of Territory values intellectual curiosity, commitment and team spirit. We are looking for avid travellers, motivated to make strong and independent contributions. Students will learn to apply a range of methods and sources pertaining to territory, including ethnographic fieldwork, literature research and essay writing, drawing techniques, videography, and online publishing.

At the start of the semester we will study precedents of agrarian communities and spaces—from kibbutzim in Israel, Das grüne Manifest by Leberecht Migge, to contemporary practices of community-supported agriculture in Switzerland. In a second step, through intensive fieldwork during the seminar week in six select communities in the vicinity of the city of Zurich, we will engage with farmers, workers and experts. Ultimately, we will synthesise our findings to create an agrarian project exploring an optimistic future for the countryside of Zurich based on the ideas of social solidarity and the common good.

The studio wants to interrogate the and pervasive partitioning of the Swiss territory resulting in the divide between the so-called rural and the urban: Can we weave the seemingly disconnected worlds of agriculture and urban living together? Can this proximity between the City and the Land lead to more affordable and better housing and to healthier ecologies? Can we imagine cooperatives and commons on farms and in villages that promise optimistic and attractive ways of living and working in the countryside? Can these models promote economies of care and reciprocity sheltered from the market? Can they help heal the broken food system?

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— Cantonal Border

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— Cantonal Border





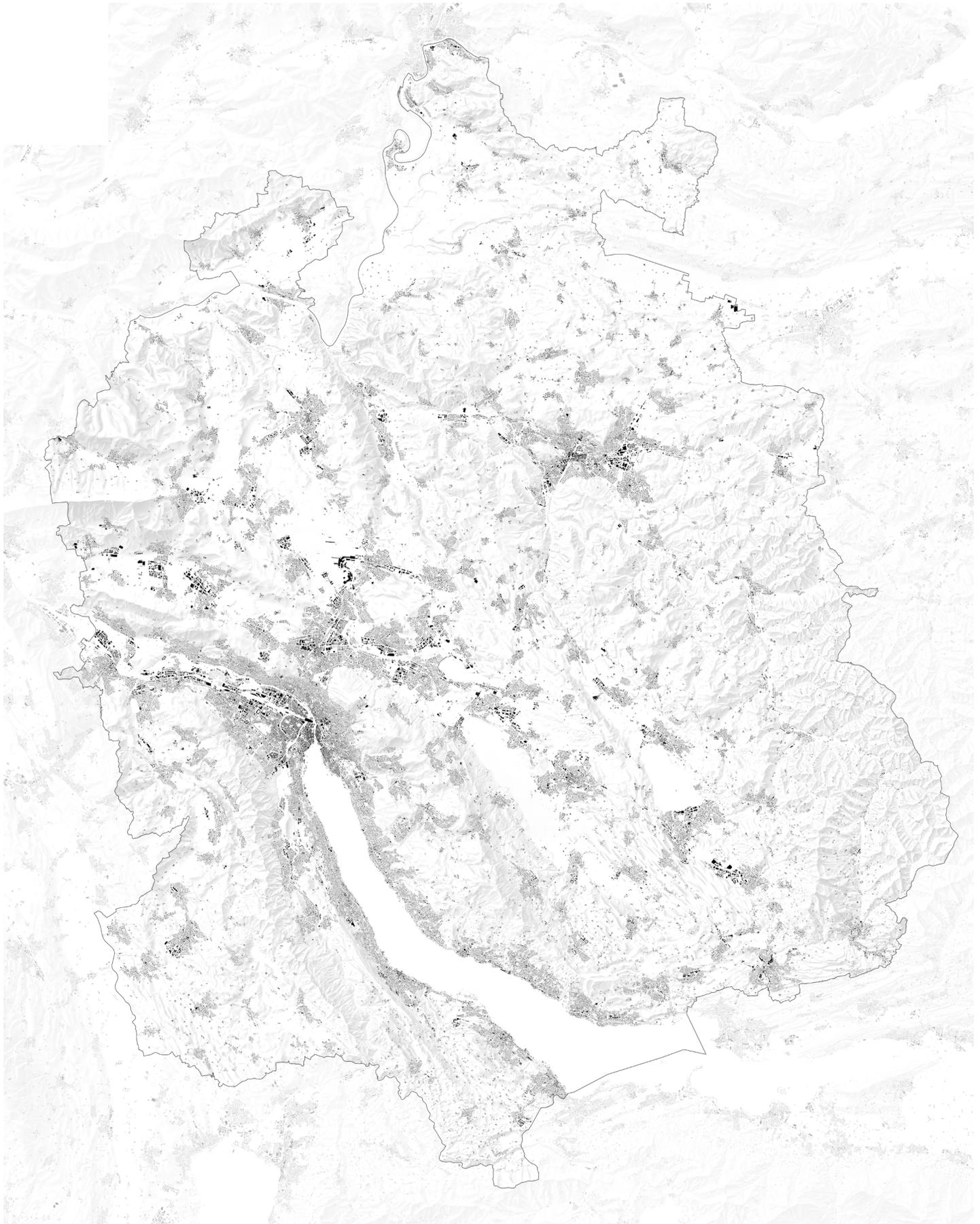
- Forest
- Gardens, Parks and Grass Areas
- Wetlands
- Lakes, Rivers and Streams
- Cantonal Border

0 2 4km N



- Cropland
- Pastures & Meadows
- Vineyards, Orchards, Covered Crops
- Biodiversity-promoting Areas
- Agriculture Outside Canton of Zurich
- Agricultural Buildings
- Cantonal Border





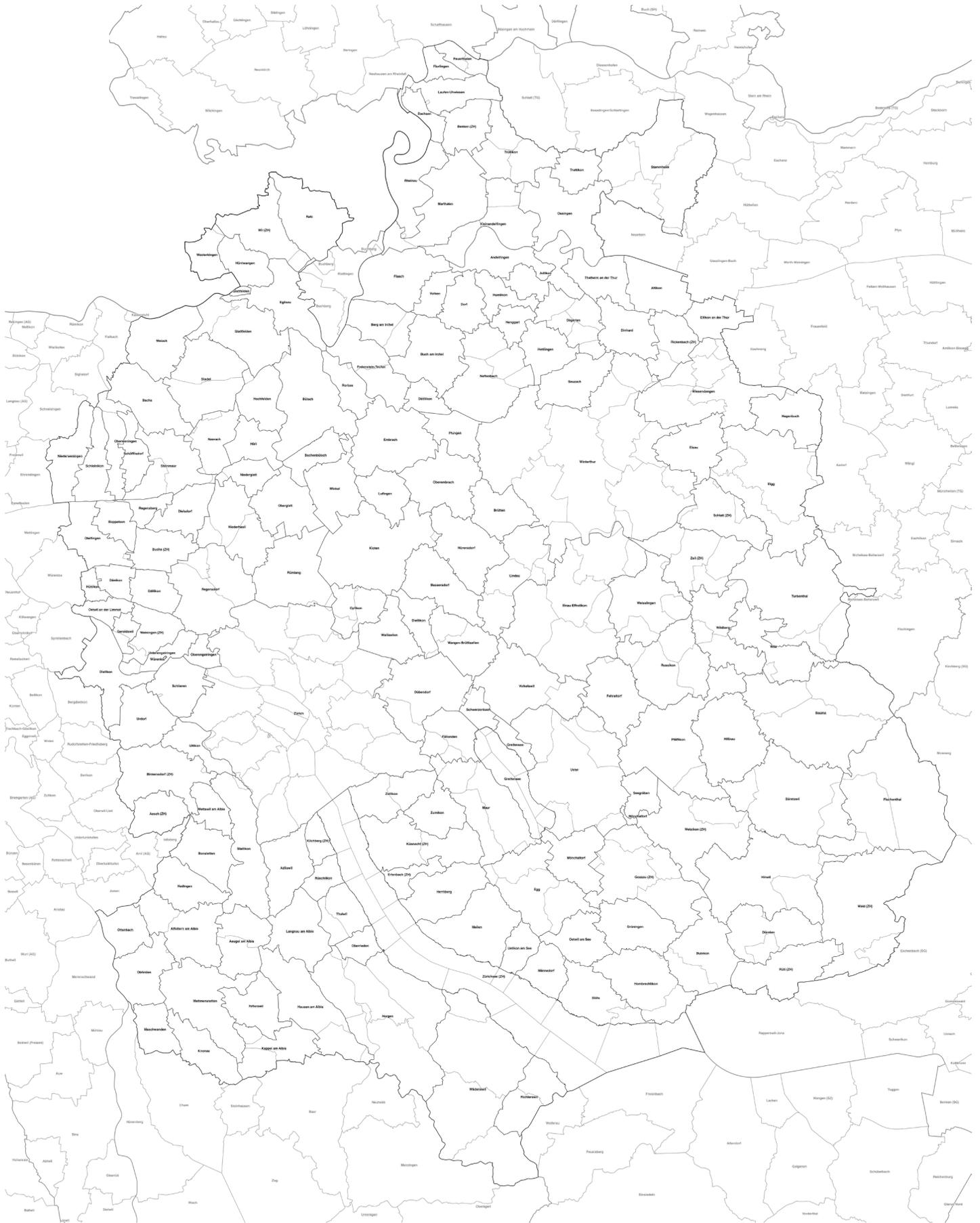
■ Buildings
— Cantonal Border

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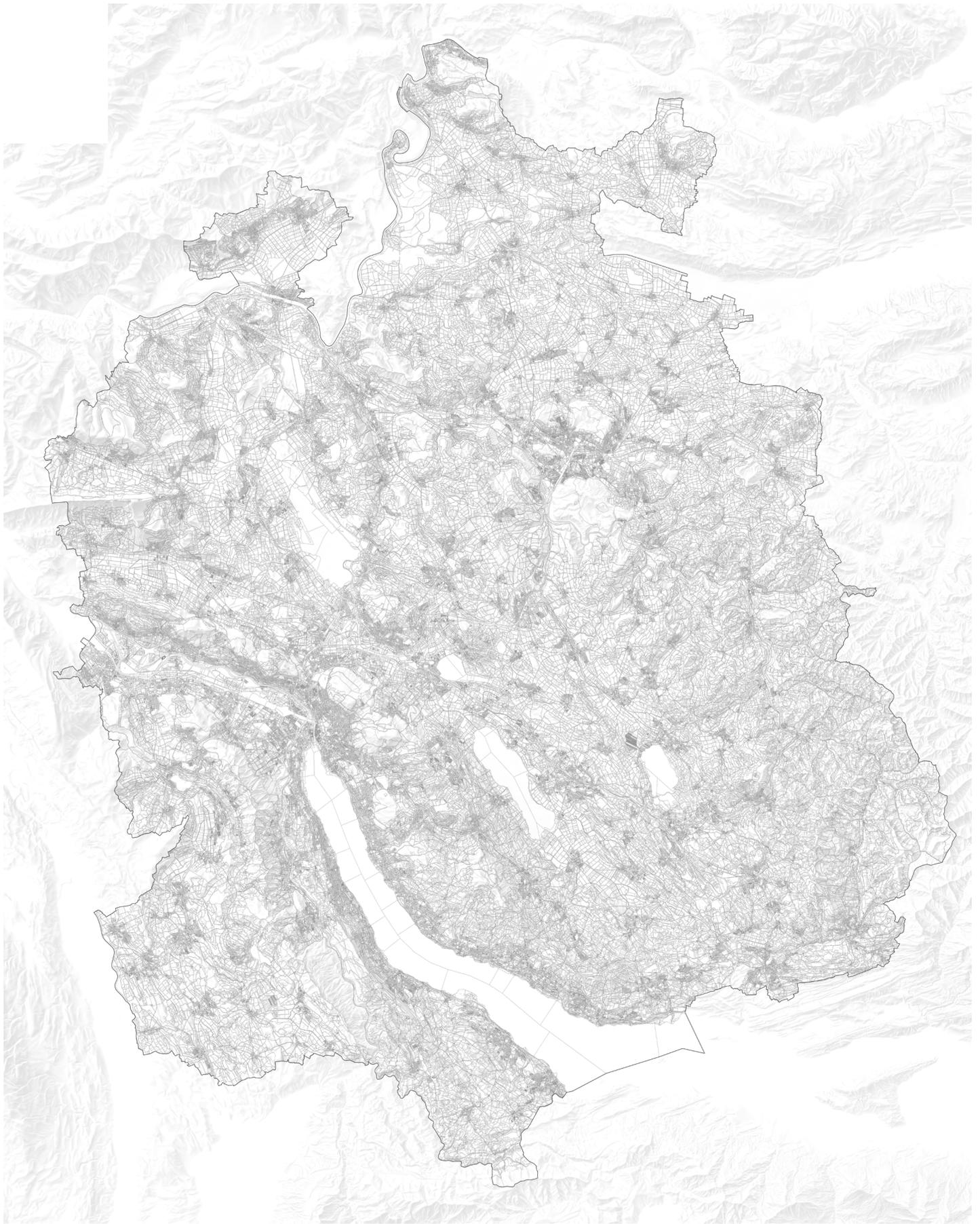
- Streets and Roads
- Main Roads
- Highways
- S-Bahn Lines
- Bus Lines
- Cantonal Border



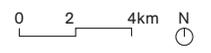


- Communal Borders
- Cantonal Borders
- National Borders

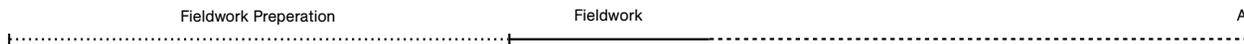
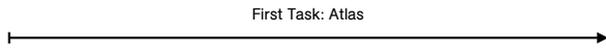




— Cadastre Plan
— Cantonal Border



WEEK 1		WEEK 2		WEEK 3		WEEK 4		WEEK 5	WEEK 6		WEEK 7		WEEK 8
TUE 21.2	WED 22.2	TUE 28.2	WED 1.3	TUE 7.3	WED 8.3	TUE 14.3	WED 15.3	SAT-FRI 19. – 24.3	TUE 28.3	WED 29.3	TUE 4.4	WED 5.4	MON-FRI 10. – 14.4
OPENING DAY WALK	INTRODUCTION Studio Programme + First Task	Desk Crits	DIPLOMA PRESENTATION Pierre Menoud Desk Crits	Desk Crits	READING SESSION I Desk Crits	REVIEW I First Task: Atlas	VIDEO INPUT Felix Hergert	SEMINAR WEEK	Desk Crits	Desk Crits COMMON SESSION Fieldwork Findings	Desk Crits	READING SESSION II Desk Crits	EASTER BRE



Studio Timeline

WEEK 8	WEEK 9		WEEK 10		WEEK 11		WEEK 12		WEEK 13		WEEK 14		WEEK 15	
MON-FRI 10. - 14.4	TUE 18.4	WED 19.4	TUE 25.4	WED 26.4	TUE 2.5	WED 3.5	TUE 9.5	WED 10.5	TUE 16.5	WED 17.5	TUE 23.5	WED 24.5	TUE 30.5	WED 31.5
ASTER BREAK	LECTURE Elisabetta Fiocchi	READING SESSION III	REVIEW II Research Findings & Project Idea	READING SESSION IV	Desk Crits	Desk Crits	Desk Crits	WRITING WORKSHOP Antje Stahl	Desk Crits	FINAL REVIEW Research and Design Project				
	Desk Crits	Desk Crits		Desk Crits				Desk Crits						

Additional Fieldwork

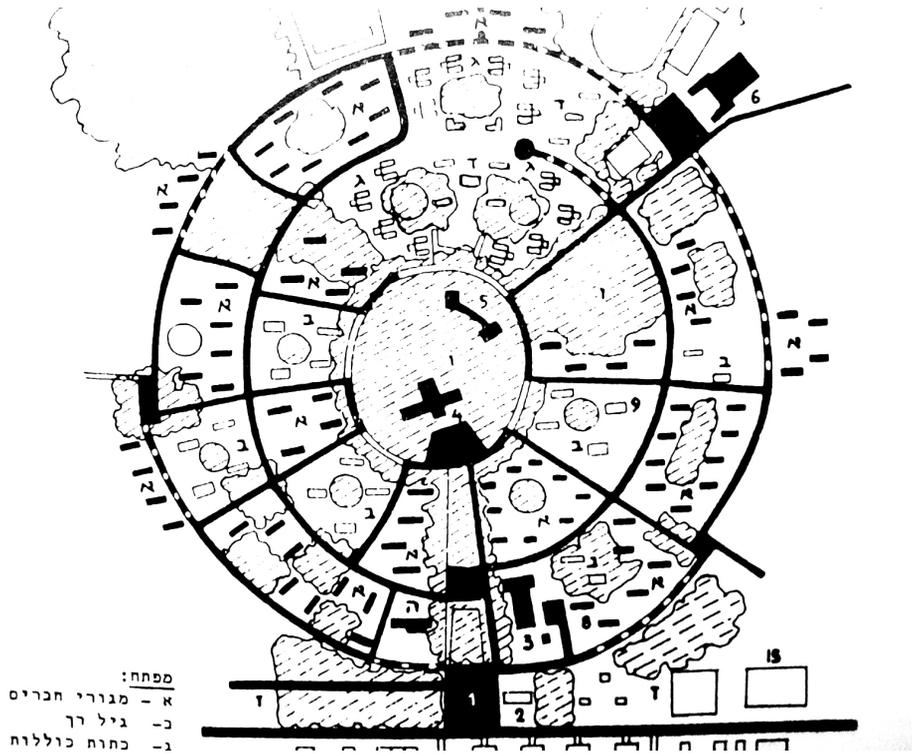


Research Project



Design Project





Top: Drawing of a Kibbutz, Samuel Bickels, 1940s.

Bottom: Women workers at the Kibbutz Degania, around 1920. Source: Unknown.

First Task: Atlas of Agrarian Projects Phantoms

Task Agrarian Visions and Struggles

What can we learn from agrarian visionaries and struggles of the past? Who were the people behind the agrarian vision and what was their agenda? How did they realise it? Who worked the land and who owned the land? How was agriculture integral part of their vision? How did the community organize spatially and territorially? You will tell the story of your Phantom in the form of a short image-based online reportage consisting of architectural drawings, historic images, and sketches accompanied by extended text captions. You will present your research to the studio in form of a slide presentation.

Topics

Phalanstère, Charles Fourier, 1808

The phalanstère is a building typology designed for a self-contained and partly agrarian community, the basic unit of society, who works together for mutual benefit and according to skills and wishes in order to find satisfaction and fulfilment.

Kibbutzim, since 1910

The kibbutz ("gathering" in Hebrew) was a model for a rural Jewish community, where egalitarian and communal ideals were fused with those of Zionism and Jewish nationalism: settling and developing the land were stepping stones to a Jewish state.

Biodynamic Farming, Rudolf Steiner, 1924

Biodynamic agriculture is a form of alternative agriculture based on the pseudo-scientific and esoteric concepts by Rudolf Steiner emphasising spiritual and mystical perspectives. Steiner also applied his principles to architecture, the organic functionalism, with the Goetheaneum and other buildings on the Dornacher Hügel.

Green Manifesto, Leberecht Migge, 1926

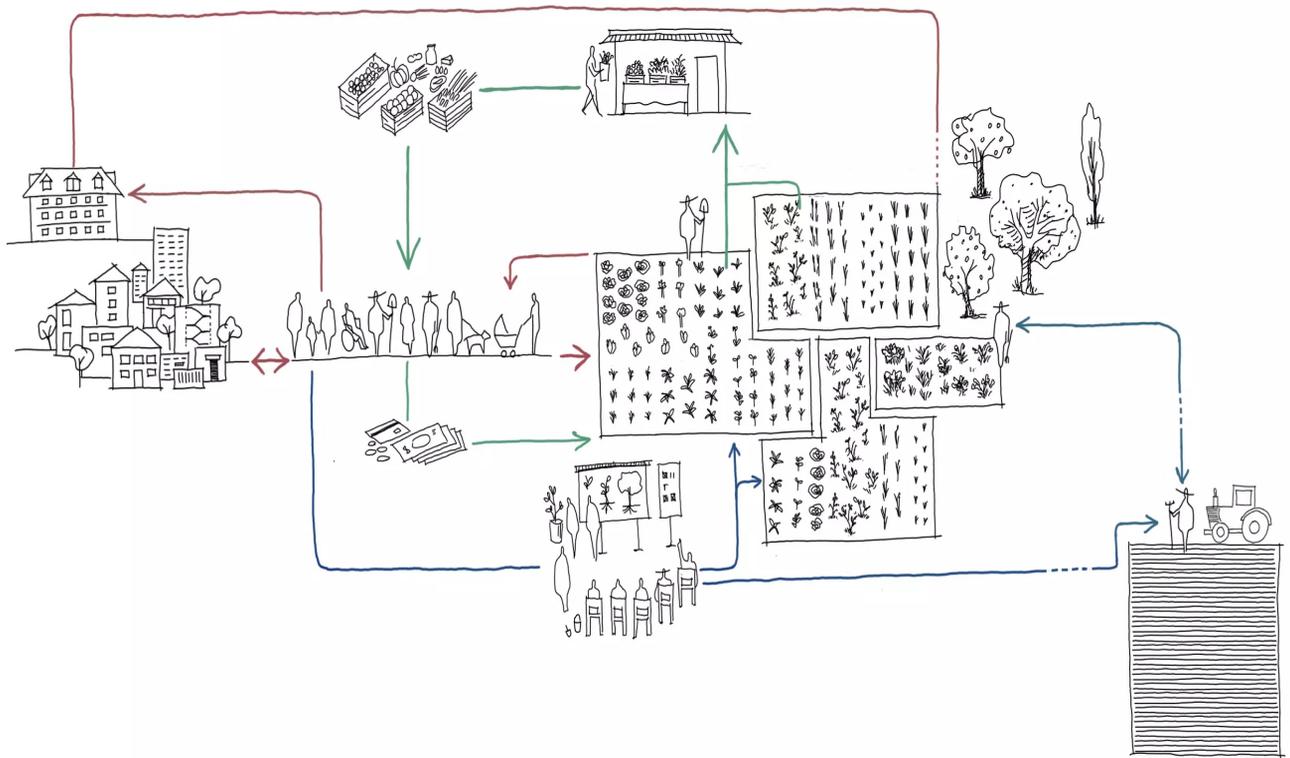
In the Green Manifesto, Migge calls for a return to the land: by creating as many gardens as possible, mainly small, intensive vegetable gardens where everyone could grow their own food, German citizens could free themselves from the dependance on the capitalist system.

bolo'bolo, Hans Widmer, 1983

The urban utopia bolo'bolo is organised according to the idea of the commons and is modular, with the neighbourhood (bolo) as the smallest module. This comprises about 500 people who live closely together and jointly ensure the supply of goods for daily needs.

Agronica, Andrea Branzi, 1994

The project proposed a diffusely inhabited and extensively productive territory enabled through the horizontal spread of capital, meant as a political critique of the capitalist city. Agricultural and urban spheres integrate and coexist thanks to a particular type of architecture transformed into "freely available and mobile" construction components.



Organigram of the vision "Bolo'Bolo" by P.M. (1983).

First Task: Atlas of Agrarian Projects Prototypes

Task	<p><u>Models of Community-Based Agriculture Today</u></p> <p>There's numerous current initiatives and projects that try to combine ecological farming with meaningful work and aspects of solidarity. How do these pioneering models work? Who owns the land, who works the land, who consumes the produce? You are asked to condense the research into a diagrammatic drawing, that explains the relationship between people, land, and produce. The diagrammatic drawing will be accompanied by a series of photographs and plans alongside captions. All material will be shown in a slideshow as part of a common online reportage on Prototypes.</p>
Topics	<p>Der Acker bleibt, Germany Farm Land Squatting in Neu-Eichenberg in northern Hesse, Germany, to prevent the construction of a logistics area. The activists claim that fertile soil should be used for sustainable food cultivation. During the squatting, a group of activists (Ungehorsames Gemüse) started to plant vegetables on the land.</p> <p>Wagerenhof, Switzerland Foundation that offers accommodation and care for people with mental or physical impairments. As part of its activities, they practice farming with a total of 85 employees including professionals and the inhabitants in an historical farm building in the centre of Uster. The produce supplies the care centre or is sold in the farm shop.</p> <p>Ackersyndikat, Germany The Ackersyndikat was created by combining the ideas of Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) and the Mietshäusersyndikat, the latter being a solidarity network of self-organised building projects. The aim of the Ackersyndikat is the acquirement of agricultural land and the prevention of resale to ensure a viable, diverse farm organism and soil fertility-building cultivation.</p> <p>Quartierhof Wynegg, Switzerland Neighbourhood farm, owned by the City of Zurich and run by the residents of the neighbourhood of Riesbach (ZH) and their various working groups since 1997.</p> <p>meh als gmües, Switzerland Community-supported agriculture that was founded in 2015 out of the Mehr als Wohnen building cooperative. Members finance the farm with a fixed annual contribution and receive their share of fresh vegetables once a week. In addition, they commit to working on site five times per season per share.</p> <p>Herenboeren, Netherlands One of the largest associations for community-supported agriculture in the Netherlands. At Herenboeren, the members not only pay in advance to the farmer in exchange for farm produce, but they also share ownership of the farm and take part in decision-making processes. Herenboeren has formulated a vision for 2060, where Herenboeren farming communities take over the entire country.</p>

Research and Design Project Task

Research Task

The aim of your investigation is to explore the agricultural land use and labour practices on your site. To achieve a comprehensive and meaningful result, you need to approach your investigation from several angles:

- Analyse the history of your site, trace the evolution of agrarian change and how it transformed the land; reveal how land ownership and labour models in agriculture evolved over time.
- Understand how the history of agrarian change is linked to changing farm typologies and the settlement morphology.
- Create a profile of your commune, giving an overview of its social, political and economic situation and contextualise the commune in the wider territorial scale.
- Create comprehensive portraits of the currently existing farms and of the people working in agriculture; portrait their economic model and systematically map and visualise who owns the agricultural land on your site. What are consequences for the landscape and the architecture of farm buildings?

During your work you are asked to constantly reflect on your findings, reassemble your material, draw new conclusions and adjust your research questions. These steps are essential in order to tie your work to the site and make it unique. Ultimately you are asked to create a well-structured narrative in the form of an elaborated investigative reportage, that tells the specific story of agrarian change and states contemporary urgencies for your site.

Design Task

The conclusions from your research and inspirations from the Atlas Task will enable you to formulate a design brief that is rooted in the specific conditions of your site. This design brief should address the questions, conflicts and urgent issues that you have encountered during your research and that you would like to explore through a design project. This design project should express your vision for an Agrarian Project, based on ideas of social solidarity and the common good. Keep the following questions in mind:

- Can we help current farmers, agricultural workers and aspiring-farmers of diverse identities and backgrounds, by designing cooperatives and commons on farms and in villages?
- Can these new models create optimistic and attractive ways of living and working in the countryside?
- Can they promote economies of care and reciprocity sheltered from the market? Can they help heal the broken food system?
- Can we envision new forms of land ownership that create more affordable and better housing and healthier ecologies?



Research and Design Project

Fieldwork

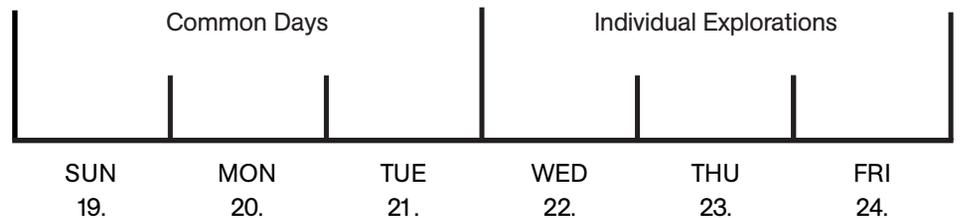
Investigative fieldwork constitutes the core of your project. The fieldwork during the seminar week is essential, as the material and insights gathered form the basis for all further research. You will continue your fieldwork throughout the whole semester with individual trips to your site.

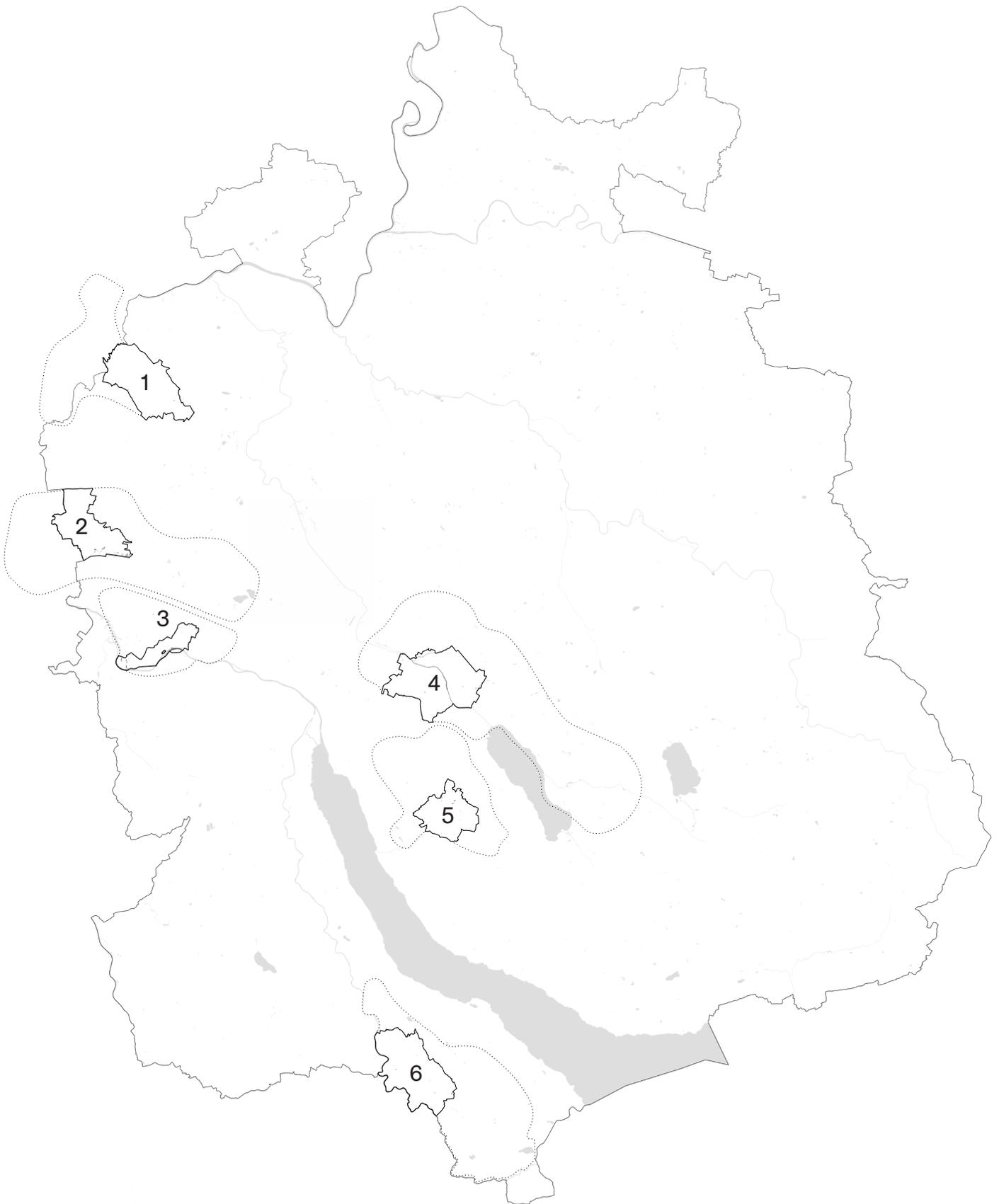
Seminar Week

The common days in the beginning are dedicated to exploring agricultural territories, villages and farms around Zurich. In conversations with locals, farmers, workers, pioneers and experts, we will learn about current agricultural practices, land ownership models and labour organisation. You will receive a separate field trip booklet with more information in the upcoming weeks. These common days are followed by a period dedicated to individual fieldwork in respective student teams.

Fieldwork Preparation

You will already start engaging your site and the field during the first weeks of the studio by preparing for the fieldwork. This preparation includes drawing maps of your site, conducting a first online research and by contacting local farmers, workers and experts that you want to meet and interview during the seminar week. Don't forget to source the necessary equipment needed (photo and video camera, microphone, maps, sketchbook, adequate clothing and more).





Research and Design Project Sites

We have selected six communes and districts in the Canton of Zurich as sites for your research and design project. The sites display the multifold histories and the diverse conditions agriculture in the Canton. In a group of two to three students, you choose a site and work on it for the duration of the semester.

- 1 BACHS
A Slow Food Valley
- 2 OTELFINGEN
Strawberry Fields Forever
- 3 DÜBENDORF
Pressure on the Land
- 4 UNTERENGSTRINGEN
The Monastery and its Land
- 5 ZUMIKON
The Last Farmer
- 6 HIRZEL
The Heritage of the Swiss Pastoral



Population	639
Permanent agricultural employees	66
Number of farming companies	19
Agricultural land	4.4 km ²
Total land	9.1 km ²

1 BACHS

A Slow Food Valley

Bachs is only 17 kilometres beeline from Zurich main station, but it takes longer to reach the village with public transport than to go to Zug or Aarau. The sparsely populated commune is nestled in the picturesque, narrow valley of the Bachsertal, which runs from south-east to north-west into the Canton of Aargau.

Although the commune is small and rather remote, the name Bachs is well known in Zurich for the high quality local produce offered in healthy food stores called Bachsermärt. After the local post office and village market closed in 2008, the village community came together to create a market that promotes and sells the products of local farmers. Nowadays, the Bachsermärt has five branches in Bachs, Zurich, and Eglisau, selling regional and organic products from all over the Canton.

Agricultural practise in the valley is quite diverse, ranging from conventional to organic to Demeter farming, but the economic situation and problems of farming succession also lead to dwindling numbers of active farms in the valley during the last decades.



Family Weidmann, Biohof Rüebisberg.



Population	2'935
Permanent agricultural employees	101
Number of farming companies	10
Agricultural land	2.5 km ²
Total land	7.2 km ²

2 OTELFINGEN

Strawberry Fields Forever

Otelfingen is a commune in the Furttal, a wide valley that stretches from the outskirts of Zurich city in the east, up to the city of Baden in the west. It is part of Zurich's metropolitan area and as such under a lot of urban pressure: land prices are constantly rising and the proportion of commuters (already over 50%) is increasing, new housing developments are sprawling on former agricultural land.

Until the mid 20th-century, most farms were located in the village core, but as agriculture industrialized, farms were relocated. Nowadays, Otelfingen's beautiful historic village core has been declared an "Ortsbild von überkommunaler Bedeutung", but many of the old farm buildings are now empty or converted into housing. The remaining active farms outside the village center mainly produce various fruits, herbs and vegetables for Zurich, while becoming increasingly dependent on heavy machinery, seasonal workers and imported water from the Limmat.



Schibli Beeren, Näppbrunnenhof.



Population	30'723
Permanent agricultural employees	167
Number of farming companies	13
Agricultural land	5.4 km2
Total land	13.6 km2

3 DÜBENDORF

Pressure on the Land

Dübendorf is located in the lower Glatttal, south-east of Zurich city centre. The Glatttal offers ideal conditions for agriculture, as the flat topography and fertile soils are well suited for farming.

But Dübendorf has experienced enormous urban growth in recent decades. As early as 1910, many hectares of farmland were displaced by the construction of the Dübendorf airfield. Since then, Dübendorf has grown steadily. In the last 20 years, the population has increased by 50 percent and the municipality has become one of the largest centres in the Zurich agglomeration. This massive growth has inevitably led to the disappearance of more and more agricultural land, putting the remaining surfaces under a lot of pressure to be developed.

Today there are only a few large farms left. Many of these farms have specialised in growing vegetables, fruit or flowers, both outdoors and in greenhouses. All these products are very labour-intensive, which raises the question of who cultivates the land in Dübendorf, but also is a better integration of the land and the city possible?



View of Dübendorf, 2021.



Population	4'113
Permanent agricultural employees	10
Number of farming companies	4
Agricultural land	0.58 km ²
Total land	6.5 km ²

4 UNTERENGSTRINGEN

The Monastery and its Lands

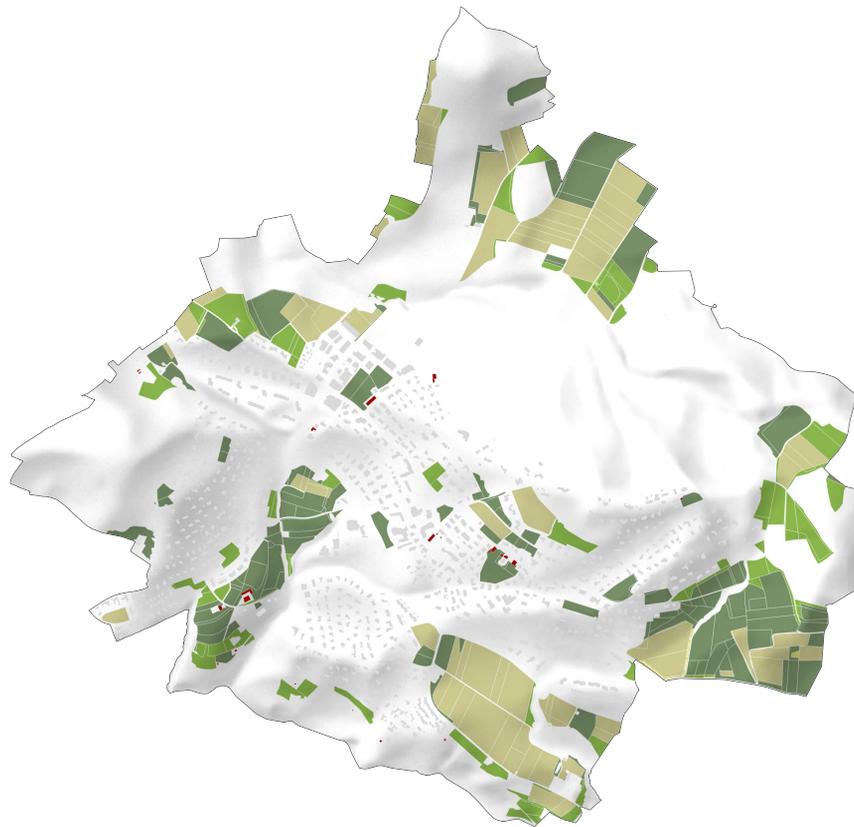
The commune of Unterengstringen lies directly west of the city of Zurich and is part of the cohesive urban fabric of Zurich's urban centre, which extends far into the Limmat Valley.

The history of the commune is closely interwoven with the Fahr Monastery and its lands. In the Middle Ages, the lands belonged to the barons of Regensberg, the most powerful landowners in the region, who donated them to the Einsiedeln Monastery on the condition that a nunnery be built. Even today, Einsiedeln Monastery is the largest private landowner in the whole of Switzerland. Fahr Monastery itself, out of bizarre circumstances, is a 1.5-hectare Aargau enclave in the canton of Zurich, while its agricultural land - 55 hectares of cultivated land, 35 hectares of forest and 3.5 hectares of vines - is entirely on Zurich soil.

Despite its proximity to the monastery, Unterengstringen was very poor until the 20th century, and the farmers had to pursue an additional trade in addition to viticulture in order to survive. Today there is little agricultural land left, but the area with the monastery grounds is a local recreation area favoured by the people of Zurich, and the monastery is a popular excursion destination with a museum, a restaurant and a small farm shop selling produce from the monastery gardens.



Nuns from Fahr Monastery pick grapes in their vineyard in Weiningen, 2014.



Population	5'623
Permanent agricultural employees	1
Number of farming companies	1
Agricultural land	0.17 km2
Total land	5.47 km2

5 ZUMIKON

The Last Farmer

The commune is situated on the picturesque high plateau of the Pfannenstiel chain, 200 metres above Lake Zurich and is well connected to the city centre of Zurich.

Until the end of the 19th century, Zumikon was an agricultural community, not even a village, but a loose collection of farmhouses. The opening of the golf course in 1930 illustrates how Zumikon was transformed very early into a place beyond the "rural". Because of this attractive geographical location, Zumikon had to serve as a projection screen for the educated, urban middle classes and their ideals of a life in the countryside. Around 1950, most farmers began to sell their land and the urbanisation processes reached their peak in the 1960s and 1970s.

But the ideals of a life in the countryside never had anything to do with the actual work or life of a farmer or the ownership of agricultural land. On the contrary, Zumikon has lost almost all agricultural land through this process and has abandoned its rural past: Today there is only one farm and officially one farmer left in the village.



Golf course of Zumikon.



Population	2'158
Permanent agricultural employees	102
Number of farming companies	38
Agricultural land	8.3 km ²
Total land	9.7 km ²

6 HIRZEL

The Heritage of the Swiss Pastoral

The district of Hirzel (an independent commune until 2018) is part of the commune of Horgen. It is located on the Zimmerberg, a high plateau south of Lake Zurich, which is characterised by a scenic landscape of expansive green meadows on rolling hills, the so-called Drumlins. The settlement structure of Hirzel is also unique for the Canton of Zurich: Farms are dispersed throughout the territory in the form of scattered settlements and are not arranged closely in villages.

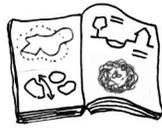
Unlike most agricultural areas in the Canton, where a mixture of crop cultivation and pastures for animal farming is common, the land on the Zimmerberg is used almost exclusively as pastures and meadows, representing the typical image of the Swiss pastoral dairy landscape. This nearly stereotypical landscape might have also inspired Johanna Spyri, the most famous inhabitant of Hirzel, describing the Swiss landscape in her famous book *Heidi*.

Today, the milk-producing farms in particular are under great economic pressure today, and the tendency of "up-or-out", i.e. that most farms will either have to grow to survive or give up, is even more pronounced in the Hirzel area than elsewhere, questioning the romanticised narrative of *Heidi* and the Swiss Pastoral.

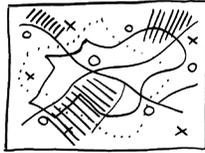


Seminarhotel Bocken Horgen, 2020.

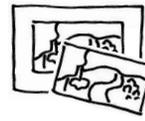
DRAWINGS



Sketches



Maps, Plans and Sections



Hand Drawings

TEXT



Titles & Essay

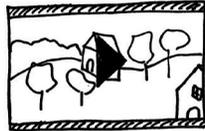


Oral Presentation



Notes

VIDEO



SUPPORTING EVIDENCE



Documents



Photographs



Found Objects

MODEL STUDIES



Architectural Scale



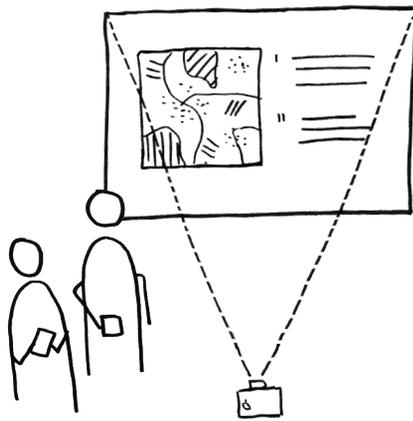
Territorial Scale

Research and Design Project

Tools of Representation

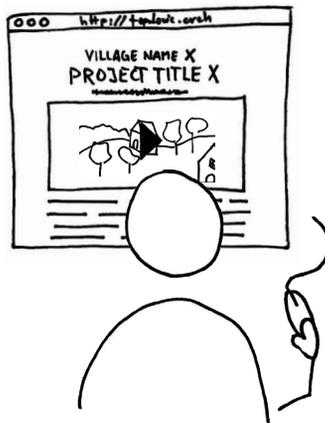
We want to encourage every student to bring in their own skills and interests in regards to the tools of representation they use. During the desk crits, we will discuss and explore which tools of representation are most suitable for you and your work. The following tools are the key tools in our studio and will be part of each work:

Drawings	Drawings are the heart of an architect's toolbox and irreplaceable for the representation of spaces and the visualisation of information. Drawings can be very diverse and range from sketches in notebooks, hand-drawn maps and comics to architectural drawings (floor plans, sections) and territorial maps and also include diagrams or statistical representations.
Text	Writing will be the backbone of your narrative. It will both force you to clearly name and relate your findings (writing as a tool) as well as allow you to communicate it to others (writing as an output). During reviews, text will be your script for the presentation and in the online reportage it will compose the narrational structure.
Video	Video is a powerful tool for visualising aspects of your work that are difficult to illustrate with static means of representation, such as movement, sound, atmosphere, or interaction between living beings. Therefore, we ask you to meaningfully integrate this tool into your work. Your video work(s) should not exceed 5 minutes.
Supporting Evidence	Supporting evidence included in your final outputs might include: historical documents and images, excerpts from literature and news paper articles, online photographs, snippets from online video, your own photographs portraying the site, planning documents, collages, or found objects.
Model Studies	We also encourage the utilisation of models to visualise and represent certain aspects of your research or your design project. These models can come in various scales and forms, ranging from large-scale territorial models including topography and geography, to models in the architectural scale, depicting elements of your research or design work.



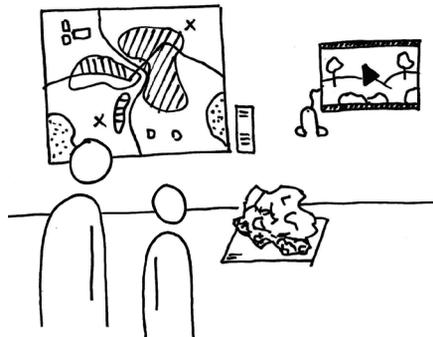
Slide Presentation

+



Online Reportage

+



Exhibition

Research and Design Project

Work Formats & Submissions

Work Formats

You will present your work in different formats. The selection of material and their extent will vary.

Slide Presentation

Your work will be presented during the reviews as an oral presentation with a slide show, containing all sorts of mixed media. Your presentation should always contain a qualitative title and subtitles for your whole work and each chapter. You find an InDesign-template for the slide presentation here:

2_RESOURCES > 1_TEMPLATES > 3_SLIDE PRESENTATION

Online Reportage

In order to reach a wider audience, you will present your work in the format of an investigative online reportage on the chair's website. The website will allow you to use different media and arrange it in a meaningful and comprehensive way. The Task includes selecting your content, arranging it in a concise narrative and making good use of the integrated tools to showcase your work on the website.

Exhibition

Together we will create an exhibition in the studio space for the final review, that shows your most relevant and beautiful material in the form of large and small models, sketches, collages, photographs and drawings.

Submissions

After every review, you are asked to submit your presentation and all your gathered material onto the server in the respective folders: 4_SUBMISSIONS

Second Review – Tue, 25 April

– Oral Presentation with Slides (15-20min)

Final Review – Wed, 21 December

– Oral Presentation with Slides (15-20min)

– Online Reportage

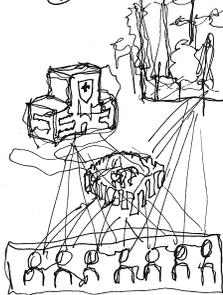
– Exhibition

THE "IDEAL" commons:

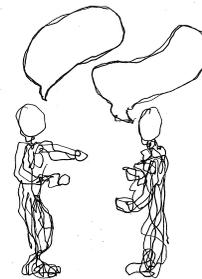
① Autonomy



② Shared Property



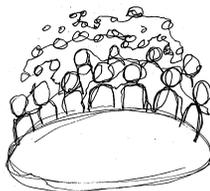
③ Cooperation



④ Rules/regulations



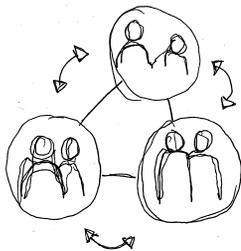
⑤ Community



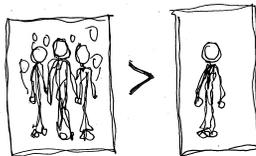
⑥ Tolerance/openness



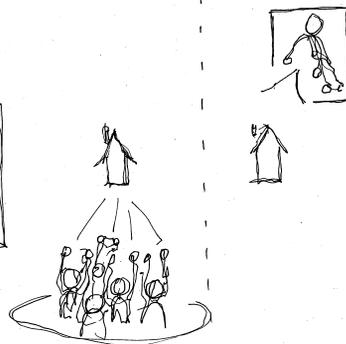
⑦ Non-hierarchical Structure



⑧ Collective Interest



⑨ Commons ≠ Public



Reading Sessions

Discussing Key Concepts

- Task** Over the course of the semester we will read and discuss texts to explore ideas and key concepts around the topics of labour (1), property (2), agrarianism (3), and the commons (4) in four sessions.
- Readings**
- 1 | On Labour, 8.3.
- John Berger and Jean Mohr, extract from *A Seventh Man* (London: Verso, 2010), pp. 118–55 and 174–205.
 - Franz-Theo Gottwald et al., “Meaningful activities in agriculture: Agro-culture as a guiding principle,” in *Post-Growth Work: Employment and Meaningful Activities within Planetary Boundaries*, edited by Irmi Seidl and Angelika Zahrt (Abingdon: Routledge, 2022), pp. 122–34.
- 2 | On Property, 5.4.
- Carol M. Rose, “Seeing Property,” in *Property and Persuasion: Essays on the History and Theory of Ownership* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2019), pp. 267–305.
 - Andro Linklater, “Introduction: The Birth of a Revolution” and “A New Way of Owning the Earth: The Concept” in *Owning the Earth: The Transforming History of Land Ownership* (New York: Bloomsbury, 2013).
- 3 | On Agrarianism, 19.4.
- Wendell Berry, “The Agricultural Crisis as a Crisis of Culture,” in *The Unsettling of America: Culture & Agriculture* (Berkeley: Counterpoint Press, 2015), pp. 43–55.
 - Tom Brass, “Peasants, Populism and the Agrarian Myth: The Historical Background,” in *Peasants, Populism and Postmodernism: The Return of the Agrarian Myth* (Abingdon: Frank Cass Publishers, 2000), pp. 9–17.
- 4 | On Commons, 26.4.
- David Harvey, “The Future of the Commons,” in *Radical History Review* Volume 2011, Issue 109, (Durham: Duke University Press, 2011), pp. 101–107.
 - Álvaro Sevilla-Buitrago, “Urbs in Rure: Historical Enclosure and the Extended Urbanization of the Countryside,” in *Implosions/Explosions: Towards a Study of Planetary Urbanization*, edited by Neil Brenner et al. (Berlin: Jovis Verlag, 2014), pp. 236–59.
- Deliverables** Each text will be prepared and presented by 1 group of students with the help of printouts (ca. 15 minutes). In addition, each presenting group is asked to come up with an idea of how to engage the group in the discussion (ca. 30 minutes) that follows the presentation. The printouts should at least include:
- 2 sketches revealing the key concepts of the text,
 - 1 spread with a few insights into the context: who wrote the book, when, why?
 - any relevant photographs
- Each student is asked to upload 1 question per text in the shared google docs (to be shared via email). The questions will help the presenting student group to moderate the discussion.
- Submission** Please upload the printouts assembled in one PDF after each respective reading session to:
4_SUBMISSIONS > 1_READING SESSIONS

Teaching Environment

We aim at mutual respect and responsible interaction with each other—regardless of origin, education, religion, ideology, physical abilities, gender, or sexual identity. If you observe or experience any type of harassment, discrimination, or mental/physical violence, there are several contact persons:

- Evelyne Gordon (gordon@arch.ethz.ch)
studio-external contact person at our chair
- Elisabetta Giordano (giordano@arch.ethz.ch),
the official D-ARCH contact in case of inappropriate behaviour
- William Tice (ticew@student.ethz.ch) or
Qianer Zhu (zhu@arch.ethz.ch),
certified contact persons of the "On Mental Goodness" group at D-ARCH

Teaching Environment & Assessment

Group Work We grade your work per group, which means students from the same group receive the same grade. We believe that different perspectives and skills can enrich a group's work and ultimately lead to better projects. However, if irreconcilable differences of opinion arise within your group, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Assesment We assess your work according to the degree to which you have met the following learning objectives:

General

- 1) You have participated during inputs, reading sessions, and desk crits
- 2) You have collaborated well within your group
- 3) You have shown self-initiative (when you needed support)
- 4) You have developed your work independently

First Task: Atlas of Agrarian Projects

- 1) You have understood the task and the steps needed in order to create an Atlas of your chosen Agrarian Projects.
- 2) You have analysed the organisational, community, property, and labour structure of the Phantom and the Prototype
- 3) You have put the Phantom in the context of its time.
- 4) You have formulated learnings from your Phantom for today.
- 5) You have thoughtfully and creatively represented your research.
- 6) You have created a comprehensive narrational structure to create a compelling oral presentation and an enticing online reportage.

Research and Design Project

- 1) You have understood the task and the steps needed in order to create a research project on agricultural land ownership and labour practices
- 2) You have systematically conducted your field work with the means of videography, qualitative interviews, photography, sketching and drawing.
- 3) You have analysed land ownership and labour conditions in agriculture with the help of field work, GIS, historical analysis and online research.
- 4) You have critically reflected and evaluates your research findings.
- 5) You have drawn convincing conclusions from your research findings.
- 6) Based on your conclusions, you have formulated your own standpoint and positioned yourselves within the discourse around agriculture, labour, and property.
- 7) You have creatively developed a relevant design project which integrates your research findings, conclusions, and own standpoint.
- 8) You have thoughtfully and creatively represented your field work, research and design project using mixed media.
- 9) You have narrated the research comprehensively and concisely to create a compelling oral presentation and an enticing online reportage

Written Statement After the semester, each student will receive a short qualitative written statement as a supplement to the grade.

GIS Data	Geoportal des Bundes map.geo.admin.ch
	Geoportal Kanton Zürich maps.zh.ch
	Geoportal Kanton Aargau ag.ch/app/agisviewer4/v1/agisviewer.html
	GeoVIte – Geodata Service of the ETH Zürich geovite.ethz.ch/index.html
	OpenStreetMaps openstreetmap.org
	Gisco EuroStat ec.europa.eu/eurostat/de/web/gisco/geodata/reference-data
	Overview available GIS-Data Switzerland cloud.mapplus.ch/opendata/doku.php?id=en:start
Statistics and Information	Bundesamt für Statistik – BfS bfs.admin.ch
	Atlas BfS atlas.bfs.admin.ch
	Swiss Open Government Data opendata.swiss
	Amt für Raumentwicklung ARE – Kanton ZH are.zh.ch
Communal Statistics	Interaktive Gemeindestatistiken – BfS bfs.admin.ch/bfs/de/home/statistiken/regionalstatistik/regionale-portraets-kennzahlen/gemeinden.html
	Interaktive Gemeindeporträts – Kanton ZH zh.ch/de/politik-staat/gemeinden/gemeindeportraet.html
	Reiffeisen – Communal Statistics: Data Visualisation raiffeisen.ch/rch/de/privatkunden/hypotheken/hypopedia/municipality-factsheet.html
	Schweizer Gemeindeverband (Swiss Association of Communes) chgemeinden.ch/

Digital Resources

Property Information	Cadastre & Land Registry Information cadastre.ch/de/gb.html
	Notariate, Grundbuch- und Konkursämter Kanton Zürich notariate-zh.ch/deu/
Historic Maps	Old Maps Online oldmapsonline.org
	Kartenportal.CH search.kartenportal.ch
	ETH Library – Geodata & Maps library.ethz.ch/en/Resources/Geodata-maps
Historic Images	Universität Bern – Ryhiner collection unibe.ch/university/services/university_library/research/special_collections/map_collections/ryh_ch/index_eng.html
	Stadt Zürich – Historische Bilder stadt-zuerich.ch/historischebilder
	ETH Library – Bildarchiv library.ethz.ch/de/Ressourcen/Bilder-Fotografien-Grafiken/Bildarchiv
	Baugeschichtliches Archiv – Online Sammlung baz.e-pics.ethz.ch
Historic Archives	Historisches Lexikon der Schweiz hls-dhs-dss.ch
	Archives of Rural History Switzerland histoire rurale.ch/afa/index.php/de/
	History of the Swiss cadastral system cadastre.ch/en/about/geschichte.html

Server Structure

URL	smb://nas22.ethz.ch/arch_nsl_topalovic_student/
GIS Library	.../0000_GIS-LIBRARY
Studio Folder	.../2023_FS_AGRARIAN-PROJECT/ .../1_SEMESTER INFO – Student Info – Poster – Semester Programme – Semester Timeline – Reader – Inputs (Introductions, Lectures, Tasks) – Permission Letters .../2_RESOURCES – Fonts – Templates – Texts – References – Site Data .../4_SUBMISSIONS – Reading Sessions – Review I – Review II – Final Review .../6_STUDENT FOLDER – Personal exchange folder for group work

Contacts

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The law locks up the man or woman
Who steals the goose off the common
But leaves the greater villain loose
Who steals the common from the goose.

The law demands that we atone
When we take things we do not own
But leaves the lords and ladies fine
Who takes things that are yours and mine.

The poor and wretched don't escape
If they conspire the law to break;
This must be so but they endure
Those who conspire to make the law.

The law locks up the man or woman
Who steals the goose from off the common
And geese will still a common lack
Till they go and steal it back.

Unknown author, 17th century

