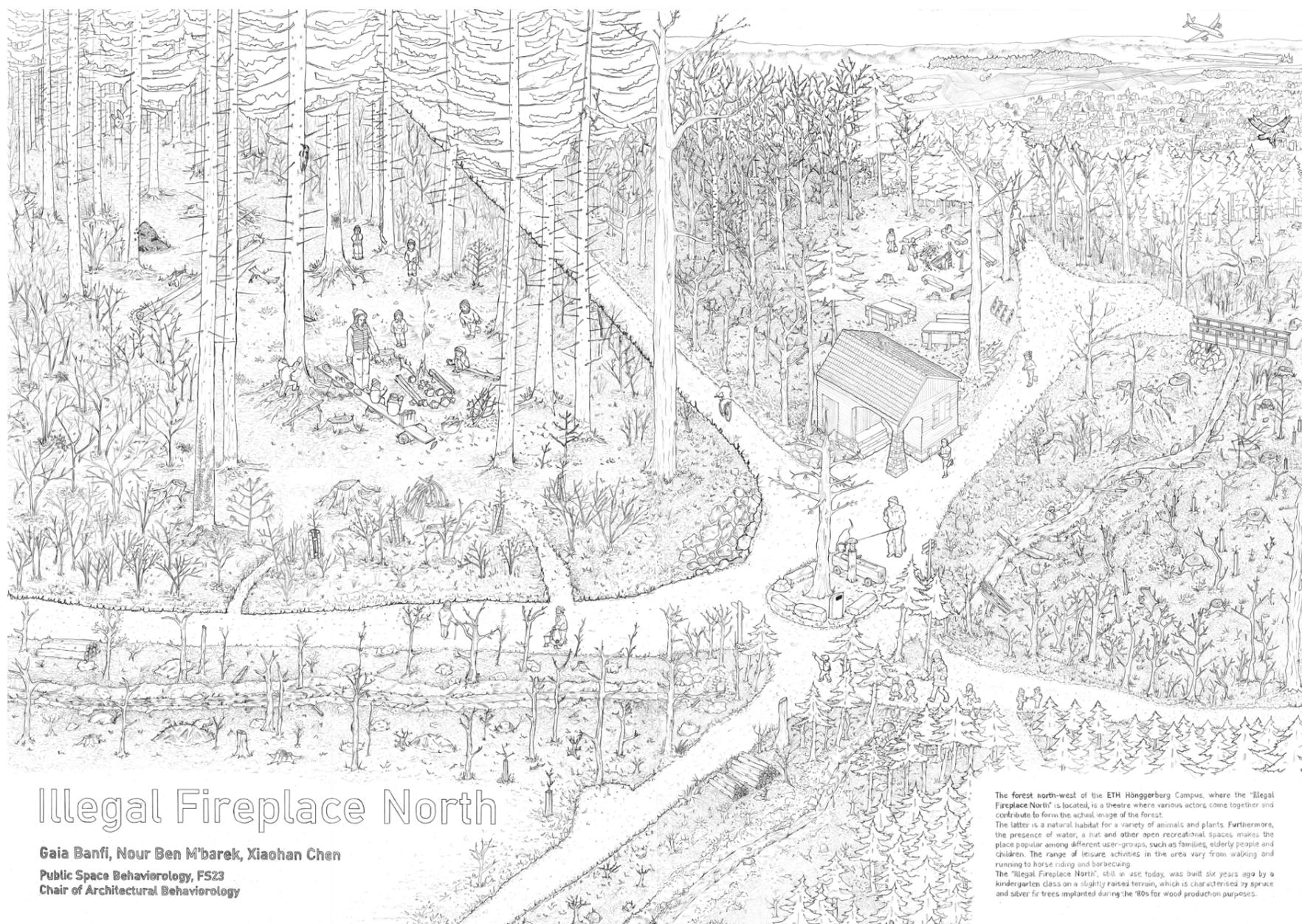


Chair of Architectural Behaviorology



Illegal Fireplace North

Gaia Banfi, Nour Ben M'barek, Xiaohan Chen

Public Space Behaviorology, FS23
Chair of Architectural Behaviorology

The forest north-west of the ETH Höggerberg Campus, where the "Illegal Fireplace North" is located, is a theatre where various actors come together and contribute to form the actual image of the forest. The latter is a natural habitat for a variety of animals and plants. Furthermore, the presence of water, a hut and other open recreational spaces makes the place popular among different user-groups, such as families, elderly people and children. The range of leisure activities in the area vary from walking and running to horse riding and barbecuing. The "Illegal Fireplace North", still in use today, was built six years ago by a kindergarten class on a slightly raised terrain, which is characterised by spruce and silver fir trees implanted during the '80s for wood production purposes.

Public Drawing, Gaia Banfi, Nour Ben M'barek, Xiaohan Chen (FS23)

Public Space Behaviorology in Switzerland Design Studio FS24

Public spaces play a crucial role in our civic and urban life, serving as hubs for spontaneous gatherings, demonstrations, markets but also offering spaces for everyday activities such as eating lunch, having a drink, exercising. The functionality of these spaces significantly influences the quality of life for nearby residents. But what defines a good public space?

To answer this question, we will use the methods of Architectural Behaviorology and build upon previous research in public spaces. Through the observation of spaces in and around the forest we will aim to identify the natural, typological and human actors at play, as well as the rules of interplay between those, which lead to people using specific places. We will look at what activities are happening in a public space and the roles individual actors play in facilitating them. We will explore the tool of drawing both as a way of representing gathered data and a means for design.

With these observations in mind, we will work on enhancing these spaces by designing small structures or furniture. The goal is to make people more aware of the interplay between the different actors

in these spaces, ultimately making them more enjoyable. Working with models, mock-ups and 1:1 installations will provide hands-on experience, fostering a better understanding of materials, construction and various building techniques.

The semester's working method will seamlessly integrate design with research, acknowledging that questions of design are inherently questions of research. Students will formulate one key question concerning the relationship between users and public spaces. Through individual research, they will explore how this relationship can be utilized, strengthened, or altered to enhance public space quality. This research will directly inform the design of the furniture or small-scale structures. In the final phase, we will place the designed structures in the chosen public space and observe to assess whether the design has the desired effect. This cyclical process - between observation, research, design, construction and observation again - serves as the foundation for students to critically evaluate their design work, delve into their individual interests and design philosophies, and foster continuous learning among all participants.

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