

Project studio Fall 2013 «Residential high-rise building on the Spree riverfront, Berlin»



Badeschiff Berlin

What happens in a city when monument and habitat coincide?

Residential towers, unlike normal buildings, constitute points of orientation in a city and their erected volume enables them to create a space with one another, they form the city skyline for far-away views. This means that they characterize the city and become its memory. The core of the task will be to engage with the architecture of a high-rise building that is inextricably linked with urban development. The ground floor provides the relationship to the city and anchors the building's structure as an enhancement to the urban environment. On the other hand, the aim is to develop a large volume structurally and in terms of design, based on the logic of structure and proportion.

Selected references as well as a one-day excursion to paradigmatic examples in Berlin during the theory seminar will provide a basis. Great importance will be given to the structure of the building and to the supporting framework and the course will integrate the input and assistance of a construction engineer.

Led by: Ursula Stücheli | Beat Mathys
Organised by: Markus Zimmermann

Project elop*6 Fall 2013 «Crossroads / Crossfunctions – Stanford / Palo Alto»

elop* has since its outset in 2009 been engaged in complex tasks that can only be tackled successfully by multi-disciplinary teams. The elop* program works with students and faculty from an international network of partner universities (elop*alliance).

After five editions, which took place in Switzerland, China and Germany, in 2013 the program goes for the first time to the USA. Stanford University, an elop*alliance partner, has taken the initiative to organise elop*6 in fall 2013.



Palm Drive looking from Stanford University towards Palo Alto

The challenging and complex nature of the context and the theme at stake are ideal for an elop* project. The inspiring research and academic environment of Stanford and Silicon Valley bring an extra layer of motivation to the project. The specific focus of the elop*6 project «Crossroads / Crossfunctions – Stanford / Palo Alto»

will be the development of innovative concepts for future sustainable solutions in multifunctional infrastructural environments. In doing so, the participants will deal directly with stakeholders of diverse nature (academic institution, real estate investors, infrastructural planners, local population, administration and of course the world-renowned technological start-up community of Silicon Valley).

Stanford University and the City of Palo Alto live in quiet competition with each other. Much of the non-academic space of the campus lies in the jurisdiction of Palo Alto (the shopping center, hospital, research park etc.). Palo Alto provides utilities to the campus, as well as the fire protection. Furthermore, the Palo Alto Unified School District, educates the children of faculty and graduate students at schools located both on and off the Stanford campus. Stanford, in turn, offers world-class facilities, walking trails, and entertainment events for the community.

Recently, a mostly vacant piece of campus land right at the edge of campus and bordering downtown Palo Alto, now referred to as 27 University Avenue, was suggested for large scale development.

The task will be to develop a localized plan for this piece of land that takes an affirmative stand as to its status as campus, or city, or both, develops a 21st Century Research Park and maintains smart-growth principles, incorporates sustainable solutions, suggests improvements to the transportation infrastructure and anticipates future growth.

Led by: Kathrin Merz | Key Portilla-Kawamura
Coached by: Guy Lafranchi

Project studio spring 2013 «Learning from wood, Low-budget housing in Libreville»



Model by Tringë Qerreti, Student JMA

Which type of housing is the most adequate for as many inhabitants as possible in the underdeveloped city districts («quartiers sous-intégrés») and suburbs of Libreville. This issue formed the rationale as well as the initial question for the studio «learning from wood».

Using interviews and general surveys carried out among workers associated with the company Ecwood (the local branch of Häring Holzbau AG in Eiken), the students explored the specific context. Making use of this background, the students were given the following task: planning of a small district with 500 units on a fictitious building site. The units, mainly made of wood, were to be prefabricated or do-it-yourself. The students from Gabon, present under the exchange program at the Bern University of Applied Sciences, participated in the studio as experts during the intermediate and final reviews. Representatives of the above-mentioned company were also involved in the process, during the presentation of the task, the final review and also in the context of the visit to the parent company in Eiken. The studio was conducted in an interdisciplinary manner with students and lecturers from the Bachelor of Science in Wood technology as well the Joint Master of Architecture. The one-week workshop on the premises

of the «site expérimental d'architecture» in Cantercel in the south of France allowed the students to experience their skills in these open and exceptional surroundings. In groups of four, consisting of students of architecture and engineering, they could implement the findings gained during the semester on site.

16 variants of the 500 units are documented as plans and models in detailed scale. The challenge of the task consisted, on the one hand, in finding and investigating the form of housing, bearing in mind the local context and the constraints imposed by the minimum budget of the target group, and, on the other hand, in developing the projects up to the detailing and constructive implementation, considering its feasibility using prefabricated or do-it-yourself construction modes.

The studio will be continued within a research project. The projects will then be confronted with local conditions and real circumstances, with the aim of passing on the developed prototypes for the use of the future inhabitants.

Led by: Alain Fianza
Organised by: Corina Ebeling

Project studio «Learning from wood, Low-budget housing in Libreville» from a student's point of view

«Arriving at the BFH on the Erasmus program, my reception was warm, informative and welcoming. The school's design team has an unparalleled experience and knowledge of the world of architecture and they are eager to engage and drive students in pursuit of a deeper understanding of their approach to architecture. From seminars to the studio, I was exposed to rich and detailed topics and theories of architecture presented in distinguished quality. I relished the flexibility and diversity in module selection and studio preference.

I felt the most engaging aspect of the semester was the studio. My studio FS13 was based in Gabon, Africa, and was conducted in conjunction with ECO-wood, a local timber housing company. ECO-wood proposed to tackle the growing demand for low-budget and self-built homes, and this need shaped our studio brief, i.e. to create an architecture that could form our developing world. To begin with, five hundred houses were planned and that number would ultimately expand to five thousand. This allowed several design opportunities – from micro to macro – to be engaged in, because such aspects as urban planning, material investigation, market analysis, construction, detailing, project management and cost control were all integrated at critical stages into our design process. This created parameters that demanded efficiency in detailing and architectural prowess, with a deeper understanding of materials. Corina Ebeling formed a studio environment that was focused and driven.

Another key factor for the success of this studio was the wide diversity in theoretical approaches and cultural backgrounds, allowing for a multifaceted cultural evolution in design. Students from Africa, Columbia, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Ireland, Japan, Kosovo, Morocco, Portugal, Romania and Switzerland, all took part. Analysing and integrating the developments and results from the surrounding modules, like wood plus and profile search, allowed for a more practical implementation of static information. With wood plus, the culmination of knowledge gained during the semester was actively expressed during our time in Cantercel. This is a wonderful site in the south of France with breathtaking views and energetic locals. Here a platform was created which allowed for large-scale modeling and testing of conceptual ideologies that were fostered during the semester with Ulrich Baierlipp. This short week

was a chance for architects and engineers to integrate, while also understanding the process of their design and connecting disciplines of the built environment. Overall, the BFH offers a great student experience backed up by a team of dedicated staff.»

John Hanrahan, Erasmus Student from Ireland

Theory Seminar Fall 2013 «Urban Threshold – Reading Berlin»



Karl Hubbuck: Kids on the road 1930

During the autumn semester, three design studios of the Joint Master in Bern, Fribourg and Geneva will focus on Berlin. The theory seminar S4 therefore serves both as a general introduction to the city and its history. The topic of the seminar is the threshold, which, according to Walter Benjamin, does not constitute a border but rather a «transition zone». The urban space of Berlin, that inspired Rem Koolhaas's metaphor of the archipelago, proves to be historically constituted and structured as thresholds, a history which began not with one but with two cities (Berlin and Cölln): thresholds communicate inner and outer spaces, public and private spheres, sacred and profane, new and old building (parts), watched and unwatched spaces but also fast and slow traffic areas. It is at the thresholds that, in a multicultural city such as Berlin, social, cultural, national and ethnic contrasts merge and are in some instances even cultivated as interesting meeting and connecting spaces. We read the threshold as *that which joins the antagonistic*.

In contrast to the border, it not only separates or divides, it also simultaneously conjoins and thus emerges as an ambivalent or even multivalent zone. Its function of joining and separating disparities makes the threshold, for our reading of the city, the architectural elemental unit of the urbane which, following Richard Sennett, we understand as the ability of people to cooperate with one another without imposing the prerequisite of sharing the same identity. On all different scale levels – from the door threshold, the window, the front garden through passages, courtyard entrances to bridges, green belts and city gates, we use different instruments of analysis (sketch books, texts, cameras on mobile phones or photographic/cinematographic apparatus) to establish a threshold catalogue in the form of short cinematographic essays. The theory seminar takes place in Berlin on the former interzone area between east and west Berlin in the culture workshop (Kulturfabrik) «Flugtraben». It will be accompanied by introductory lectures by Berlin experts: Markus Draper (artist), Dieter Hoffmann-Axthelm (historian of architecture and of Berlin), André Deschan (Dr. des Architecte Beuth University Berlin) Anna Bernegg (Landscape-Urban Design Architect - Urban Catalyst Studio Berlin).

Led by: Tim Kamasch
Organised by: Annette Spindler
www.ahb.bfh.ch | www.jointmaster.ch



What are the benefits of the Joint Master?

- > The competencies to lead an architectural project from the problem analysis to the constructional implementation.
- > The working skills for entering competitions; from the initial analysis up to the submission of a competitive project
- > The constructive logics to implement architectural projects into the specific constructional and economical reality.
- > The architectural and social competencies needed to lead a team in the planning industry or your own office.
- > An internationally accepted university degree allowing you to work abroad and take part in competitions.

International Exchange

Students of the Joint Master have the possibility to study one or two semesters abroad at one of the following partner universities: in Aalborg, Ahmedabad, Amsterdam, Bordeaux, Brussels, Dresden, Lisbon, Monterrey, Paris, Seville, Shangahi, or Tokyo.

Collaboration with Fribourg and Geneva

The Joint Master of Architecture is offered by the Bern University of Applied Sciences Architecture, Wood and Civil Engineering

(BFH-AHB) in collaboration with the College of Engineering and Architecture of Fribourg and the Haute école du paysage, d'ingénierie et d'architecture de Genève. One theory week per semester takes place in Fribourg and Geneva. Lessons are held in English. The Joint Master studies can be completed in 4 to 8 semesters on either a part-time or full-time basis. The start of the autumn semester is during calendar week 38; closing date for applications as May 31. The start for the spring semester is during calendar week 8; closing date for applications is October 31.



Das Joint Master Team 2013

Stephanie Bender, Ulrich Baierlipp, Jochen Christner, Alain Fidanza, Tim Kammasch, Beat Mathys, Kathrin Merz, Key Portilla Kawamura, Vera Reid, Philipp Schaerer, Annette Spindler, Ursula Stücheli, Rahel Steffen, Markus Zimmermann und Stanislas Zimmermann.

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