

SPRING+FALL 2022

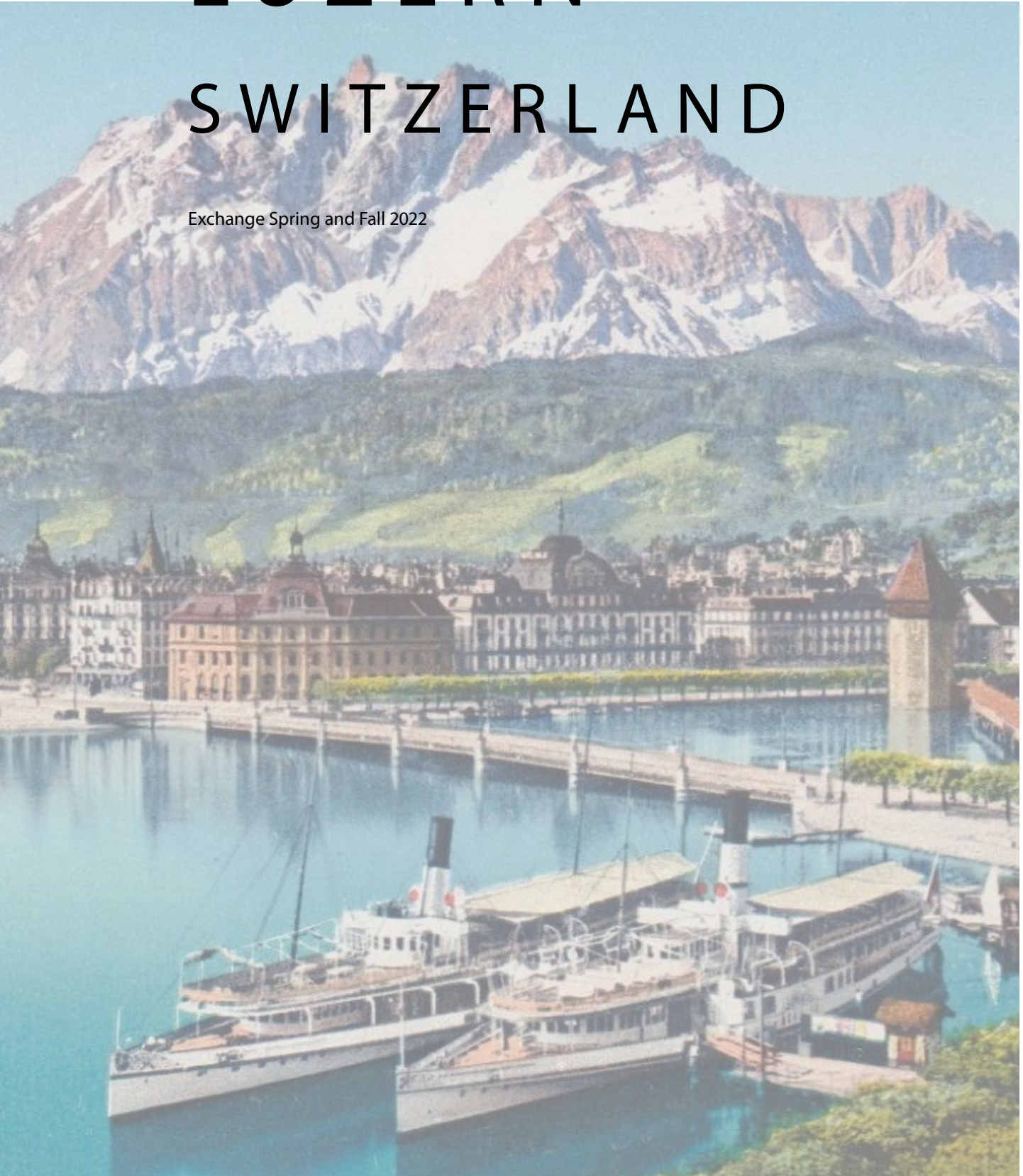
LUZERN

SARA BJØRNEVIK

Hochschule Luzern

LUZERN SWITZERLAND

Exchange Spring and Fall 2022



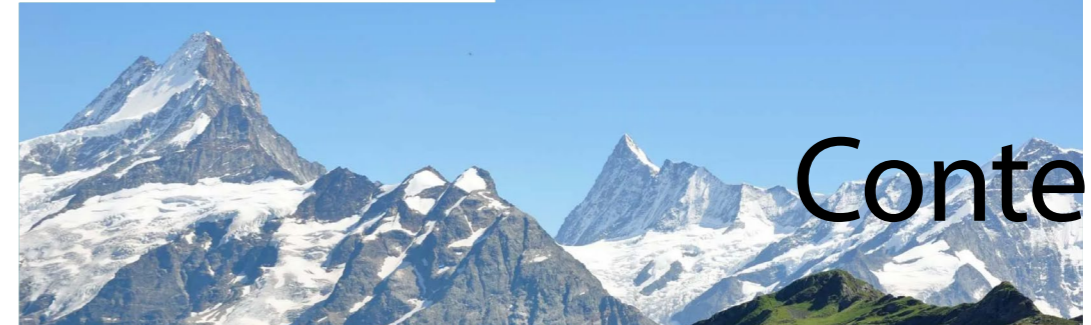
GENERAL INFO

Program: Master in Architecture
 Country: Switzerland
 City: Luzern
 Home Institution: Bergen School of Architecture
 Host Institution: Hochschule Luzern (HSLU)
 Faculty: Technik und Architektur
 Time: Spring + Fall 2022
 Student: Sara Bjørnevik



Panorama of Luzern

LOCATION



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SCHOOL



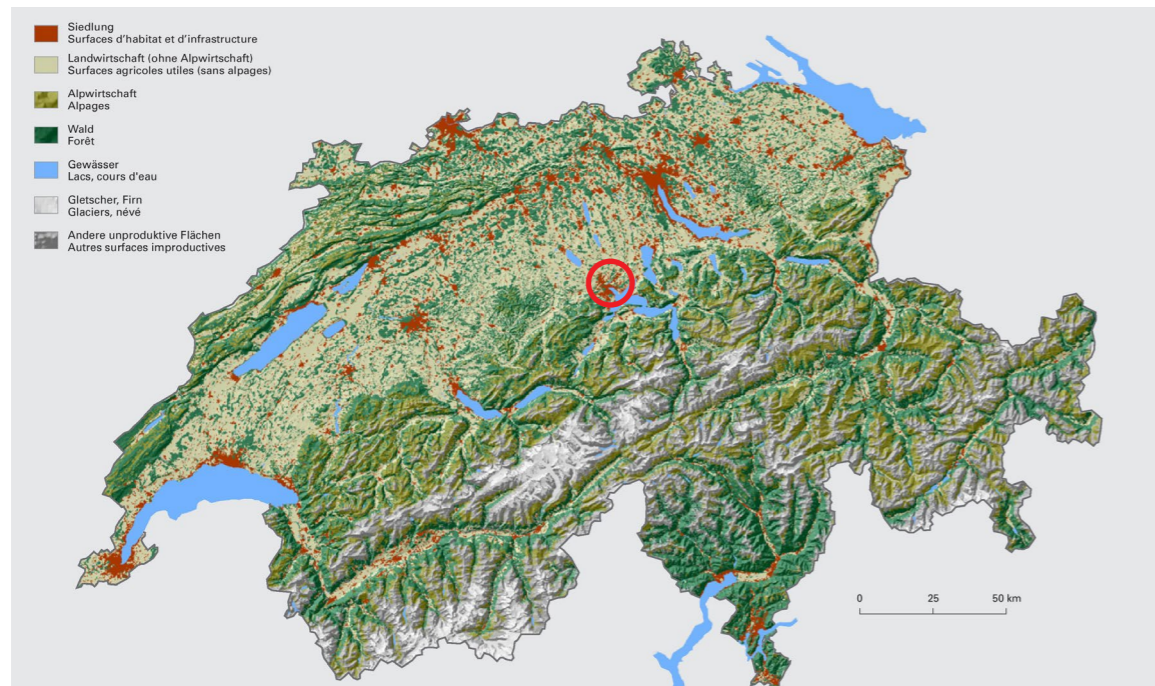
CLASSES



BUREAUCRACY

SWITZERLAND

Luzern is located in the middle of Switzerland, along the shore of the Swiss lake "Vierwaldstättersee". It was long the shores of this lake that that Swiss confederation was founded.



Switzerland is a country located in the middle of Europe. Switzerland can be geographically divided into three parts. The Swiss alps in the south, the swiss plateau in the middle and the Jura mountains in the north. All the large cities are located on the swiss plateau, but Luzern is placed in the transition from the plateau to the Swiss alps.

Switzerland consists of 26 cantons, similarly to the states in the US. It has four different languages: German, French, Italian, and Romansh. Switzerland is famous for its beautiful nature, award winning cheeses, and creamy chocolate.



ME

When I moved to Switzerland I was a 8th semester student at the Bergen School of Architecture. I am currently on my 9th semester and will return to Norway to write my thesis.

I chose to do an exchange semester here because it has similar architectural challenges to Norway, however because of its location, it is much more influenced by the rest of Europe. It is only an hour by train to both Italy and Germany, and two hours to France and

Austria. Everything in Switzerland is of very high quality and it feels very safe, which is quite reassuring as a student in a new location.

I would recommend to come here because it is a beautiful country with much to do and to experience. In addition it is a high quality study programme that will surely give you alot of new knowledge to complement your education form BAS.



ENGELBERG A skiing location only 30 minutes from Luzern - also Andermatt is amazing



luzern



THE SCHOOL

The faculty of Architecture is located in Horw, a bit outside the city of Luzern. The campus is shared by Architecture Students, Engineering Students and Interior Architecture Students. It is a great setting to be in and a great opportunity to meet many different people.



The campus consists of these four buildings all called Trakts. The Master in Architecture is located in the top floor of Trakt IV. The furthest one from us on this photo. The large building on the right is where the library and canteen are located. It is not far from campus to go down to the lake and in the summertime we went there to swim in between lectures.



On the top floor of Trakt IV, there is a large room where all the Architecture students are located. Here you find a place at a desk and place your rented locker underneath it. This will be your working spot for the semester. Usually studios sit together.



Outside spaces - there are a lot of nice outside spaces that are widely used. The weather is usually nice and it's not so cold. It is therefore common to eat your lunch outside.



Mensa - The main canteen offers a wide range of meals every day. It is a bit expensive, but it is nice to have the opportunity to buy warm foods and sandwiches. Each day they offer two meals (one normal and one veggie) for around 6-8 CHF. They also have coffee, snacks etc.



Elephant Bar - outside the main canteen, there is a little building housing the Elephant Bar. It is open each Thursday and Friday. Here they sell great coffee, and a killer cheese toast. It is common to have a beer here after studio sessions on Thursdays.

CLASSES

It is a bit different to BAS in the way that instead of one semester project you take part in several classes to constitute 30 ECTS. You choose which classes you will take part in, but it is normal to choose the following: Focus Studio(12ECTS), In Depth Study (6ECTS), Basic Lectures (3ECTS), Focus Lectures (3ECTS), Keynote Lectures (3ECTS), Study Trip (3ECTS).

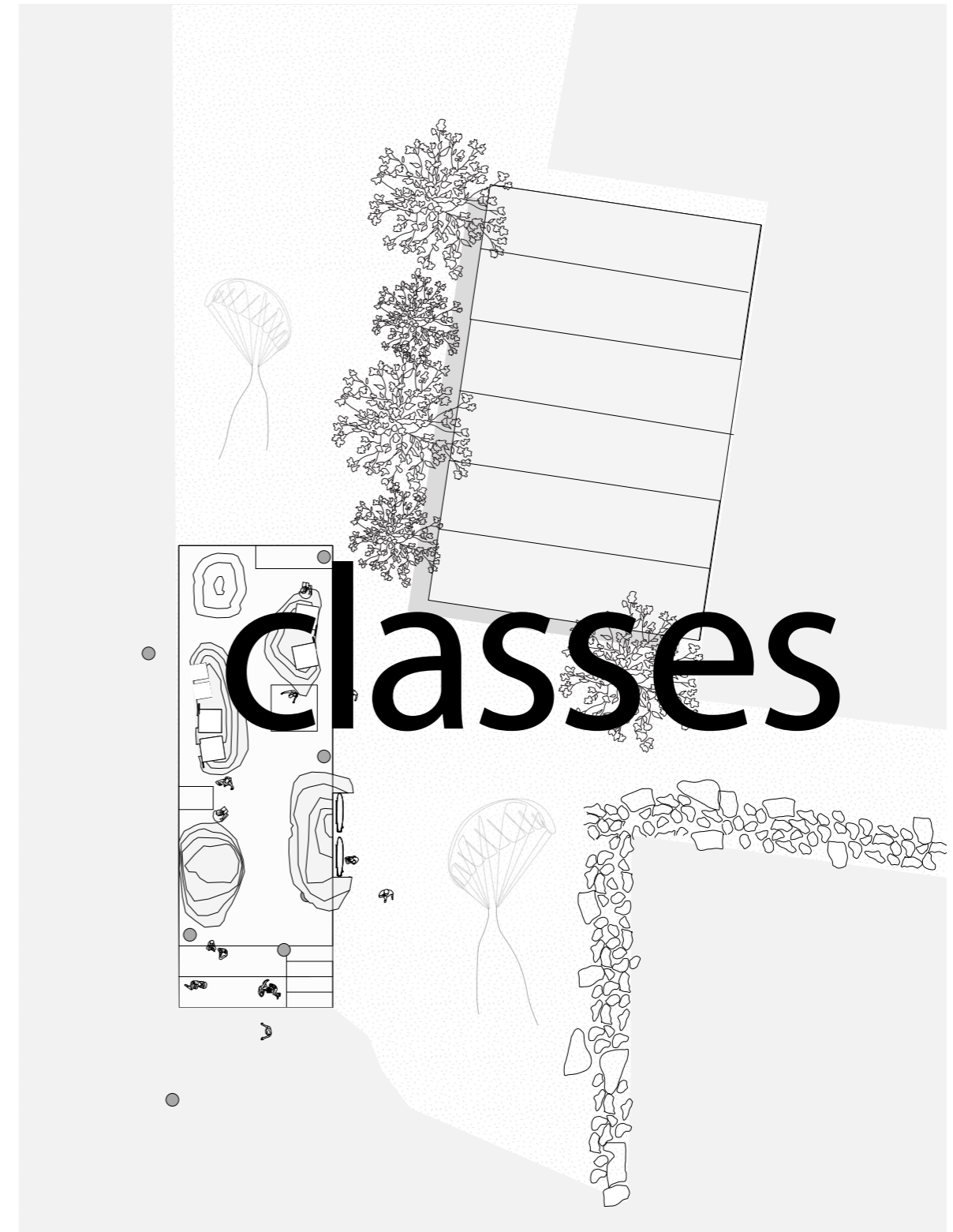
All studios, lectures and trips are done in English. I had no problem with the language as the professors were very fluent in English. There is also a reasonably large percent of exchange students, so it is quite natural that most tutorings and critiques are done in English.

In all subjects there is a high academic level. I was a bit afraid of the school being very technical, but in my opinion it is quite similar to BAS. Maybe a bit more refined models, and less working hand drawings, but in my experience the teachers learn to appreciate different working methods. It is however a more specific theoretical focus as you are doing four other subjects than studio.

In the two studios I have taken part in there has been a clear list of things you have to produce for the final. This is quite nice and good to have, but I have also seen that if you feel like it makes sense for your project to deviate from this list, that is also ok.

However they are much more concept focused and less processed focused. This means that it is important to both have a complete drawing set,

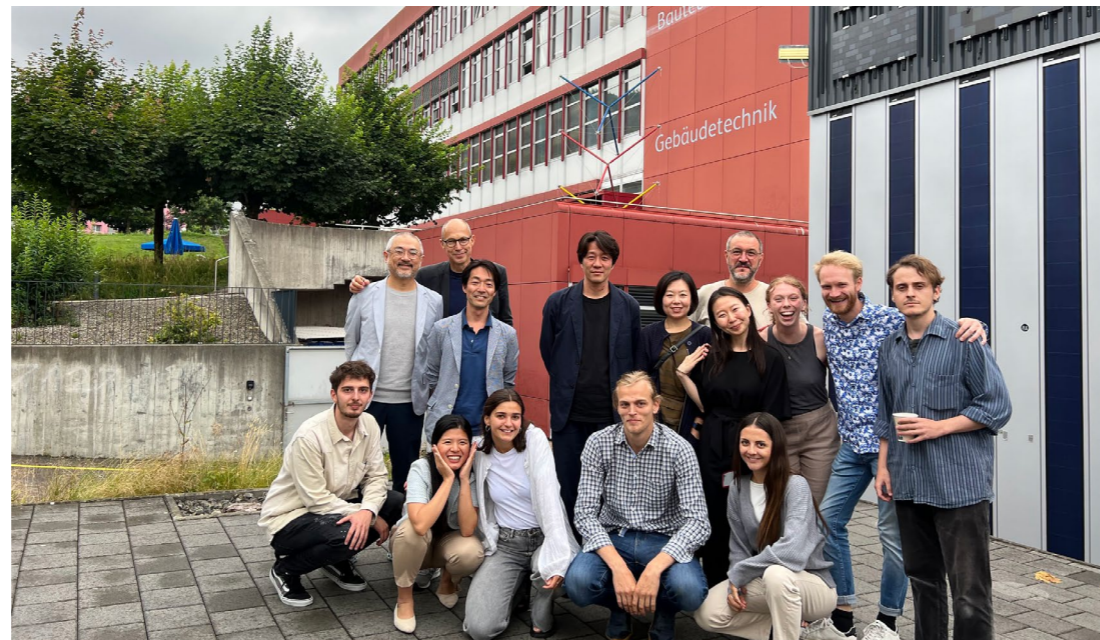
and technical detail drawings of parts that are important to your final concept. This should be accompanied by a model of important parts of the project, and renderings/collages of your the design.



FINAL CRITIQUE The professors from Japan joined our final critique together with our Swiss teaching team



MODEL BUILDING We built a common site model of the whole lake



THE STUDIO A group photo of the studio after the final critique

STUDIO

12 ECTS

This is very similar to the semester on BAS where you do your design project. There are three studios to choose from: Structure, Material and Energy.

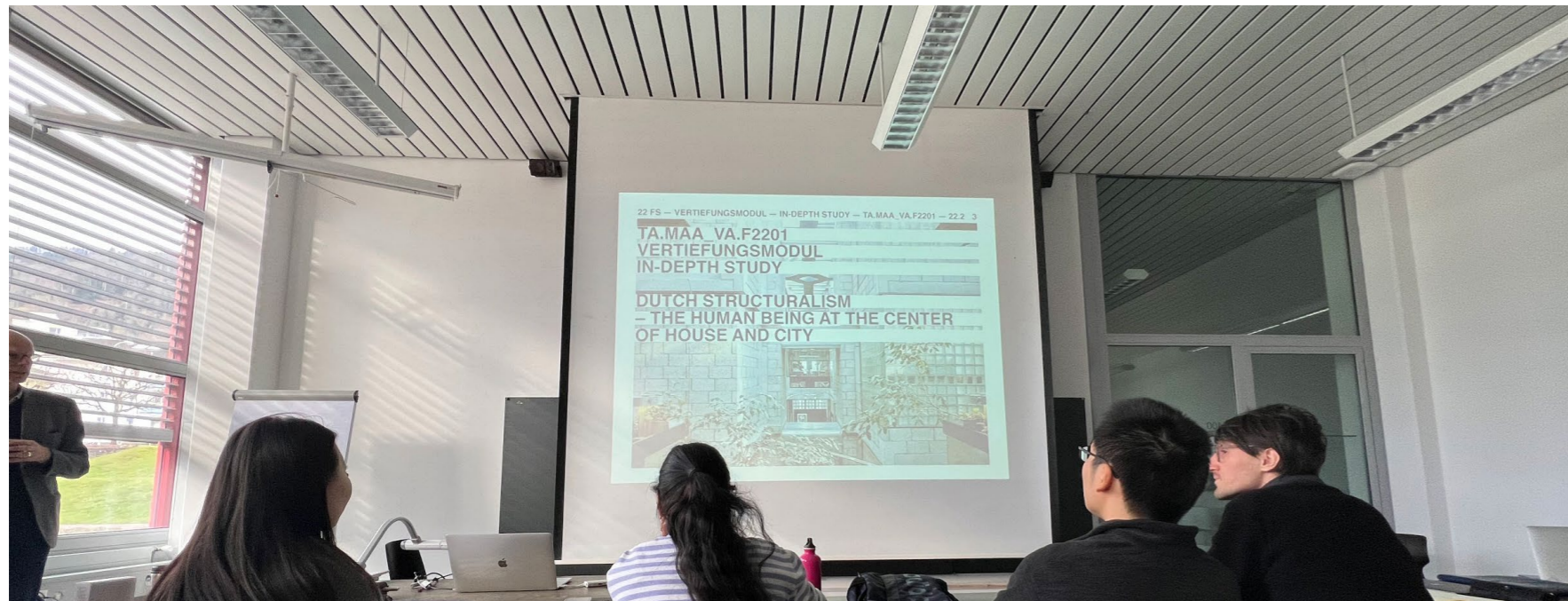
For my first semester I did Focus Material. We worked together with Kyoto Institute of Technology on The Culture of Water with themes Eternity and Stone. Our site was along the shores of Vierwaldstattersee and it was a great introduction to the area. We had to find a program and a site by ourselves.

This semester I am doing Focus Structure. Which is much more technical and more focused on construction.

I think that it is useful to do two different studios because the teachers are very different and this way you will get the most out of your stay.

PRESENTATIONS

In the beginning of the semester there are usually several presentations on the theme



IN DEPTH

6 ECTS

In depth usually takes place on the whole Tuesday. It starts with lectures on the semester theme. Later on there is usually several reading seminars where students read texts at home about the subject and discuss them in groups.

The subject consists of two main tasks:
The Building Portrait and the Final Submission

After all the lectures and reading seminars, the students are given a building to write a short text on. This is done within a strict template. All the Building Portraits are then collected into a common "Book" that constitutes research on examples of the theme.

The final submission is a longer text usually around 3000-4000 words on a chosen subjects within the semester theme. This too is done in a strict template, and all the texts are printed and collected into a final collective library on the theme. This task is presented in class in the final presentation.

22 FS — VERTIEFUNGSMODUL — IN-DEPTH STUDY — TA.MAA_VA.F2201 — 22.2.3

SEMESTER STRUCTURE WORKING PHASES

PHASE 1
"READING / REFLECTING / DISCUSSING" (CERTIFICATE, 10% PARTIAL GRADE SEMESTER)

- VARIOUS THEMATIC INPUTS
- READING SEMINARS
- SIGHTSEEING
- TEXT EXERCISE BUILDING PORTRAIT

PHASE 2
"APPLICATION / PRESENTATION" (CERTIFICATE, 20% PARTIAL GRADE SEMESTER)

- DEVELOPMENT AND PRESENTATION OF A SELF-CHOSEN TOPIC IN THE AREA OF THE SEMESTER TOPIC
- SUBMISSION OF DRAFT TEXT

PHASE 3
"CONDENSING / WRITING" (CERTIFICATE, 70% PARTIAL GRADE SEMESTER)

- WRITE A TEXT CONTRIBUTION FROM THE LECTURE TO FINAL PRESENTATION

SEMESTER STRUCTURE

MONTESORRI SCHOOL, DELFT

NIEDERLÄNDISCHER STRUKTURALISMUS
- DER MENSCH IM ZENTRUM VON HAUS UND STADT

by Sara Bjørnevik

Aerial view of the building after the first two construction phases were finished.

Object	Montessori School, Delft
Address	Jacobus van Boekenlaan 166, 2613 JK Delft
Architect	Herman Hertzberger
Start of planning	1960
Realization	Original building 1960-1966, Extensions periodically 1968-2009

Description

In 1960 Herman Hertzberger designed the Montessori school in Delft, Netherlands. The Montessori education is an individual centered education philosophy. The building is structured almost like a small neighborhood, with a central common street in the middle surrounded by the classrooms on both sides. Both the common corridor and the more personal classrooms provided many nooks and corners that allow the children to embrace their individual needs (whether that would be sitting alone reading or playing together). One of Hertzberger's main beliefs is that any building should be able to change according to the needs of its time. The school initially entailed four classrooms but this was already expanded to five in the initial building phase, and over the next fifty years it doubled in size. The initial street like school, grew to become almost like a small city. Throughout the building the dimensions were carefully articulated. This was done based on research about children's behavior in relation to others.

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1 Van Bergeijk, 1987

Classroom seen from the upper part

MY BUILDING PORTRAIT

Extensions, listed chronologically

The current ground floor plan

Each of the small classrooms are situated individually around the meandering public space and has a unique relationship to the outside and the inside. The schoolyard is open, and is frequently used by the children after school hours. In this small community each classroom would function almost like a home away from home. The children would in collaboration with their teacher plan how to furnish their space by bringing objects and plants from home. Each classroom is L-shaped and has a little entryway to hang coats and backpacks. The intention of these simple design features is to create a unit with many significant places that enable each student to build a relationship to and feel responsible for their space.

Another intention was to create room for several people to be together simultaneously. The classrooms have two different levels that allow the students who want to concentrate or retreat to an even calmer and more private space if they wish. "There can be no adventure without a home base to return to".

According to Hertzberger, children are most comfortable when they are playing in small groups. Therefore, many elements are sized according to a smaller number of children being together. One example of this is the sandboxes in the schoolyard. Each small group of children can play within their sandboxes without any bulks coming to invade or destroy their work. In the public street Hertzberger has included some permanent elements. One of these is a lowered square. This is usually filled with cubic stools, but if children want to play, these can be removed and used as building blocks.

Hertzberger wanted to break down the barrier between inside and outside. One example of this is the entrance. The entrance is configured

CLASSROOM Usually Focus
lectures are held in this class-
room.



FOCUS LECTURES

3 ECTS

Focus lectures take place on Monday mornings. They have a clear theme each year and usually the semester starts with 8-10 Mondays with lectures to give information on this theme.

Last semester we worked on known controversies or known debates within architectural history. After all the lectures were finished we were divided into groups and had to reenact one of the presented debates in class.

In the end of the semester there is usually a submission of a written text of around 2000 words that your grade is based on.

This year the focus had been on 8 different materials, and for the written text we will work on a building where the chosen material is particularly prominent.

LECTURES A photo of a Basic lecture session Monday afternoon in F-Niche.



BASIC LECTURES

3 ECTS

Basic lectures take place on Mondays after lunch. Each year there is a series of lectures followed by groupwork. My first semester we did a collection of references on a theme and built up a little library under one subject. We had to write an introduction to each reference and a reflection on how it was related to our main theme.

Later on in the semester we collected all of these references into one final anthology. This had to be printed and made into a physical book that we could physically present. The book layout should be consistent with the chosen theme.

This year we are working on tabula pleana, which is the opposite of tabula rasa. We are investigating buildings where this has been the case and are given different themes throughout the semester to look into with regards to our building. The submission is usually a written text, a video and a poster.

DIFFERENT THEMES
 Researching on the convent
 with regards to different
 themes



SITE VISIT A photo from a ceremony we were able to take part in in the convent



PRESENTATION Each Friday usually start by a presentation by a guest, followed by group-work assignments

KEYNOTE LECTURES

3 ECTS

Keynotes are a bit different from the two other 3-point subjects. Keynote lectures take place on Fridays and are organized in a workshop format.

There is not grade, but you have to be present on all 6 Fridays to pass the subject.

This year we are working on a convent in Baldegg, with regards to 6 different themes, a new theme each Friday. The work done in groups on these 6 Fridays will in the end of the semester constitute the material that you will hand in.

A STONE CHURCH Looking at local traditions of stone-building



QUARRY We went to visit a local stone quarry to learn about how they mine stone from the valley mountains



CASTELGRADE We visited many touristic sites that had a historic importance in the canton

STUDY TRIP

3 ECTS

Each semester there is an organized study trip. The study trip usually last for a week, and you visit alot of different places with relevance for one of the subjects of that semester. We went with our studio to Ticino because our focus was materials and stone.

BUREAUCRACY

When you move to Switzerland there is several things you need to think about.



Accomodation

They have quite good and cheap student housing alternatives. None of them are straight next to the school, but all are well connected by public transport. It is also quite nice to live a bit away from school since you will most likely spend alot of time here anyways.

Prices are quite similar to Norway if not more expensive.



Health Insurance

To live in Switzerland you have to have health insurance. It is very expensive depending on where you live. Because of the European Health Card you can apply for an exemption. Do this. However, remember that you will need a valid European Health Card.



Residence Permit

As soon as you have your address you will need to go to the Migration Office in your canton to get a residence permit. They require a long list of documents, so make sure you check what you need and bring original copies.



Phone

Several of the Norwegian phone operators give you free data in Switzerland if you have free data in the EU. However not everyone does this, so check your Norwegian subscription before you go. The big Swiss operators are Salt, Swisscom and Sunrise.



Travel

They have similar solutions to Norway in the sense that you can get a monthly travel pass. The bus and train connections are great on campus. However, it can be very expensive so I recommend to get a Half Price Card. It is SBB that is the national transport and they have a great app: SBB Mobile

Sights

