

ARCHITECTURE OF TERRITORY
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IN COLLABORATION WITH
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TU WIEN, Institute of Architecture and Design,
Prof. Wilfried Kühn

PERFECT MEMORIES

Care and Repair as
Practices of Remembering
Brijuni Archipelago

FOCUS WORK & FIELD TRIP, 6 ECTS
Fridays 10:00–11:30, ONA G35
START: 1 March 2024

TRAVEL: 11–15.04.2024 (cost frame C)
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Off the coast of Istria, Brijuni Archipelago is one of the most significant sites of the Yugoslav federation, and of non-aligned socialism.

It has also been a private island of an Austro-Hungarian industrialist, a playground of European elites around 1900, a negotiation stage of world leaders in the mid-twentieth century, a defence zone on the European frontier, and a heritage location whose traces go back to the Romans. In the 1980s, amid the dissolution of the Yugoslav project, the highly designed and constructed landscape of Brijuni was declared a nature park, as if in a recognition that its contentious histories should be depoliticised and left aside, undisturbed, like a memory capsule to be opened in a different future.

In this course, we will engage with the few who still inhabit and care for Brijuni today: for its planted gardens and bathing areas, for exotic animals, tarnished hotels, exclusion zones, and for secluded monuments along overgrown paths.

Which artefacts are worth our care and repair? Which objects are symbolic and which ideas should be preserved? What is the depth and value of personal memories compared to official history and memory?

We will work with video, narrative cartography, and digital sculpture.