

ARCHITECTURE OF
TERRITORY
New Ecologies
FS 2022

Semester
Programme

VILLAGE LIFE

Beyond the
Urban-Rural Divide

Colophon

Studio Series
NEW ECOLOGIES

FS 2022

VILLAGE LIFE
Beyond the Urban-Rural Divide

NEW ECOLOGIES is a studio series at the Architecture of Territory dedicated to ecologising architecture. Ecological thinking (which foregrounds the interactions between organisms and by extension between objects or social-technical systems and their environments) is applied in relation to design practises and their social and environmental effects. The studio series is affiliated with the Future Cities Laboratory (FCL) and the new Master of Advanced Studies in Urban and Territorial Design (MAS UTD).

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VILLAGE LIFE

Beyond the Urban-Rural Divide

Villages have lost most of their historic features. Peasant populations and traditional farming no longer exist. In Switzerland the share of people working in agriculture has plunged from around 60 % in 1800 to 2.5 % today, and to only 1.1 % in the Canton of Zurich. Non-agrarian economies and ways of life have spread across former rural areas. It appears that the urban-rural dichotomy has collapsed and that villages are becoming more and more urban.

Yet village life continues to provoke imagination, and to promise an alternative path, an antidote to life in cities. To their residents villages seem to offer more space, more freedom, and perhaps a connection to the land, nature, and the fellow neighbour. The Covid pandemic has reignited the appeal of life on the land, leading to surge in real-estate prices around large cities in Europe and the world. But the longing for the countryside has taken hold of urbanites many times before, ever since ancient Romans yearned for mythical Arcadia and built their estates in the Campagna Romana. In the 1960s and the 1970s, the Landsehnsucht lead the middle classes and the wealthy elites to colonise areas of rural idyll around Zurich, manifesting in experimental housing projects such as the Siedlung Seldwyla (Guyer et al., 1975–78) in Zumikon.

The appeal of villages holds other promises too. They are social-democratic and ecological: The commune, consisting of a village and its surrounding land, has been the basic cell of Swiss and European territory, and it has offered a social model anchoring crucial values: autonomy, direct democracy, decentralisation of decisions, political dialogue among citizens, social control of the state and economy, sustainable material culture, care and reciprocity with the soil and non-humans, and more. All these values are again indispensable in the face of ecological crisis.

VILLAGE LIFE



Thus, villages may not disappear after all. On the contrary, their importance will likely increase. Though countless villages had been changed, even destroyed, through industrialisation, excessive urban growth, economic and cultural peripheralization, and a lack of attention by experts including architects, life in villages still holds potential. (In the arena of populist politics such potentials are exploited. The Stadt-Land-Graben is a persisting cliché in which “left-green cities” take advantage of the productive “countryside”). An effort to explore different, more inclusive and more optimistic narratives is urgent.

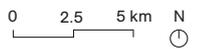
In the Canton of Zurich there are 162 communes, most of which have less than 10,000 inhabitants and are thus considered “villages.” This statistical approach obscures the amazing diversity, vitality and the specificity of small settlements around Zurich. From the slow food valley around Bachs, to the architectural marvels of Zumikon, and the “Dorf der Milliardäre” in Schindellegi, the key questions guiding our explorations will be: What does young urban generation think of a life outside “the city?” What are the conditions that attract or repel (young) people to village life? Can the perceived disadvantages of villages (lacking cultural activities, a conservative environment, and long distances) be countered through new ideas and projects? Can we recover ideas of social solidarity and of commoning resources and labour? Can we envision different patterns of movement and exchange between places, beyond commuting between “centres and peripheries?” Can a village be seen as a neighbourhood in a larger territorial constellation that extends beyond “the city?”

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- Topography 100m
- Topography 1'000m
- - - Cantonal border

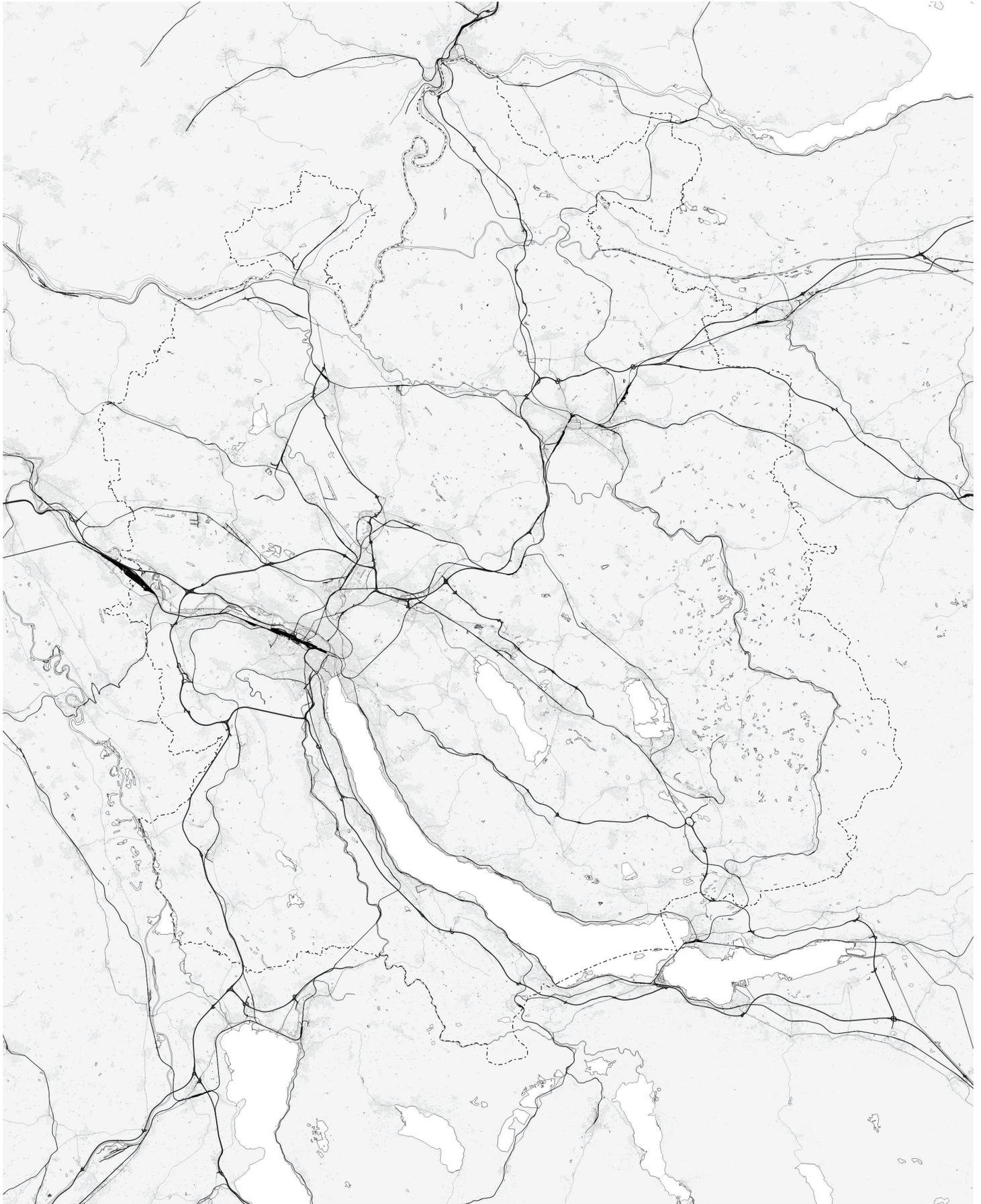


Maps

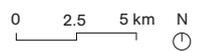


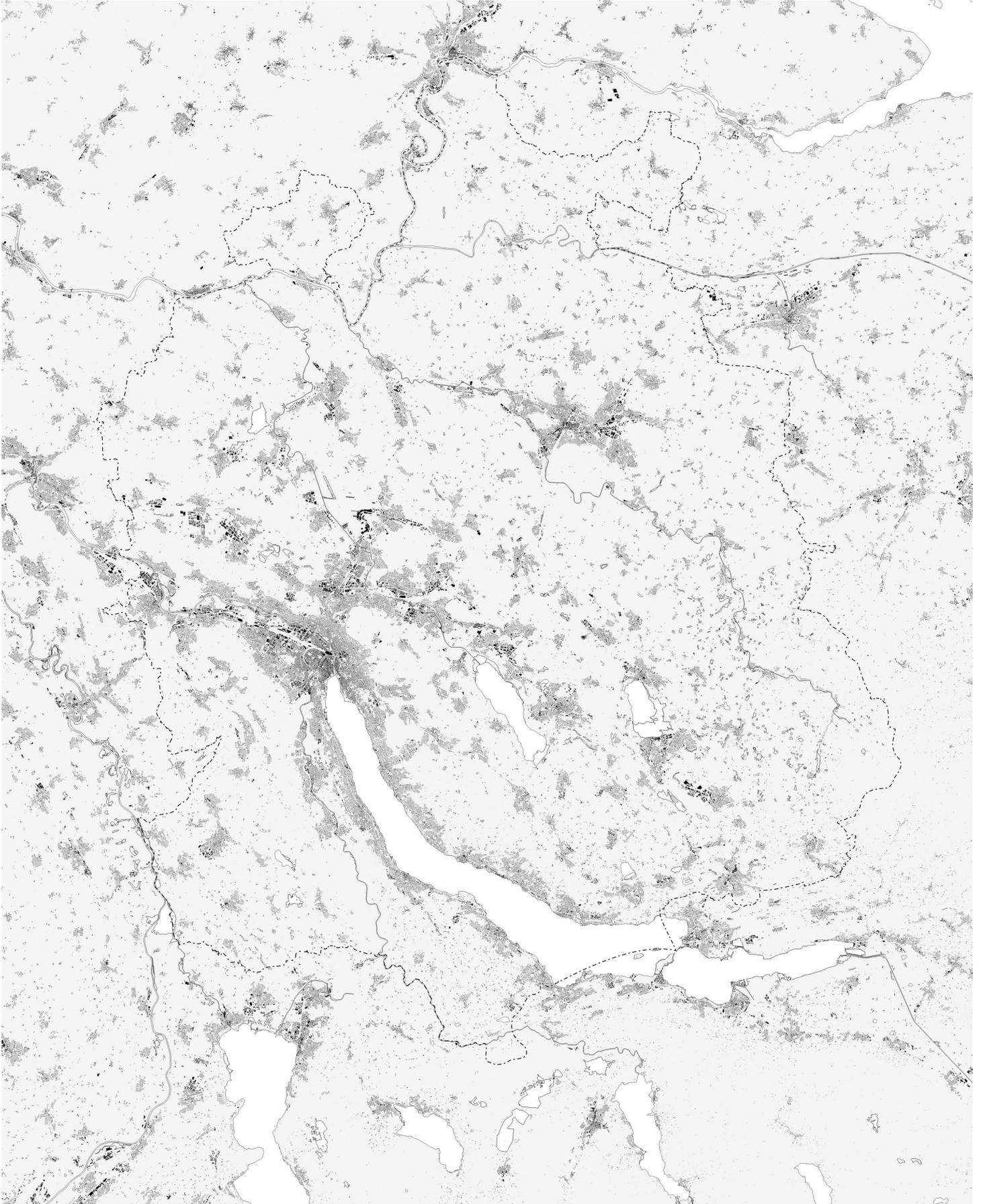
- Lakes and rivers
- Catchment areas
- Catchment areas border
- Cantonal border



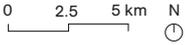


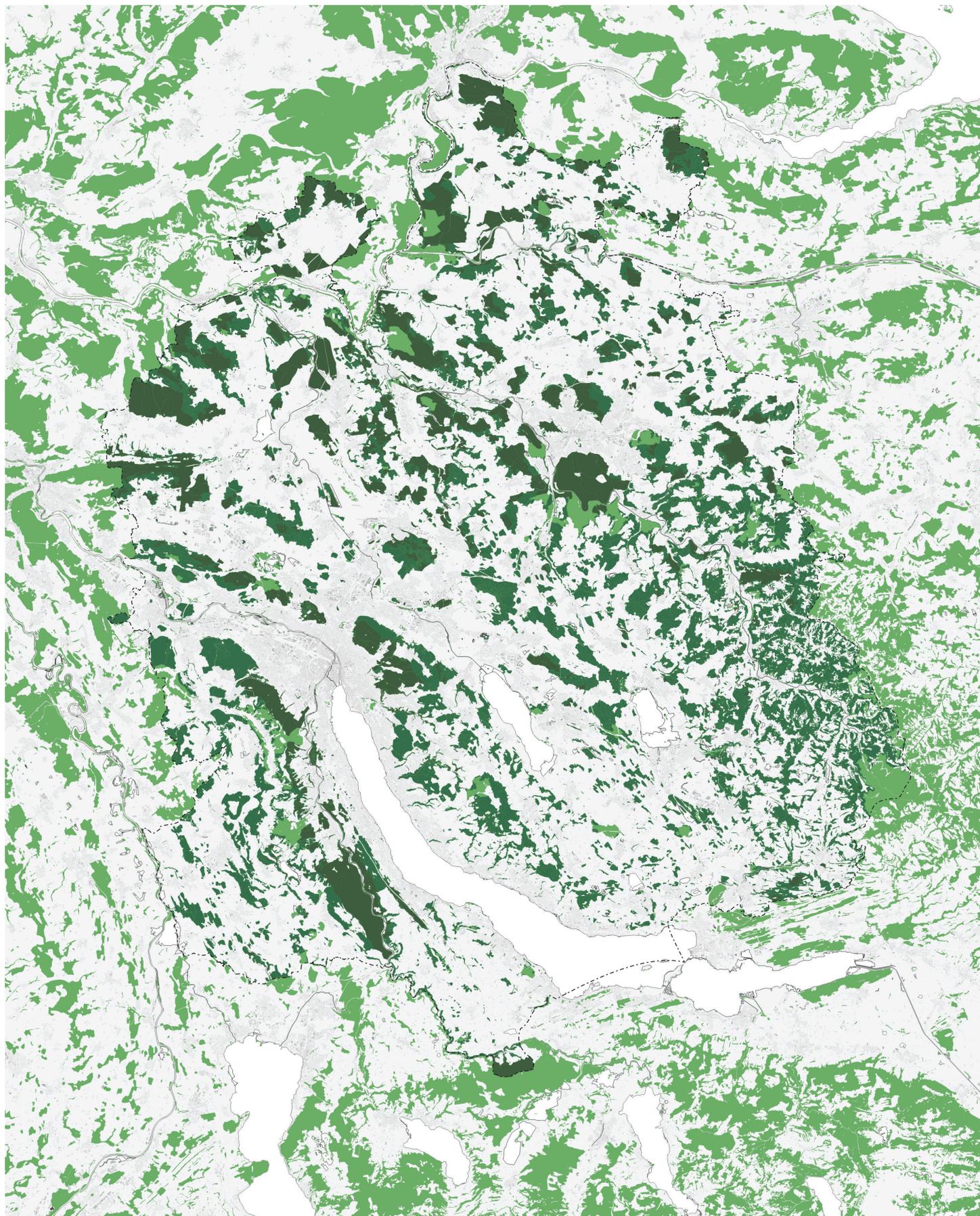
- Lakes and rivers
- Buildings
- Highways
- Railways



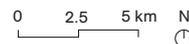


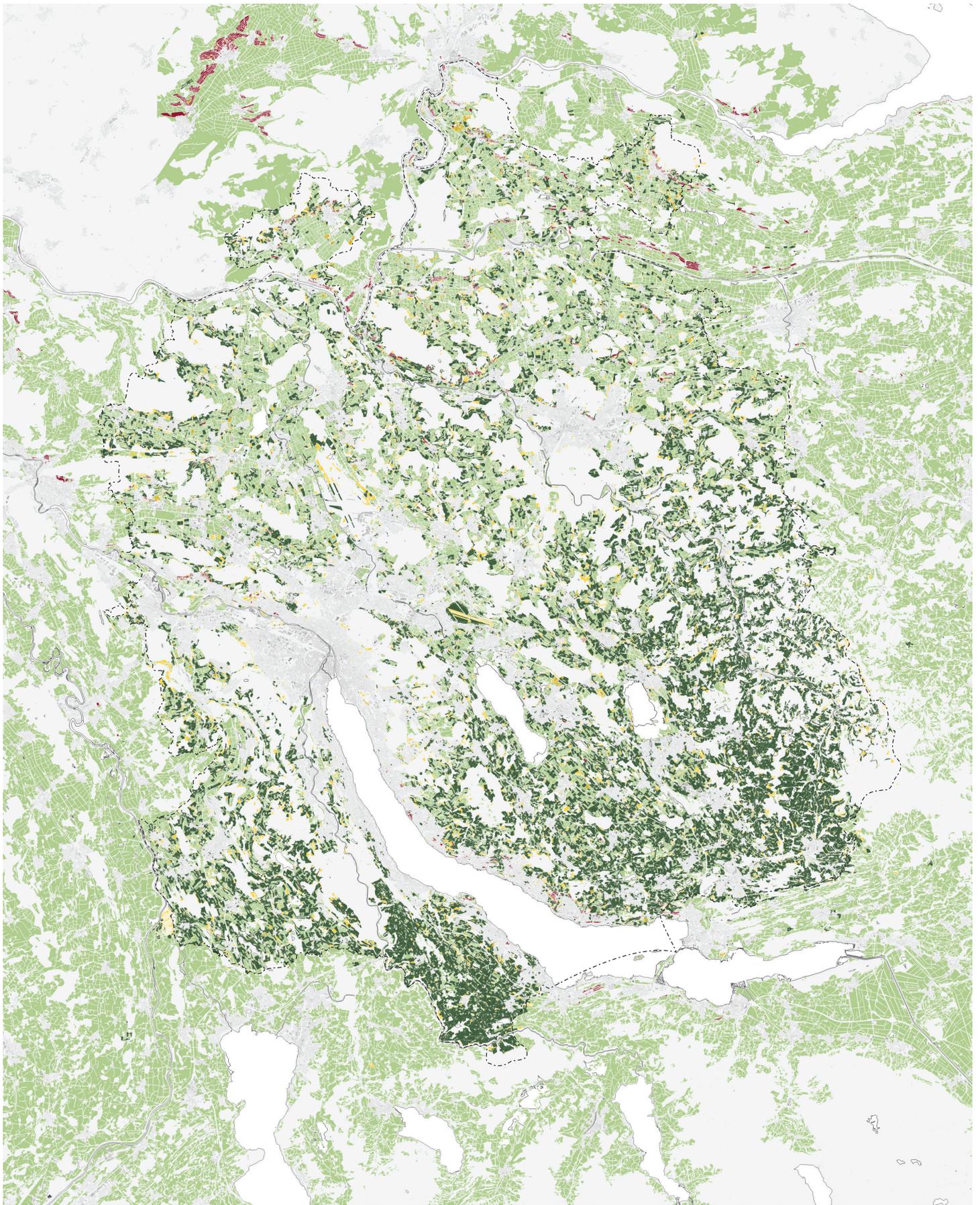
- Lakes and rivers
- Buildings
- Cantonal border



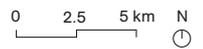


- Lakes and rivers
- Buildings
- Forests owned by privates and corporations
- Forests owned by public (confederation/cantons/communes)
- Forests with unknown ownership





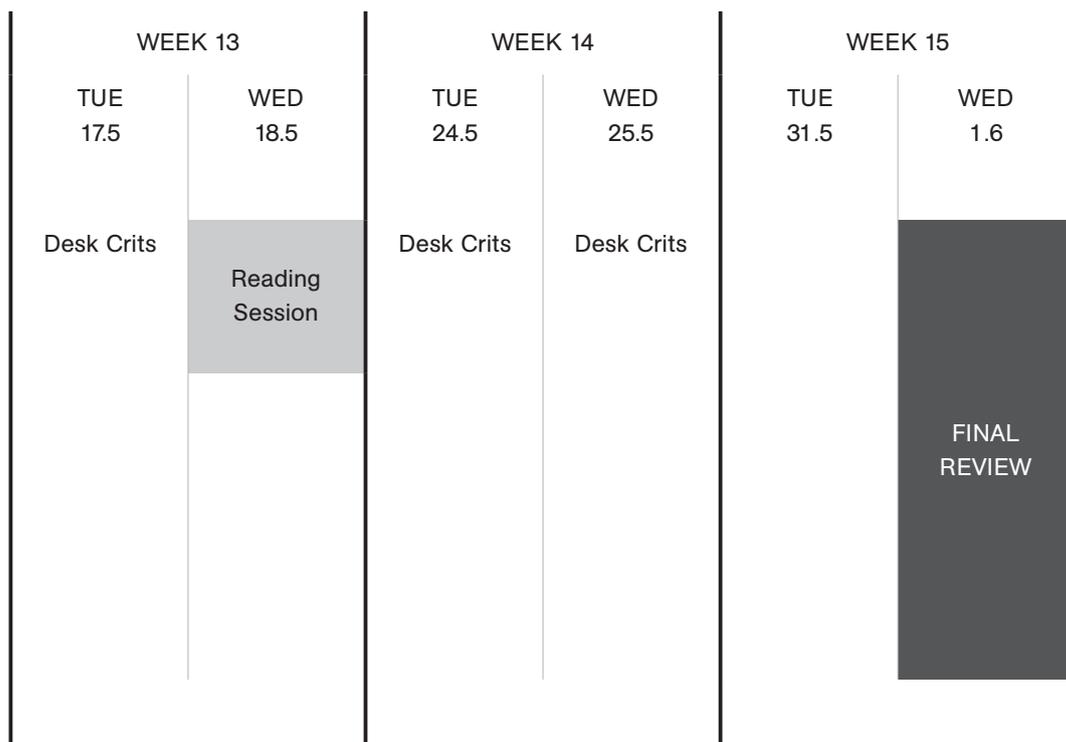
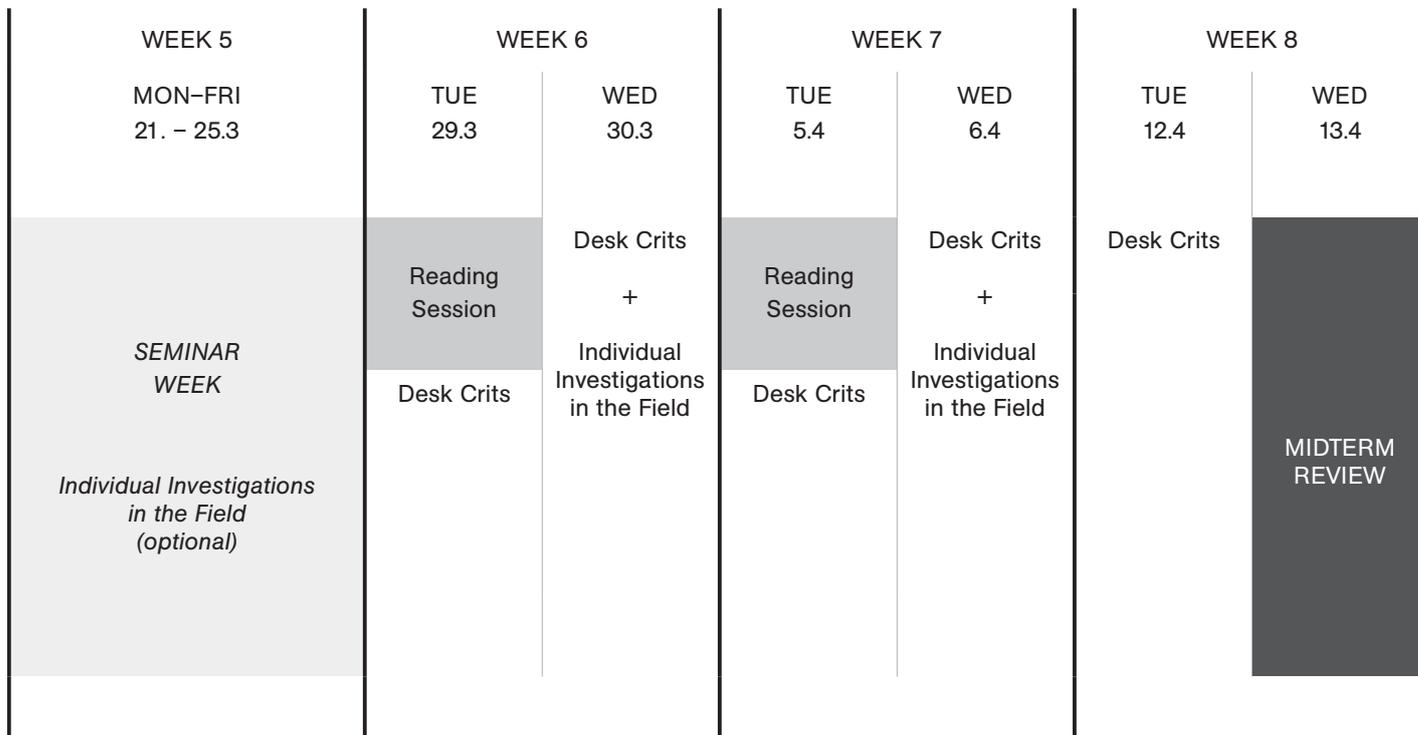
- Lakes and rivers
- Buildings
- Cropland
- Pastures
- Vineyards
- Orchards
- Glasshouses
- Biodiversity promotion area
- Other agriculture land



WEEK 1		WEEK 2		WEEK 3		WEEK 4	
TUE 22.2	WED 23.2	TUE 1.3	WED 2.3	TUE 8.3	WED 9.3	TUE 15.3	WED 16.3
OPENING DAY	Studio Introduction	COMMON FIELDTRIP	Fieldwork Techniques w. Christian Schmid	Desk Crits + Parity Talks VII	COMMON FIELDTRIP	Desk Crits + Individual Investigations in the Field (optional)	ATLAS REVIEW together with MAS
	Lecture Caspar Schärer		Desk Crits				

WEEK 9		WEEK 10		WEEK 11		WEEK 12	
MON-FRI 18. – 22.4		TUE 26.4	WED 27.4	TUE 3.5	WED 4.5	TUE 10.5	WED 11.5
EASTER BREAK <i>Individual Investigations in the Field (optional)</i>		Reading Session	Desk Crits + Individual Investigations in the Field	Desk Crits	Reading Session	PROJECT WORKSHOP	Desk Crits
		Desk Crits			Desk Crits		

Timeline





Field Trips & Fieldwork

Common Field Trips We will spend several days out in the field, starting with our opening day and followed by two days in the first weeks of the semester. We will explore various villages and talk to locals and experts. We will inform you in advance about any necessary preparation. Please always bring good shoes, weatherproof clothing, a camera (if at your disposal) and a sketchbook for fieldnotes and sketches.

Dates

Tue, 22 February – Opening Day

Wed, 1 March – Common Field Trip 1

Wed, 8 March – Common Field Trip 2

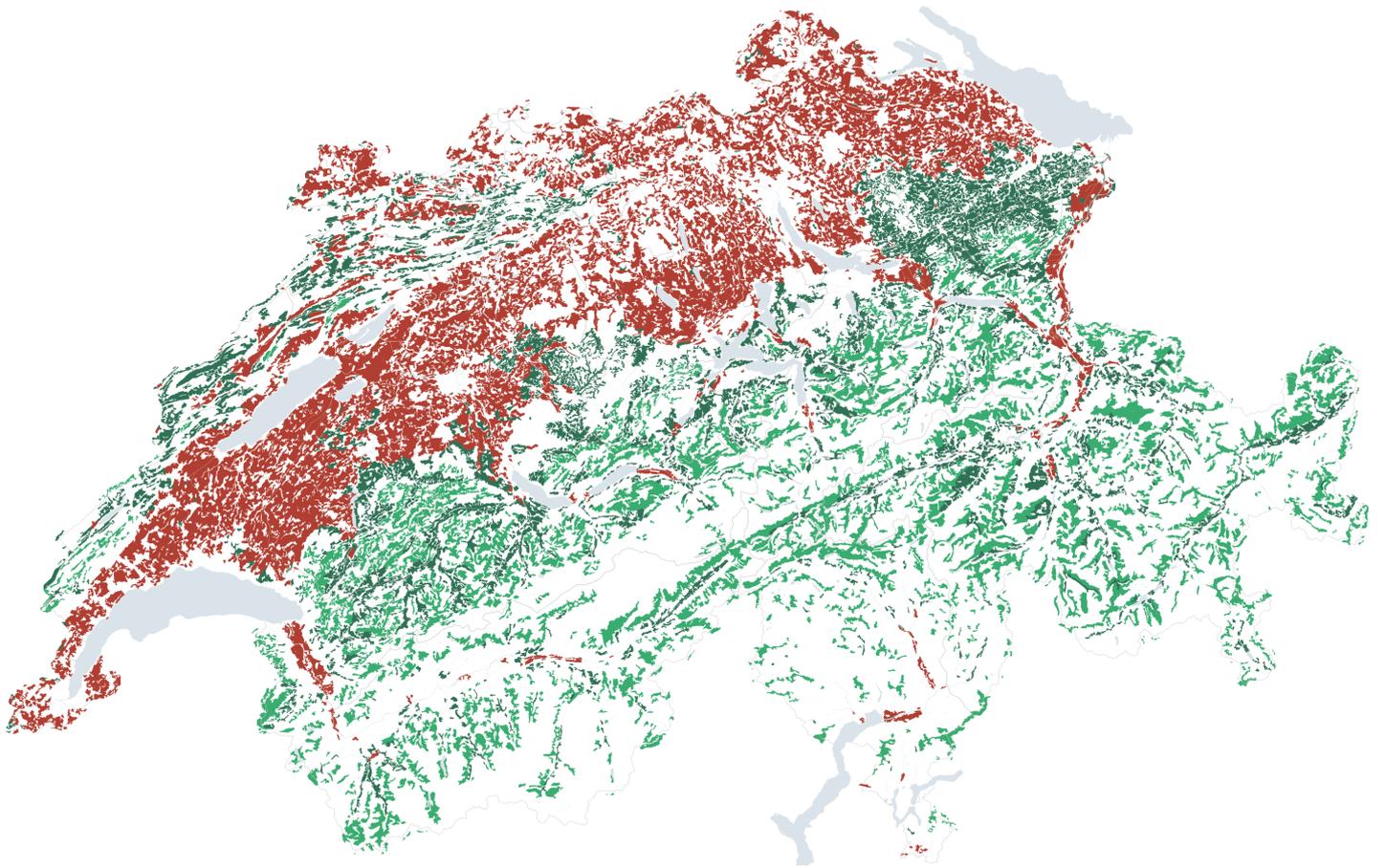
Individual Fieldwork Individual field investigations in your groups are an essential part of the studio—especially in the first half of the semester. We have certain days dedicated particularly for you to work in the field, but we also encourage you to do fieldwork on other days if possible. We can discuss financial support if a car or bike rental is necessary.

Dates

Wed, 30 March

Wednesday, 6 April

Wednesday, 27 April



Crop cultivation (red), pastures (dark green) and alpine pastures (light green) in Switzerland.
Lara Biesser and Ella Willemsen: Animal Farming, Design Studio HS 2020

Atlas

Task, Methods & Topics

Task	<p>The atlas task is an investigation through the experience of mapping, with the goal to familiarise ourselves with the Canton of Zurich and learn to read, analyse and gather conclusion from maps. We want you to understand common forces of urban transformation that act at the scale of the whole Metropolitan Region of Zurich, and influence its structural cells: the communes.</p> <p>Maps – and subsequently, the art of making atlases – are conscious projections over given territories. By definition, they are selective representations of a certain reality observed from a specific point of view in a chosen frame. In this respect they stand as powerful conceptual tools able to shape the perception and thus actions over a territory.</p>
Methods	<p>You will use tools of representation such as diagrams, charts and GIS cartography to show what constitutes the Canton of Zurich in 9 different topics. Depending on the topic and layer which you will be working on, you will have to select a precise scale and representation method that fits your narrative and the conclusion you want to draw. The scales and detailing level will be adapted to form an easily readable and clear conclusion. The work will be published online on our website in the form of an online atlas and will be curated by each groups individually. Students work in groups of 2-3.</p>
Topics	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1 The Built and the Unbuilt (Politics of Landuse)2 Demography, Growth and Migrations3 Commuting4 Social Infrastructure (Education and Communication)5 Health, Culture and Recreation6 Labour and Economy7 Property and Land-Ownership8 Real-Estate and Capital9 History of Territory and Governance
Atlas Review	<p><u>Deliverables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Set of maps with qualitative titles and sources– Charts, diagrams to complement on the topic– Online atlas (website) with conclusions for each map– Conclusion map (cartosynthesis) in form of sketch/map– Oral presentation with website (10min) <p><u>Date</u> Wednesday, 16 March</p>

The Built and the Unbuilt (Politics of Landuse)

- 1.1 Urban fabric extensions (village cores through time)
- 1.2 Housing typologies (through time)
- 1.3 Built (housing, services, infrastructure, industry, agriculture as %, m²)
- 1.4 Altitude and slopes (topography)
- 1.5 Land use (% built & infrastructure, agriculture, forest, water, unproductive)
- 1.6 Spatial and urban plans (Richtpläne, Metroregion Zürich)
- 1.7 Building zones not built over (% , ha)
- 1.8 Building zones overbuilt (% , ha)
- 1.9 Scenic points (point of views, ..google maps)

Demography, Growth and Migrations

- 2.1 Age demographics (0–19, 20–64, 65+)
- 2.2 Ethnicity and religion
- 2.3 Gender demographics
- 2.4 Population (evolution last 5 years, 10 and 20 years)
- 2.5 Size of household
- 2.6 Arrivals/departures (Zuzüge/Wegzüge)

Commuting

- 3.1 Public transport accessibility (S-Bahn, Bus, ..)
- 3.2 Commuter map car (MIV-Anteil, modal split)
- 3.3 Proportion of commuters by PT (ÖV-Anteil, modal split)
- 3.4 Direction of commuting (Ziel-, Binnenverkehr)
- 3.5 Origin of commuting (Ziel-, Binnenverkehr)

Social Infrastructure (Education and Communication)

- 4.1 Kindergarten (Kita, Vorschule)
- 4.2 Schools (Primarschule)
- 4.3 Schools (Oberstufe)
- 4.4 Schools (Mittelschule)
- 4.5 Schools (Berufsschule)
- 4.6 University & Fachhochschule
- 4.7 Post offices
- 4.8 Food delivery zones
- 4.9 Cell phone network coverage (4G and 5G antennas)

Health, Culture and Recreation

- 5.1 Doctors (per 1'000 inhabitant)
- 5.2 Vaccination rate
- 5.3 Spaces of care (hospitals, psychiatric clinics, elderly homes, ..)
- 5.4 Cultural centres (Museums, Kulturzentrum, concert hall, ..)
- 5.5 Sport facilities (stadiums, halls, courts, ..)
- 5.6 Bike paths
- 5.7 Hiking trails
- 5.8 Public parks

Labour and Economy

- 6.1 Employment (absolute and %)
- 6.2 Unemployment (absolute and %)
- 6.3 Workers (1st Sector, absolute and %, gender split, types of activities)
- 6.4 Workers (2nd Sector, absolute and %, gender split, types of activities)
- 6.5 Workers (3rd Sector, absolute and %, gender split, types of activities)
- 6.6 Micro enterprises (0-9 empl. through time)
- 6.7 Small enterprises (10-49 empl. through time)
- 6.8 Medium enterprises (50-249 empl. through time)
- 6.9 Large enterprises (250+ empl. through time)
- 6.10 Taxable income (median)
- 6.11 Taxable assets (median)

Property and Land Ownership

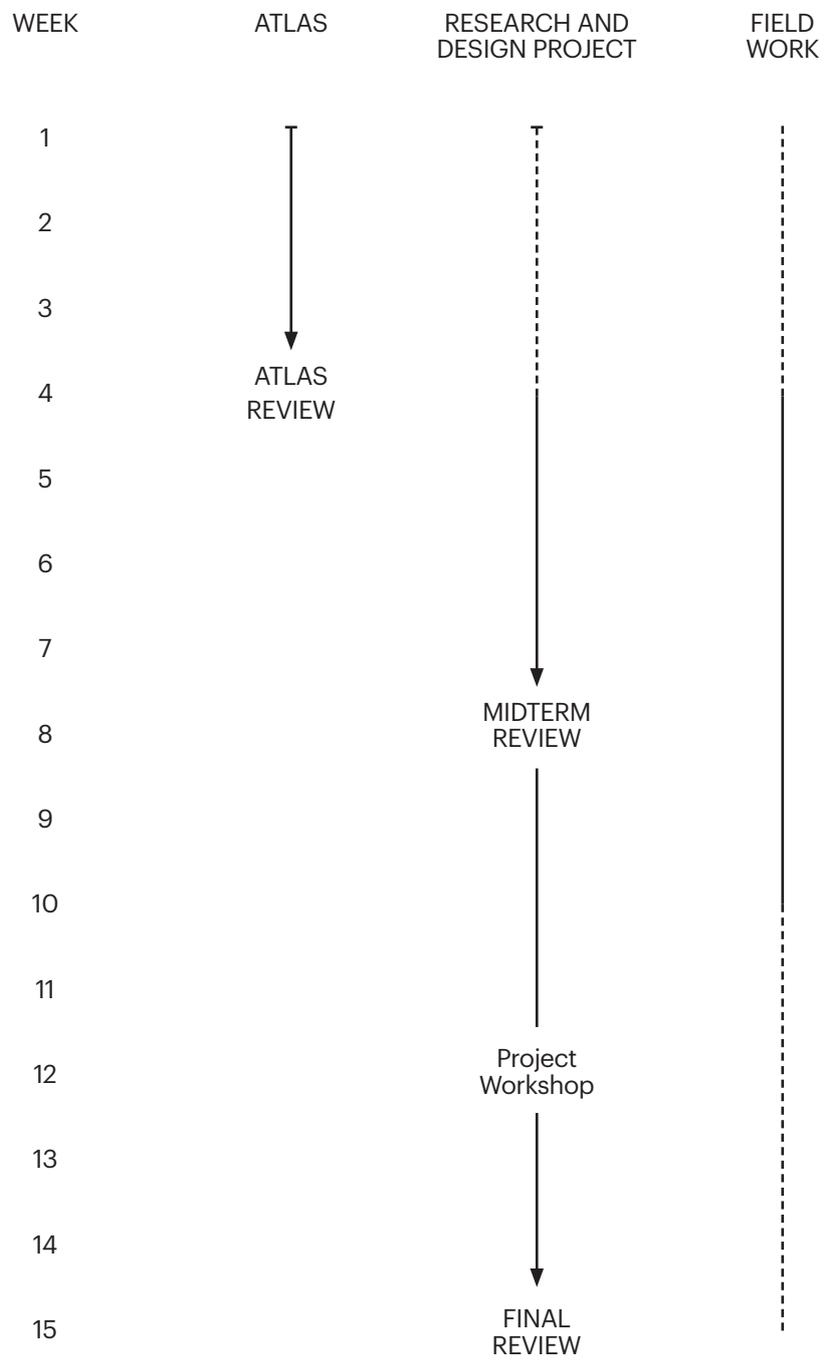
- 7.1 Availability of property data (cadastre, land registry per Canton)
- 7.2 Land price (buildable zones– indication for agriculture and forest)
- 7.3 Forest ownership (private, public; CH, Canton, Gemeinde, ..)
- 7.4 Who and where are large land owners (public, private, Institutions)
- 7.5 Land in public ownership (Federal (ASTRA, VBS), Cantonal, SBB, ..)

Real Estate and Capital

- 8.1 Real estate prices (evolution)
- 8.2 Investment in building sector (Mio. CHF)
- 8.3 Investments in building sector (CHF/inh.)
- 8.4 Investments in new housing (CHF/inh.)
- 8.5 Proportion of apartments (%)
- 8.6 Proportion of properties (%)
- 8.7 Proportion of empty apartments (%)
- 8.8 Number of millionaires/billionaires

History of Territory and Governance

- 9.1 Toponymy (geographic names)
- 9.2 Informal names (bubble map with jokes, stereotypes, ..)
- 9.3 Communal borders through history
- 9.4 Levels of governance (commune, Bezirk, Planungsregion, Forstkreise, Schulkreise)
- 9.5 Political representation at communal level
- 9.6 Votes (Selection of national– and cantonal referendums)
- 9.7 Evolution of parties (through time)



Research and Design Project

Task, Methods & Output

Midterm Review

Parallel to working on the Atlas, you will start the village portrait—an in-depth analysis of your village in its geographical, historical and socio-economic context. You are asked to formulate your own research questions, identify the relevant topics that are specific for your village, and assemble your findings under a common narrative, including a qualitative project title and chapter titles. Ultimately you will reflect on your findings in order to come to conclusions that enable you to formulate a project brief. The specific research questions and topics of your analysis will vary greatly from village to village and are discussed during the desk crits with each group.

Date

Wednesday, 13 April

Deliverables:

Oral presentation with slides (15min)

Final Review

Until the final review you will continue working on your research and design project. You will deepen the research in certain aspects of your work and sharpen your narrative. Based on your project brief, you are asked to develop a new imaginary for the future of your village. Together we will discuss your first ideas for this during a Project Workshop in week 12.

During your work you should keep these key questions in mind:

Can we recover ideas of social solidarity and of commoning resources and labour?
Can we envision different patterns of movement and exchange between places, beyond commuting between “centres and peripheries”? Can a village be seen as a neighbourhood? Can we work towards a socioecological transition, where communes are trusted with a higher degree of autonomy in questions of labour, energy and food production?

Date

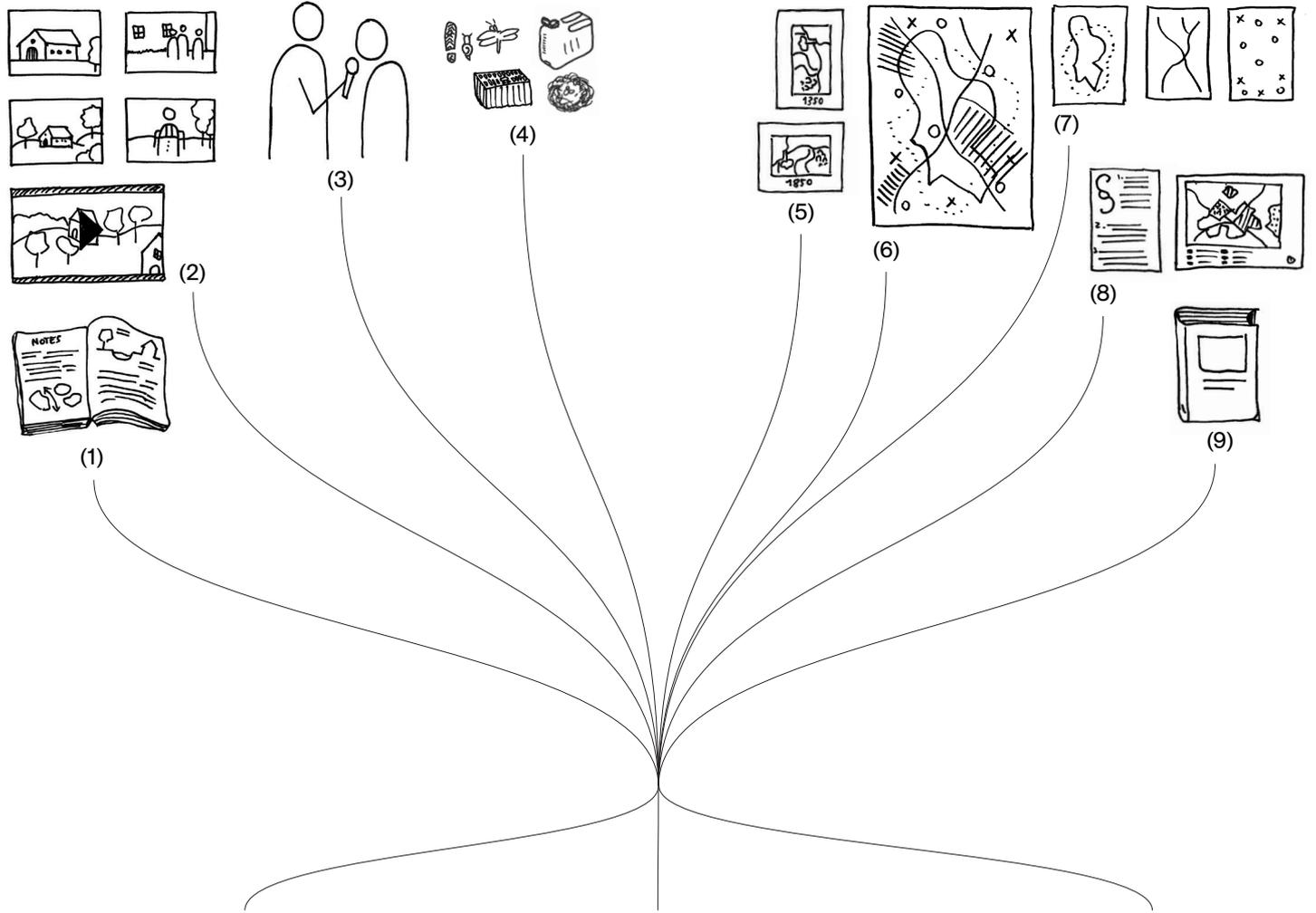
Wednesday, 1 June

Deliverables

- Oral presentation with slides (20min)
- Online reportage
- Exhibition

Field Work

Research & Analysis



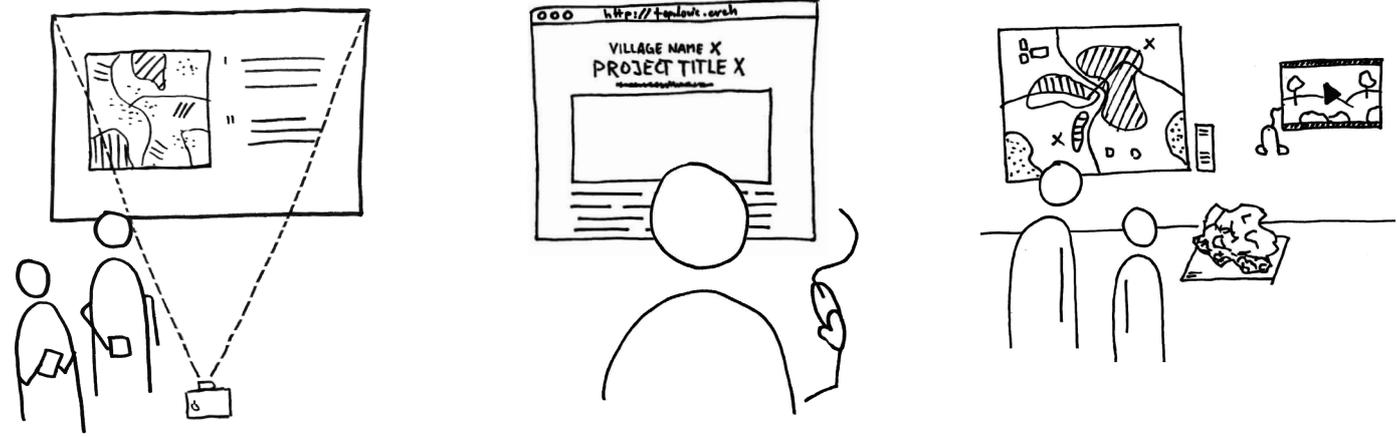
Oral Presentation with Slides

+

Online Reportage

+

Exhibition



Methods

Field Work

Working in the field will be an essential part of your work. We will have a workshop on fieldwork techniques with Prof. Christian Schmid in the second week of the studio. In the village you are asked to document your observations by the means of:

- Taking field notes and doing sketches (1)
- Meaningful photographs or short videos, portraying your village (2)
- Conducting and documenting interviews with village residents and experts (3)
- Collecting relevant objects (4)

Research & Analysis

Back at your desk, you will reflect on your field findings and and deepen your research. For this we will introduce you to working with GIS and other programs if necessary (InDesign, Illustrator, Photoshop). The following list will give you an idea of what content we would like to see:

- Territorial and social history of your village
- Historic paintings and images (5)
- Comprehensive drawing of your village, including its wider context (6)
- Drawings and maps, representing your site-specific topics (7)
- Planning documents (8)
- Literature, news paper articles (9)
- Conclusive conceptual sketches and hand drawings
- Snippets from online video or sound material

Additionally you will create your own drawings, concept sketches and collages to visualise the synthesis of your findings and conclusions.

Output

Oral Presentation

Your work will be presented during the reviews as an oral presentation with a slide show, containing all sorts of mixed media. Selecting this media for the slide show and presenting it in a convincing way will be essential in creating your narrative. Your presentation should always contain a qualitative title and subtitles for your whole work and each chapter.

Online Reportage

We will teach you the basic skillset you need to create a website, essentially: to upload, create and edit content. It will allow you to present different media assembled and produced during the semester in a meaningful way—embed videos, image grids, image slideshow, text, headings and subheadings, footer with sources and acknowledgments, links. Your work will be accessible to the public online by the end of the studio in the form of the web-based investigative reportage.

Exhibition

Over the course of the semester, you will collect sketches, research materials, and objects from your field trips. These found items will make the process of your work visible during the desk crits and can be presented during the reviews in the form of a common workspace exhibition.



Reading Sessions

Discussing Key Concepts

Task Over the course of the semester, we will read and discuss academic texts and journalistic articles to explore ideas and key concepts around the topics of countryside, territory, property, society, and the commons in five sessions. During each session, one or two groups will present one text each in a precise and creative way and moderate the following discussion.

In addition, each student is asked to submit a question about the text(s) the evening before each reading to a shared Google Docs.

Readings Rural Life, 29.3.

– Claude Raffestin, “The Rural Origins of European Culture and the Challenge of the Twenty-First Century” (1994)

Urbanisation of the Countryside, 5.4.

– John Berger, *Into Their Labours: A Trilogy* (1992)

– Álvaro Sevilla-Buitrago, “Urbs in Rure: Historical Enclosure and the Extended Urbanization of the Countryside” (2015)

Land and Property, 26.4.

– Hans Bernoulli, *Die Stadt und ihr Boden* (1946)

– Reto U. Schneider, “Warum kann man Land besitzen? Es war doch schon immer da.” (2021)

Cultural Reproduction, 4.5.

– Pierre Bourdieu, *Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste* (1984)

– Olivia Kühni, “Mein Haus ist mein Schloss” (21.6.2021)

Commons, 18.5.

– Elinor Ostrom, *Governing the Commons: The Evolution of Institutions for Collective Action* (1990)

– Silvia Federici, *Re-Enchanting the World: Feminism and the Politics of the Commons* (2015)

You can find the texts on the student server under:

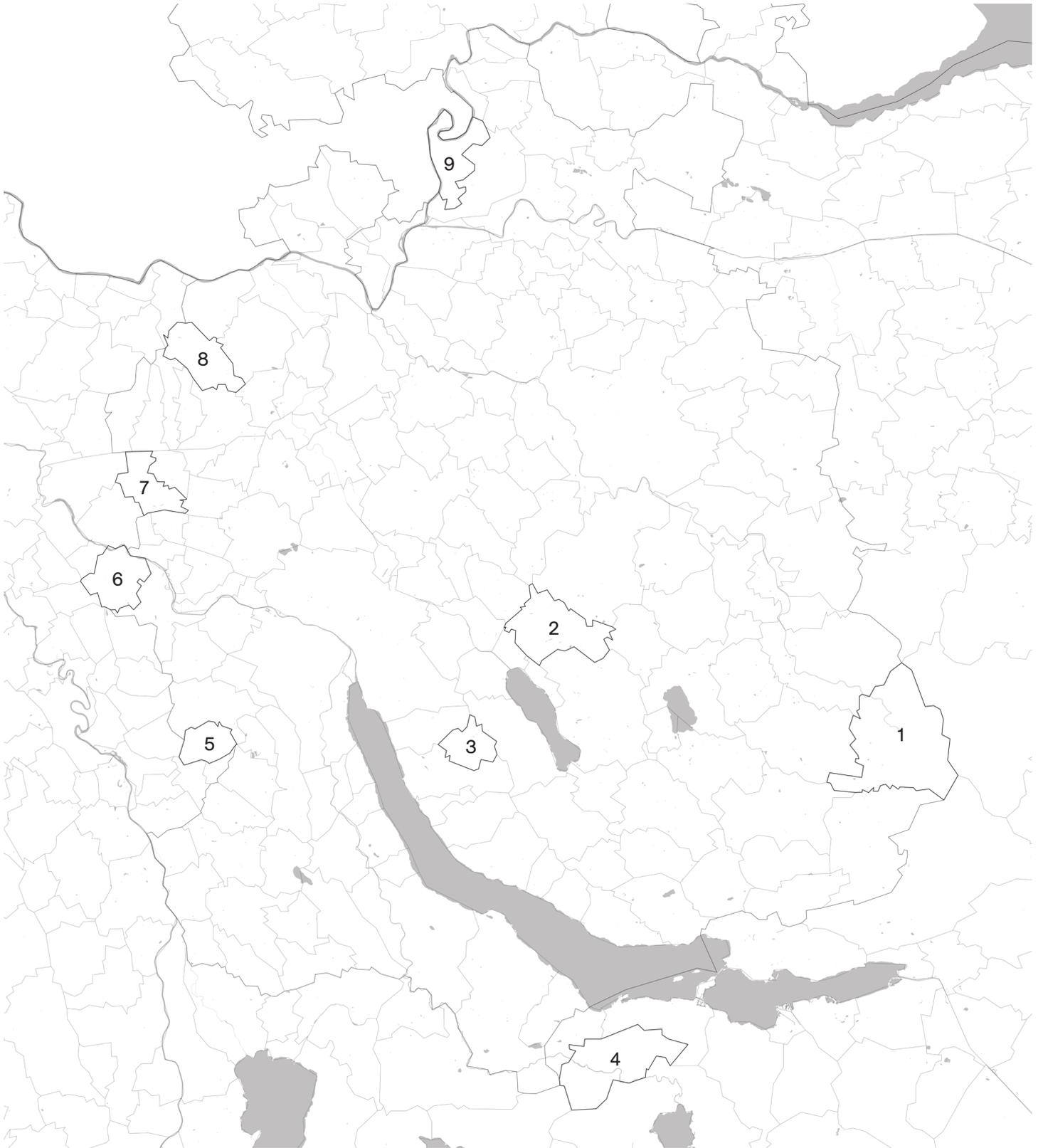
2_RESOURCES/02_TEXTS

Submission To support your oral presentation (max. 20 min) please bring (printed out):

– sketches that reveal the key concept of the text

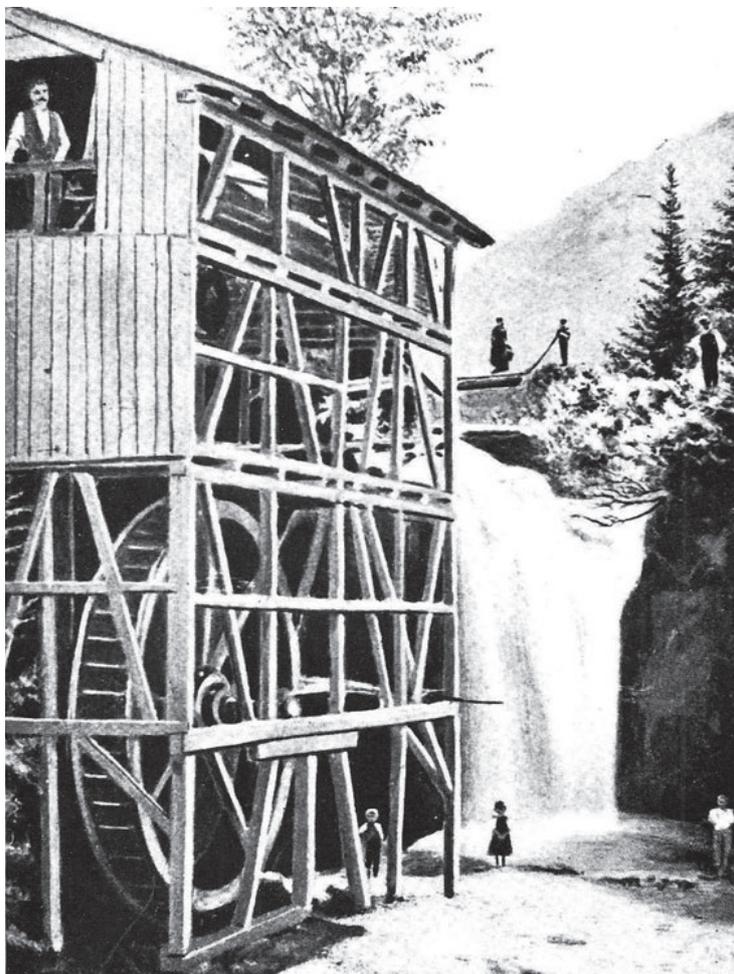
– relevant imagery (can be images from the text or additional material)

– the questions submitted by your fellow students



The Villages

- 1 FISCHENTHAL
Making of an Arcadia
- 2 VOLKETSWIL
"Göhnerswil" and the Future of Housing
- 3 ZUMIKON
Landsehnsucht
- 4 FEUSISBERG
Dorf der Milliardäre
- 5 AESCH
Communal Commons
- 6 SPREITENBACH
Seventy Nations Village
- 7 OTELFINGEN
Heritage and Autonomy
- 8 BACHS
Slow Valley
- 9 RHEINAU
Heterotopian Potentials



Population	2 501	inh.
Surface	30.2	km ²
Population Density	83	inh./km ²
Population Growth	9.2	%
Elevation	740	m.a.s.l.

Sawing mill at Burri in the 19th century, commune of Fischenthal

1 FISCHENTHAL

Making of an Arcadia

Located in the Zürcher Oberland and covered by 61 % with forest, Fischenthal is one of the most remote and less populated communes of the Canton of Zurich. The community also stands out for the lowest vaccination rate against Covid-19 in the entire Canton and a high proportion of SVP voters. The street village of Fischenthal is located on the narrow valley floor of the river Töss between the steep and forested slopes and grassy hilltops of the Zürcher Oberland. It's remote and challenging pre-alpine conditions have obstructed its urbanisation and have made Fischenthal one of the poorest communes in its region. Whereas other places like Turbenthal down the Töss were able to industrialise in the 19th century, Fischenthal was left out of this development because the water volume of the Töss was not sufficient to power fabrics. The peasants relied on farming, forestry, and home-based work instead. Still today, it is one of the communes with the lowest tax power per inhabitant. The region tries to reinvent as a recreational area for the agglomerations of Zurich, Winterthur, and Rapperswil-Jona. Hiking trails or the cross-country ski trail at Gibswil attract city-dwellers.

We would like to better understand the major changes Fischenthal has undergone throughout its history. What were important moments, events and actors that explain Fischenthals social and spatial structure today? Who lives in Fischenthal? What does the remoteness of Fischenthal mean for the life of the inhabitants of the commune? To what extent does the governing concept of the *Gemeindeautonomie* work for such a commune? How can the natural resources of Fischenthal such as the water, the forest, the steep slopes be seen as not as an obstruction, but a potential beyond recreational valorisation?



Population	18 865	inh.
Surface	14.0	km ²
Population Density	1 344	inh./km ²
Population Growth	6.8	%
Elevation	475	m.a.s.l.

2 VOLKETSUIL "Göhnerswil" and the Future of Housing

The commune of Volketswil, located in the upper Glatt Valley just north of the Greifensee, consists of the main village Volketswil and the hamlets of Hegnau, Zimikon, Kindhausen, and Gutenswil. When visiting Volketswil its historical settlement structure is hardly recognizable. The boundaries of the villages and hamlets are blurred into the continuous urban sprawl between Oerlikon and Uster. What led to this current condition? The start of the massive transformations can be dated back to the 1960s. Volketswil was not only a puzzle piece in the overall urban expansion and boom in housing construction on the Swiss plateau in that era, but played an important role that strongly relates to the construction company of Ernst Göhner. The importance of the Ernst Göhner AG can hardly be overemphasised: between 1966 and 1975 alone, every tenth newly built apartment in the Canton of Zurich was pre-fabricated in the central production plant for the Ernst Göhner AG in Volketswil, IGECO. But Volketswil was not only a centre for pre-cast concrete panel production. With the *Siedlung Sunnebüel* the village was also the site for the first and one of the biggest pre-fabricated settlements in Switzerland with over 1100 apartments. The settlement gained national publicity under the nickname "Göhnerswil" in the 1970s—a term coined by students at the architecture department of ETH Zurich in a publication that framed the Ernst Göhner AG to be the epitome of a profit-oriented housing construction in a capitalist system. When the TV reportage *Die Grünen Kinder* declared the Göhner settlements to be "breeding grounds for damaged people" in 1973, the reputation of large-scale mass housing projects was ultimately ruined in Switzerland. Slowly the focus of urban expansion shifted towards a different housing model, that persisted until today, also in Volketswil: the single-family house.

We would like to revisit the controversy around "Göhnerswil" and better understand the heated debate that happened in the 1970s. In the face of the current debates around *Zersiedlung* and land consumption, what can we learn from the ideas and concepts of that time? What do the current residents of the Göhner settlements think of their living environment? What could be the future of housing for Volketswil? What if we see the village as a neighbourhood in a larger territorial constellation that extends beyond "the city"?



Population	5 587	inh.
Surface	5.5	km ²
Population Density	1 020	inh./km ²
Population Growth	7.7	%
Elevation	620	m.a.s.l.

Ernst Gisel at his atelier house in Zumikon, 1957. Photo: Beni Truttmann

3 ZUMIKON

Landsehnsucht

Perhaps more than any other village in the Canton of Zurich, Zumikon had to serve as a projection surface for the educated urban middle class and their ideals of a life in the countryside. Zumikon's appeal lied in its attractive geographic position: located 200 metres above Lake Zurich on the picturesque plateau of the Pfannenstiel chain, but still well connected to the city of Zurich. The Forchbahn, already connecting Zumikon to the City of Zurich since 1912 and the opening of the golf course in 1930 illustrates how Zumikon transformed very early on into a place beyond "rural." This development reached its peak in the 1960s and 1970s, when the global phenomena of *Stadtflucht* reached Zurich and the Landsehnsucht led the middle classes and the wealthy elites to colonise areas of rural idyll around Zurich. In Zumikon this manifested itself in numerous experimental housing projects such as the Siedlung Seldwyla (Guyer et al., 1975–78), the Haus Bill (Max Bill, 1967) or several projects by renowned architect Ernst Gisel, including his own private villa (built in 1966). In 1977 the Forchbahn and main road were moved underground and subsequently a new village centre was planned and built above the resulting roof in 1982. It was controversially discussed as either an "ideal village" or as a symbol of the "steingewordenen Schweizergeists" of the 1980s. Nowadays, as the village centre has to be refurbished, the discussions on what constitutes an ideal village centre and what the village life of Zumikon should look in the future, are revived. Demographically the Landsehnsucht of the 1970s still reflects in Zumikon's current inhabitants: the commune has the third-largest tax base in the Canton of Zurich, land prices are very high and the population is overaged—too many pensioners, too few children—leading the communal government to subsidise middleclass families that want to move to Zumikon.

We would like to better understand the major changes Zumikon has undergone throughout its history. How did the key concepts of village life that manifested themselves architecturally in Zumikon over the decades? We ask you to strive towards an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the village and its socioeconomic structures. What are the challenges in Zumikon today and what can we learn from current practices and projects happening in and around the village?



Population	5 427	inh.
Surface	175	km ²
Population Density	310	inh./km ²
Population Growth	12.1	%
Elevation	685	m.a.s.l.

4 FEUSISBERG

Dorf der Milliardäre

5'400 inhabitants, one of the lowest tax rates in Switzerland and a scenic location on a terrace 350 meters above Lake Zurich turn the commune of Feusisberg into one of the most exclusive and wealthy communes in the metropolitan region of Zurich. The commune entails two main villages, Feusisberg and Schindellegi. Although Schindellegi was always the bigger and more important village, the communes were merged under the name of Feusisberg in 1848. Schindellegi's relevance derives from its strong strategic location at the "gateway to central Switzerland." It lies at a topographic bottleneck between the mountains of Etzel and Höhronen, where the famous Jakobsweg toward the monastery of Einsiedeln, as well as an important roman north-south trade route crossed it's paths. The scenic location (on many winter days the villages lie above the notorious Swiss plateau fog), but still in close vicinity to the centre of Zurich, led the commune to become a popular air health resort in the late 19th century. Today, in most cases, only the architectural remnants of the spa hotels and panorama restaurants are what remains. After the implementation of very low tax rates, Schindellegi and Feusisberg turned into a mecca for the super-rich, attracting numerous multi-millionaires and billionaires, among them the owner of Kühne+Nagel logistics, the owner of Peek & Cloppenburg, the CEO of Fiat, the CEO of Julius Bär, or famous Swiss sport stars like Martina Hinggis or Simon Amman—to name a few. The ten most wealthy inhabitants provide for 35 % of the commune's income, enabling Feusisberg to provide excellent public infrastructure despite its low taxes, such as all-day child care during holidays, small classes, and sport facilities. The communal marketing also attaches great value to those communal facilities, highlighting its "intact village life" and the "active community."

How well these statements stand up to a deeper insight and to what extent one can speak of an active village community under the absurd circumstances are two of the questions to be examined during the semester. We would like to better understand the major changes Feusisberg and Schindellegi have undergone throughout its history. Who were the main actors and key events that led the villages to become "Dörfer der Milliardäre?" What are the negative implications of such a socioeconomic model also for the wider context of territorial politics and "communal competition?" Who are the people and communities who live and work in the commune, apart from the super-rich? What is their perspective?



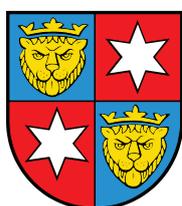
Population	1 709	inh.
Surface	5.2	km ²
Population Density	326	inh./km ²
Population Growth	61.4	%
Elevation	540	m.a.s.l.

5 AESCH

Communal Commons

The commune of Aesch belongs to the Knonauer Amt, a region that lies in the 30-minute-radius of the City of Zurich and has been attractive as a residence for former city dwellers over the last decades. The commune lies on a flat plateau and has a history as a peasant commune. With the first wave of urban exodus in the 1960s, developers discovered the construction of large new settlements in villages outside of Zurich as a reaction to this development, the community of Aesch founded a *Dorfgenossenschaft* (village cooperative) with the aim to control the development of the village and preserve its rural characteristics. The *Dorfgenossenschaft* was responsible for the development of a number of row houses and single family houses, they called into life the position of a *Dorfbauer* who was instructed to support the farmers in the commune, and they invested in the communal life. In recent years, the population of Aesch has been growing substantially by new incomers from the city, made possible through the disposition of building land and enhanced by the construction of the *Westumfahrung*, a new highway bypass, which brought Aesch even closer to Zurich for car drivers. The new inhabitants seem to seek certain benefits of rural living, such as more space, lower rents, a greener environment, quick access to recreational areas, while maintaining ties to the city as a place of work or entertainment. Building developers both benefit from and enhance the increasing attractiveness of the location.

We would like to better understand the major changes Aesch has undergone throughout its history. What happened to the *Dorfgenossenschaft* of Aesch? What can we learn from it in the face of continuous urban pressure? What impacts does the rapid growth of a commune have on its social life and cohabitation? Does the widespread model of remote work change rural communities and create new concept of a life beyond urban and rural stereotypes?



Population	12 126	inh.
Surface	8.6	km ²
Population Density	1 410	inh./km ²
Population Growth	11.5	%
Elevation	417	m.a.s.l.

6 SPREITENBACH

Seventy Nations Village

With over 12'000 residents Spreitenbach exceeds our traditional image of a village. It is one of the most multicultural communes in Switzerland, its share of foreigners is with over 50 % higher than the City of Zurich or Geneva and residents coming from over 70 different nations. On the downside, Spreitenbach has to fight with many xenophobic and anti-poor stereotypes, continually being denounced as a "ghetto" in Swiss media and in the general public. Yet, its residents seem to have formed a strong identification and pride towards their life in the commune. The transformations that led to this current social and spatial structure only began in the 1950s, when Spreitenbach was still a rural village. Spreitenbach lies in the valley bottom of the Limmattal between Dietikon and Baden. Although part of Aargau, it borders the Canton of Zurich and is still part of the urban continuity of the City of Zurich. So when the urban population was growing rapidly in the 1950s, Spreitenbach was chosen to accommodate new large-scale mass housing projects. Another reason to choose Spreitenbach were the liberal laws of Aargau enabling non-married couples to live in the same apartment. Designed by Klaus Scheifele, a local planner, the *Richtplan* for Spreitenbach was finally approved in 1960, enabling the construction of one of Switzerland's first high rise districts, the Längacker. The *Richtplan* also enabled the construction of the Shoppi Tivoli, opened in 1970, Switzerland first and largest (still today) shopping centre. With it Spreitenbach gained regional importance. Its high rises still dominate the skyline of the Limmattal today. Because of reasonable rents, Spreitenbach's population transformed over the decades. Waves of immigrants, most recently in the 1990s refugees from the Balkans, led to its current social structure.

Who are the people and communities who live and work in the commune today? We would like to better understand the major changes Spreitenbach has undergone throughout its history. What were the political ideas and architectural concepts that led to a transformation of its spatial and social structure? What can we learn from the large-scale projects from the 1960s? What spatial changes will be needed in the future in order to adapt to its changing population and to enhance the village life?



Population	2 943	inh.
Surface	7.2	km ²
Population Density	412	inh./km ²
Population Growth	21.4	%
Elevation	440	m.a.s.l.

7 OTELFINGEN

Heritage and Autonomy

In the famous publication *achtung: die Schweiz* from 1955, Max Frisch, Lucius Burckhardt, and Markus Kutter formulated the idea of building a model city based on highly modern urban design principles as a sign of Switzerland's departure into the modern world and at the same time as a measure against the housing shortage in Zurich at that time. In a following study, the group of architects around Ernst Egli und Ernst Winkler found ideal conditions for the projection of their planned city in Otelfingen: The project of the "Neue Stadt Otelfingen" or "Furttalstadt" was born. The pros and cons of such a city were intensively discussed in the press and public, but neither the population nor the authorities of Otelfingen were actively involved in the process. The envisaged destruction of nearly the whole historical village core triggered insecurity and later massive resistance from the residents of Otelfingen, preventing the project's realisation finally in 1961. Remnants from the planning were however implemented with the *Richtplan* of 1963, enabling also the construction of the gigantic iconic Jelmoli warehouse in the newly designated industrial zone.

Nowadays the old village core is not only still existent, but has been declared a heritage and an "Ortsbild von überkommunaler Bedeutung", showcasing the paradigm shift in urban planning over the decades. The addition of the Jelmoli warehouse to the regional heritage inventory, and the existence of the Schipkapass-Bahn—a shut down train line between Baden and Bülach (image left page)—raise the question of what heritage means in the case of Otelfingen today. Similar to the local resistance against the "Neue Stadt," the residents of Otelfingen unite these days to fight plans for the construction of a new landfill for excavation materials that is planned close to the commune—again insisting on their communal autonomy.

What if we examine Otelfingen through the notions of heritage and autonomy? Can we learn from the heritage of the "Neue Stadt" that was never built? We would like to better understand the major transformations Otelfingen has undergone throughout its history. What is seen as heritage today? In what way is the resistance to top-down decisions still palpable in Otelfingen today? On what levels can Otelfingen act autonomous and in what ways is it dependent on supra-regional, cantonal, and national agencies?



Population	613	inh.
Surface	9.1	km ²
Population Density	65	inh./km ²
Population Growth	3.1	%
Elevation	470	m.a.s.l.

8 BACHS Slow Valley

The village of Bachs is only 17 kilometres beeline from Zurich main station, yet it takes longer to reach it with public transport than going to Schaffhausen, Zug, or Aarau. Its meagre mobility network is not the only thing that constitutes the "slowness" of Bachs and the Bachsertal. Nestled in the picturesque valley of the Bachsertal, the village stands out through its idyllic, sparsely built landscape surrounding it. The built area of the commune takes up only 3 % of the total surface. Apart from its rather remote location, this specific landscape morphology exists due to an extensive act of landscape protection on Cantonal level in 1969, when the whole Bachsertal became a *Landschaftsschutzzone*. This "froze" the valley in its current condition, prohibiting any change in zoning. At that time this top-down decision was naturally answered by a strong resistance from Bachs residents who saw their scope of action strongly restricted. The slowness of the valley also reflects in Bachs slow food network. 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 so-called Bachsermärt has five branches in Bachs, Zurich, and Eglisau, selling regional and organic products from all over the Canton. In Bachs itself, the market, a bistro, and an upscale restaurant also offer apprenticeships, creating job opportunities for young people.

Is this action enough to ensure an active village life also in the future? We would like to better understand the networks that were and are present in Bachs today. What is the resident's view of their village and valley? Do they embrace the concept of slowness or do they fight it? What can we learn from past and present pioneer projects in Bachs? What happened to the Beizergenossenschaft? Can we take slowness as an alternative concept to urban life and expand it to more areas of the village life? What is their position to the Landschaftsschutz nowadays? Does it bring protection or stagnation?



Population	1 316	inh.
Surface	8.9	km ²
Population Density	147	inh./km ²
Population Growth	1.1	%
Elevation	370	m.a.s.l.

9 RHEINAU

Heterotopian Potentials

Rheinau has a long history of being "different"—a heterotopia within its surroundings, the farming-dominated villages in the Zürcher Weinland. The reason for this "otherness" is strongly tied to the monastery of Rheinau, a prime example of a heterotopia. The catholic monastery founded in 778 was early under political pressure after the reformation spread in the territory of Zurich. Its unique geographic location—in three directions enclosed by the Rhine river that also marks the german border—was a strategic advantage used to collect trade taxes and also led to a cultural orientation towards Germany. The monastery was suspended in 1862 and subsequently turned into one of the two largest psychiatries in the Canton, another typical example for a heterotopia. With the psychiatry the social structure of the village changed, attracting social and health care workers. After the psychatry moved from the monastery into more modern facilities the commune has undergone another major transformation, becoming a hub for several ecological, cultural, and social projects—the most famous one being an experiment on basic income that was launched in 2016. This peculiar social structure is reflected also in the voting patterns of Rheinau, making it the most "left" commune in the Canton, only topped by the City of Zurich—again highlighting the potential of Rheinau as being "different" to the very conservative surrounding communes of the Weinland.

We would like to better understand the major changes Rheinau has undergone throughout its history. What were the key transformative moments defining the village life today? We ask you to strive towards an in-depth and comprehensive understanding of the village and its socioeconomic structures. Can we find ideas of common values, of communal practices, of social solidarity, and of commoning resources and labour in some of the current projects in Rheinau, and what can we learn from them?

GIS Data Geoportal des Bundes
map.geo.admin.ch

Geoportail Kanton Zürich
maps.zh.ch

Geoportal Kanton Aargau
ag.ch/app/agisviewer4/v1/agisviewer.html

Geoportal Kanton Schwyz
map.geo.sz.ch

OpenStreetMaps
openstreetmap.org

Gisco EuroStat
ec.europa.eu/eurostat/de/web/gisco/geodata/reference-data

Overview available GIS-Data Switzerland
ydac.ch/?q=de/opendata

Historical Maps and Images Old Maps Online
oldmapsonline.org

Kartenportal.CH
search.kartenportal.ch

ETH Library – Geodata & Maps
library.ethz.ch/en/Resources/Geodata-maps

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

Digital Resources

National 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-facts-heet.html Credit Suisse – Commuting and Real Estate: Visualisation & Data credit-suisse.com/media/assets/private-banking/docs/ch/privatkunden/konten-und-karten/vivakids/spiele/schweizer-immobilienmarkt-2020/en/index.html
Other Useful Information	Historisches Lexikon der Schweiz hls-dhs-dss.ch Schweizer Gemeindeverband (Swiss Association of Communes) chgemeinden.ch/

Server Structure

URL `smb://nas22.ethz.ch/arch_nsl_topalovic_student/`

GIS Library `.../0000_GIS-LIBRARY`

Studio FS22 `.../2022_FS_VILLAGE LIFE/`

`.../1_SEMESTER INFO`

- Student Info
- Poster
- Semester Programme
- Reader
- Inputs (Introductions, Lectures, Tasks)
- Permission Letters

`.../2_RESOURCES`

- Fonts
- Templates
- Texts
- References
- Village Research Data

`.../4_SUBMISSIONS`

- Reading Sessions
- Atlas
- Midterm Review
- Final Review

`.../6_STUDENT FOLDER`

- Personal exchange folder for group work

Evaluation & Teaching Environment

Group work	The evaluation is based on the process as well as on the final result of the group work and will be evaluated as a whole. That means all students from the same group will also receive the same grade. We believe that different standpoints and vivid discussions in the group are an important part of teamwork and ultimately lead to better projects. Nonetheless, if any unresolvable problems should arise inside your group, please contact us.
Evaluation criteria	We will evaluate the work by incorporating the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Rigour of field research and investigative analysis– Clarity of argumentation and narrative structure– Comprehensive conclusions and project brief– Relevance and quality of project proposal – Independence & self-initiative– Creativity & representation– Participation & team work – Atlas– Oral presentation with slides– Online reportage
Written statement	After the semester, each student will receive a short qualitative written statement as a supplement to the grade.
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, please contact Evelyne Gordon (gordon@arch.ethz.ch) from our chair or Elisabetta Giordano (giordano@arch.ethz.ch), the official D-ARCH contact in case of inappropriate behaviour.

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