

# Care.



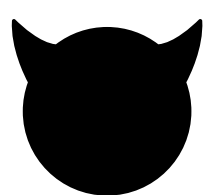
Chair of Architecture and Care  
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De Drie Hoven Elderly Housing by Herman Hertzberger, 1971

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Courtesy SFMOMA and MACK





# Chair of Architecture and Care in collaboration with queerAltern and Queerbeet



# UNFAMILIAR AGEING II



■ The intersection of ageing and a life that does not conform to traditional heteronormative structures requires forms of care beyond our existing provisions. At present, most caring facilities, spaces, services, and legal frameworks are structured around a highly limited understanding of “next of kin”. In recent times, LGBTI+ collectives have been seeking alternative communities and spaces of care that respond to other social realities. In response to the later life stages of homosexual co-living nuclei, single persons, transgender individuals, and other variations of non-conforming coexistence, there has been an emergence of self-initiated architectural projects in a number of different countries. Switzerland is no exception, and associations like queerAltern promote buildings that look at care relationalities from a different perspective, transgressing traditional understandings of family, dismantling binary understandings of ability/disability, and fostering interdependencies and mutual care.

Jack Halberstam argues that queer subcultures produce alternative temporalities that allow life narratives outside paradigmatic markers of life experience. Ageing, and the increase of dependencies associated with it, affects in a differential manner social groups who do not conform to heterosexual temporalities. LGBTI+ individuals often face discrimination when confronted with existing care systems. In response to the lack of public and governmental provision, LGBTI+ communities self-organise and thus depend on activism, volunteer work, and solidarities to function. Many, if not all LGBTI+ spaces in Switzerland rely on, or initially relied on such forms of interdependency and kinship. In most of these scenarios, the need for care is answered collectively, beyond the dichotomy of care-giver and care-receiver.

In response, this Master’s thesis programme will explore alternative caring spaces while understanding bodily dependencies as means to create positive kinships and ageing as a political condition. Ageing tends to be oversimplified, reducing the individual to a non-productive member of society. Often, elderly people are segregated within constricted spaces of heavily regulated care that impede self-determination on multiple planes. In the design process, we will look to the ageing body with all its potentialities, addressing its spaces, contexts, and rituals. The LGBTI+ community will be taken as an entry point to defy assumptions and biases around caring models and collective living. With these premises, we will seek architectural and aesthetic proposals that embrace non-normative relationalities and distributed forms of care at different scales, from the body to the city.



Samantha Nye, *1-800-Flowers*, 2022, Oil on canvas, 53 x 85 inches  
Photo: Constance Mensh. Courtesy: Candice Madey NYC

## ■ AGEING IN NUMBERS

The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that one out of every seven of the world’s population is aged 65 years or over. Based on studies by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), disability prevalence increases significantly with age; people aged 50 to 64 years have more than twice as likely to report a chronic health problem or disability compared to the total working-age population. The proportion of the population aged 80 or over a group where disabilities become more prevalent – is expected to more than double by 2045. Given that Switzerland is an ageing society, these numbers are expected to grow exponentially in the upcoming decades.

In the case of Europe, more than one fifth of the population is over the age of 65. The percentage of the dependent population is expected to grow exponentially. (This is the total number of people from the different age groups who are cared for – economically, physically, etc. – by the productive population. It is composed of people under the age of 15 and those over 65). This line of growth is expected to peak at approximately 75% by 2050, resulting in only 25% of the population being able to provide care for the rest.

In Switzerland, life expectancy has increased from 69 years in the early 1950s, to 84 years. If mortality rates continue to improve, a person born in 2017 could expect to reach 91 to 94 years of age. Additionally, health care costs grow exponentially with age. Those growing costs put pressure on neglected communities, especially women whose lifetime earnings are lower than men’s. Combined with the fact that they have longer lifespans, women face greater risks of old-age poverty.





Transformation of a Wine Storage for a dwelling complex by Esch Sintzel Architekten, 2023

Over the past two decades, Switzerland has seen a shift from predominantly institutional care towards more home-based care. In fact, the majority of care provided for the population with disabilities is delivered at home. However, an important part of home-based care tasks, such as assistance with cooking, cleaning, and taking medication – known as Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADLs) – are not covered by health insurance, placing a larger financial burden on the elderly. In view of this exponentially ageing society, the current system of home-based care quickly becomes unaffordable and ultimately unviable. This is partly because long-term care patients with low to moderate needs will require care not provided by their health insurance, but also because this increase in long-term care needs will face shortages in care workers. There is an urgent need to understand how architecture can respond to these changes, by providing infrastructures of domestic care and by exploring the spatial needs and relationships between caregiving and being cared for.

## ■ ABOUT QUEER AGEING

Recently, there has been a rapid development and change in Swiss demographics, by which an increasing number of ageing people identify as lesbian, gay, bi-/trans- or intersexual. Numbers from the Swiss Federal Statistical Office (FSO) show that at the end of 2018, around 92,000 people were living in a retirement or nursing home, with these kinds of homes caring for a total of 156,000 people over the course of 2018. For the socio-medical care of people at home during 2017, the FSO states that 350,000 people made use of Spitex, the Swiss assistance and care services. With a conservative estimate of 10% of the population belonging to the LGBTI+ community, the number of people from this group in old-age and care facilities is equivalent to a large village, and those using Spitex represent a medium-sized city. According to the respondents from German-speaking Switzerland, only 75 out of 272 facilities (28%) currently care for LGBTI+ and/or HIV+/AIDS clients.

## ■ PROGRAMME

The diploma studio will investigate queer ageing through cooperative housing. Accompanied by a series of ongoing exchanges with Queerbeet and queerAltern, the studio will look carefully into the needs of the ageing queer community in order to propose housing facilities with daily care infrastructures that can also respond to wider neighbourhood needs.

During the preparation phase, each student will propose a brief based on their theoretical research as well as the collective discussions. There should be critical reflection on how ageing relates to disability and sickness, the chrono-normative social patterns shaped by ageism that have been inscribed in architecture, how LGBTI+ ageing experiences may differ from heteronormative ones, and the spatial implications these kinds of otherness involve. Imagining the relationships between the different activities of each programme will determine new scenarios of mutual care, in terms of breaking the boundaries between intimate and collective notions of domesticity, and questioning the family-based organisation of care. Thus, the impact of the designed programme should go beyond the limits of the physical building.

Projects for housing facilities aimed at ageing populations are very common in the Swiss architectural context. However, it could be argued that the adopted approach is often from a point of view of hospitalised control and dependency, rarely addressing questions of social belonging, personal development, and an active participation in public life. Considering the above a central element in the projects, essential infrastructures of care will be rethought in ways that serve both collective and individual wellbeing.



The project and its position within this context should mirror, amplify, and reflect on existing provisions of care – or their absence, if this were the case –, in order to offer alternative scenarios from an understanding of the urban context as an indispensable medium for care beyond the confinement of the home. Recognising the current conflicted relationship between domesticity and care, or the also conflicted isolation of care homes or retirement homes, the projects need to be able to dismantle biased constructs, “unworlding” – or in other words, unmaking – spatial dispositions of inequality and predefined architectures of seclusion. This process of redefinition and reorganisation needs to consider the present context in order to propose a construction that, while implemented at the scale of the building, operates at the same time in a transscalar manner, linking the body to the city.

*The programme should respond to at least one of the following:*

- Domestic spaces that transgress the nuclear family apartment type.
- Domestic spaces that foster intergenerational relationships.
- Domestic spaces that incorporate shared domestic chores.
- Domestic spaces that facilitate medical care when needed.
- Urban spaces for daily routines such as personal hygiene, cooking, eating, laundry...
- Urban spaces for neighbourly socialisation.
- Urban spaces for everyday health care such as taking medicine, first-aid, treatment...
- Urban spaces for elderly empowerment.

## ■ URBAN CONTEXT

In the context of Zürich’s ongoing densification and urban renewal, Zürich West – the former industrial area of the city stretching between the railway tracks and the Limmat river – is undergoing a gradual conversion into a new urban typology, characterised by the replacement of industrial buildings with new buildings, mainly offices but also apartments, commerce, and cultural venues. It is part of the city’s District 5, which was created in 1913 by dividing what was then District III into the three distinct districts: 3 (Wiedikon), 4 (Aussersihl-Hard), and 5 (Industriequartier). The 2022 census recorded 15,888 people living in the area. According to the statistics of the city of Zürich, the industrial district has historically had a population with a predominantly immigrant background. However, its demographics have changed significantly due to its recent urban transformation.

Since the early 2000s the area has seen a number of urban development projects, and has been remodelled into one of the city’s centres of economic growth. In the year 2000, the Maag/Coop/Welti-Furrer/City of Zürich planning consortium asked six





Homes for Senior Citizens by Peter Zumthor, 1993



architectural teams for a proposal for an urban development concept for the 110,000 square metres Maag-Areal Plus area near Hardbrücke train station. The winning proposal was by Diener+Diener with M. & E. Boesch, and the local council set the special building regulations for the area in 2004. The same year, the real estate company Swiss Prime Site (SPS) acquired the site of the former Gebrüder Maag Maschinenfabrik. In 2011, the site saw the completion of the Prime Tower (also known as Maag-Tower), designed by the architectural office Gigon/Guyer. This placed the highest building of Zürich – a symbol of economic development standing at 126 metres – in the former industrial area. While the tower is primarily occupied by offices, it also hosts Clouds, a rooftop restaurant and cocktail bar, a conference centre, the Hotel Rivington & Sons on the ground floor, as well as the offices of Deutsche Bank Schweiz, Homburger AG, Transammonia, Korn/Ferry International, Citibank Switzerland, Infosys, Repower AG, Ernst & Young, Zürcher Kantonalbank, Nexxiot AG, and consulting companies.

Since then, the area has been a constant site of interest, culminating in 2021 when the property next to the Prime Tower, including the event venues Maag Music Hall and Tonhalle Maag, in the former industrial halls, was subject to an invited competition. Swiss Prime Site (SPS) did not initially set any requirement regarding the preservation or demolition of the Maag Hall, and all the participating offices submitted two variants: one preserving and one replacing the buildings. From these projects, two were selected for further revision. Ultimately, the expert jury chose the project proposed by the Paris-based office, Lacaton & Vassal, whose design integrated the existing hall into the new construction. However, the client instead chose the project by the Berlin-based office Sauerbruch Hutton, which had taken the stance of demolishing the existing construction. The project has generated opposition and is currently on pause.

In 2017, the architectural office Max Dudler was commissioned with the addition of a new building, Prime 2, in the northern part of the area, whose “neutral shape” would be suitable for both offices and apartments, with a gross floor area of 30,200 square metres. The building was constructed in 2019, and currently houses the offices of Deloitte. In 2021, the Knecht Group, owners of the transport company Welte-Furrer, planned to further develop the parcel by adding another two identical buildings, Prime 1 and Prime 3. For this purpose, there are plans to demolish the existing parking and warehouse on Hardbrücke, as well as the commercial building at the western end of the Welte-Furrer area.



## ■ SITE

Parkhaus Pfingstweid, Pfingstweidstrasse 1, 8005 Zürich.

Kapazität: 276 Plätze. Owner: Knecht Group.

The prospect of demolishing the existing constructions has been met with opposition, both from local inhabitants and from the Hamasil Foundation who filed an objection against the new construction in the summer of 2023. The site chosen for this semester is the parking lot building, because first and foremost, the construction is in a good condition, its maintenance would have a positive impact in terms of ecological footprint, economy of means, and the collective memory of the site. Additionally, it is characterised by a free plan, with a flexibility that renders it interesting in terms of hosting a variety of programs. The 80-metre long building is divided in two parts by the helical ramps that bring the cars up to the roof. The building is simultaneously generic and specific thanks to its particular morphology, its urban situation next to the Hardbrücke, and its complex political present.

The site is not to be seen as a limited building lot, but rather as the starting point through which to conceptualise an urban territory of care, ranging from the scale of the body to the city. This way, we aim to rethink the boundaries of care, transgressing the domestic and institutional domains where they are conventionally found.

## ■ ABOUT QUEERALTERN

Founded in 2014, the association queerAltern promotes the social life of ageing LGBTI+ people, is committed to LGBTI+ housing, LGBTI+ friendly care and assistance, supports LGBTI+ politics, and organises events. The association has been working with the Foundation for Retirement Homes (Stiftung für Alterswohnungen, SAW) and the Retirement and Nursing Homes (Gesundheitszentren für das Alter GFA) to promote housing and living space for ageing members of the LGBTI+ community as one of the first measures of the Ageing Strategy 2035.

## ■ ABOUT QUEERBEET

Founded in September 2022 in Bern, the association aims to create places of life for LGBTI+ people, rainbow families, and refugees. The association was founded with the aim of proposing a concept of housing for the development project in Viererfeld, responding to an open call for visionary ideas initiated by the Hauptstadt Genossenschaft of Bern (HGB), in 2022. The project “Queerbeet im Viererfeld” won the contract with the HGB, and will subsequently be a part of the new neighbourhood.



Orthophoto of Parkhaus Pfingstweid and its context

Film still from *Life Unrehearsed* by BANPARK Jieun, 2022





# Methodology

De Drie Hoven Elderly Housing  
by Herman Hertzberger, 1971



## ■ PHASE I: PREPARATION 05.02 – 25.03.24

The first phase will be devoted to different forms of research. Firstly, theoretical and historical research will provide a critical framework and the conceptual instruments to address the subject matter. Secondly, contextual research will provide present data on the status quo of queer ageing, as well as an understanding of the urban and social context in which the project will be developed.

Altogether, the research should provide the students with fundamental knowledge and data to position themselves in relation to the topic of queer ageing in the context of Switzerland. Acknowledging the theories, practices, and architectural precedents around queer ageing and ageing in general, the students should identify an area of interest within the topic on which to focus and develop their project.

Students will work in groups of two during the preparation phase. Each group will work collectively and focus on one specific aspect of queer ageing. The readings and cases provided will also be grouped accordingly. This collective research will also be carried out on the site and urban context, based on which each group will hold a performative presentation to communicate their shared perspective. These initial sessions will take place in the larger groups, as a collective happening. We will provide a place to share knowledge, experiences, and thoughts, looking for cross-pollination between student groups and projects. Although the diploma studio is mainly an individual project, working collectively will be part of the ethos of the preparation phase.

Stemming from the lived experiences depicted in the cases, four perspectives are given as entry points to the complex realities of queer ageing: intergenerational relationships, coming out as (gender) queer in later life, sickness and disability, as well as class issues. Through each perspective, students are asked to investigate the following topics: economies, communities, and pleasure.

The studio will start with a collective conversation and will continue promoting collective learning and doing. Architectural design is a task that involves many and demands plurality. We will pay close attention to how we communicate ideas, caring for the words we use and their architectural correlation.

## ■ AIMS

### Theoretical and historical research

The course will start with an immersion in the topics. We will spend our first weeks building up a discourse around queer ageing bodies and architectures of care through readings and lectures. These initial sessions will take place around a common table as a collective happening. We will set a place to share knowledge, experiences, and thoughts. We will pay close attention to how we communicate ideas, caring for the words we use and their architectural correlation.

### Case study

A selection of cases depicted in films will set the starting point for all the projects. Each student will take one case to develop an analysis on the spatial and social conditions of a given situation in relation to ageing and care. These initial cases have an intersectional nature in common. Beyond their particularities, they all expose complex realities that will require a kaleidoscopic approach to care, queer, and ageing relationalities. Different aspects of intergenerational relationships, coming out as (gender) queer in later life, sickness, and disability will be touched on, among others.

We will look at these different realities from an architectural point of view, paying close attention to the spatial configurations of everyday life, focusing on urban relationships, programme organisation, and architectural elements that construct the infrastructures of queer ageing care.

### Quantitative research: Statistics

In order to situate the project within the specificity of the Swiss context, each group will gather relevant data. Starting from the case study, targeted statistical data, and contextual factual information will be compiled to trace a correlation between the qualitative analysis of the case study and the conditions found at present in the Swiss context, and more specifically in Zürich.

The data collected should be used to make informed decisions in the following phases of the project. It is important to situate the area of study within a framework of factual data, which allows us to speculate on future scenarios based on a grounded understanding of present conditions.

### Performative site and context research

After this theoretical phase, students will start studying the site and the particular context of Zürich. During this phase, site information will be provided to students to facilitate their understanding of the context. Students will continue working as research groups and collectively observe, analyse, and reflect on the context in relation to any common themes in their cases studies.

Performance will be used as a tool to incorporate the immediate bodily experience of the site and its urban context. Through a performative walk and a series of actions we will bring together the analytical and the documental with experiential, phenomenological observation.

### Development of a critical position and a programme scheme

In response, students will be asked to take a critical position and define a design strategy around housing and care, which must address different scales: from the body, to the building, to the neighbourhood. Students will define a precise design programme and strategise a management scheme. The programme scheme should critically examine how housing programmes are conventionally set up in Switzerland.

Zollhaus by Enzmann Fischer, 2021



## ■ DELIVERABLES

### → INTERIM REVIEW I

#### An on-site performance consisting of a walk and seven actions

Students are asked to work in research groups to design a guided walk that will represent their collective analysis of the site and the urban context in relation to their cases. Along the walk, each group will carry out seven actions to unveil key aspects of their research. At least two actions should take place in the building. The actions can be as simple as reading a text, handing out postcards or sketches, showing an object, to having a conversation with shop owners, performing a short scene, conducting a brief choreography, etc. The performance will be developed together with the invited performance artist and filmed as part of the final hand-in.

Students are asked to produce at least three of the following kinds of documents. These documents should be incorporated into the performance.

- A site map that represents the walk route;
- A 1:500 urban plan, as a greyscale line drawing (compulsory);
- An urban section, as a greyscale line drawing;
- Sketches that depict their initial observations of relevant architectural and spatial fragments;
- Photographs that capture key moments in their research;
- Found objects that represent key aspects of the site;
- Statistics relevant to the topic and the site;
- Text excerpts from news and social media;

#### A 250-word text

Each group will be asked to write a short text introducing their stance on the topic. Based on the analysis of the case study and the site, firstly, the text should describe the group's specific focus to queer ageing, and the conflictual conditions that arise within it from an intersectional point of view. Secondly, the text should describe how these conditions are inscribed in space at different scales, from the body to the urban, and how space limits or allows certain social practices around queer ageing to happen. Finally, the text should indicate which aspects the project wants to act on and intervene from a spatial point of view.

### → INTERIM REVIEW II

#### 2 multiscalar drawings , on a double A0

A multiscalar drawing is an architectural representation at multiple scales – from the urban to the body – in one single image, tracing the relationship between them. A multiscalar drawing can include different types of orthogonal and non-orthogonal representations, as well as relational diagrams and other forms of graphic representation. It should be a greyscale line drawing.

**Drawing 1:** Students are asked to compose their first draft of the multiscalar drawing with the documents they produced for the performance. Each student will then develop their drawing individually based on their case. The drawing will address the spatial, programmatic, and social relationships in their case, translated to the context of the project site. The drawing should show a critical perspective to the spatial articulation of one aspect of interest from the urban and social context of the site.

**Drawing 2:** An initial draft of the multiscalar drawing will be set up for the design proposal, based on the programme diagram and the plans, sections, and details of the existing structure.

#### A video clip of the performance

The recorded on-site performance should be part of the outcome. It should help bridge the two analytical multiscalar drawings with the live, experiential and on-site aspects of the research.

#### A video clip of the case

Students should select and collage key moments from the film that are relevant to their research.

#### A 250-word text

The text should evolve along with the progress of the other documents.

## ■ EXPECTATIONS

Formulating clear and precise questions, using abstract ideas to interpret information, considering diverse points of view, reaching well-reasoned conclusions, and testing alternative outcomes.

Performing qualitative and quantitative architectural research and translating it into architectural language. Gathering, assessing, recording, and comparatively evaluating relevant information and performance data in order to support conclusions.

Designing an initial strategy in response to territories of care and their characteristics, including the urban context and historical fabrics, soils, topography, ecologies, climate, economies, etc. Making clear architectural drawings and moving images at different scales to illustrate and communicate an architectural design both technically and experientially.

## ■ KEY DATES

- 28.02.24, 14.00 – 18.00, Interim Review I
- 26.03.24, 09.00 – 16.00, Colloquium
- 27.03.24, 09.00 – 15.00, Interim Review II



■ PHASE II: ELABORATION  
26.03 – 25.05.24

The second phase will be devoted to the programmatic and architectural development of the design proposal. Prior theoretical and historical research will provide a critical framework and the conceptual instruments, while the contextual research will provide specific data, and the understanding of the urban and social context of Zürich will provide scenarios in which to design a cooperative housing project addressing queer ageing.

In this phase, each student will articulate spatially how their proposed programme will address queer ageing. Discussions around form, materiality, construction, and structural systems, as well as environmental control and impact, will be part of our weekly conversations. Experts from different fields will provide input to support the development of the project.

Santa Rita Geriatric Center  
by Manuel Ocaña, 2003



■ AIMS

**Formalisation of the project**

Based on the proposed design programme, students are asked to organise the programme spatially, responding to the internal usage relationships as well as the context and characteristics of the site. At this stage, the volume of the spaces will be taken into consideration in order to design their proposal for the three-dimensional programme. The programme and its spatial relationships will be the first step in the architectural design of a cooperative housing project proposing new care scenarios for queer ageing experiences.

Based on architectural precedents, the design of the spaces aims to bring novel architectural propositions into the realm of reproductive care. The concretion of the architectural elements needs to respond to the requirements of the programme, but also address matters of social economy, community space, the structure of healthcare, and pleasure concerning queer ageing.

**Structural, constructive, technical, and accessibility design**

Once the design form and typology have been defined, a series of workshops with different engineers will help develop the design further. Students will be asked to define and solve technical questions crucial to their design. The way the design project is spatially conceived, materially built, and experienced needs to respond to their overarching stance in terms of care. The capacity of a space to activate specific social uses, produce particular sensations, and communicate certain values will be considered in the design.

**Defining the materiality, atmosphere, and temporality of the design**

The design intentions of each project should also be developed through its architectural affective qualities. The use of materials, light, sound, warmth, smell, and so on, defines an atmosphere beyond the visual that will communicate how care is understood in relation to queer ageing.

Students are also asked to design how their architecture is inhabited in time. The time scale of architectural space should allow them to address key aspects of care such as the presence of ageing bodies, labour, mobility, and communities.

■ DELIVERABLES

→ INTERIM REVIEW III

**2 multiscale drawings, on a double A0**

**Drawing 1:** Finalised by the interim review II.

**Drawing 2:** Based on the draft from the interim review II, students will start their design project in an evolved version of the multiscale document, condensing the programme scheme, the theoretical understanding of the topic of “Unfamiliar Ageing”, and the analysis of the urban context. The first draft of this multiscale drawing will be based on the programme diagram and the drawing of the existing structure. Along with the project developments, the following documents should be incorporated into the multiscale drawings.

- A site plan of the urban context at 1:500;
- Site sections of the urban context at 1:500;
- Plans of the project at 1:100;
- Sections of the project at 1:100;
- Elevations of the project at 1:100;
- Detail plans and sections of the project at 1:50 and/or 1:20.

**A 1:200 model**

The 1:200 model should visually show the spatial organisation and the key design considerations at the scale of the building. The model can work as a conceptual instrument to think and test spatial relations regarding uses, as well as the volumetric occupation of the different spaces. When defining the mass and the position of the programme, we expect the students to think about light, air, and any other aspect concerning sustainability.

**A 1:2 mock-up**

Students are asked to build a mock-up of an architectural fragment from their design proposal. The mock-up should aim to communicate design ideas on its finishing and materiality, construction details, and the interaction between body and architectural elements.

**2 video clips**

Finalised by the interim review II.

**A curated shelf display**

For the final physical hand-in and the diploma exhibition, each project will be assigned to a booth with two frontal partition walls for the two multiscale drawings, and shelf displays on both sides that also works as a soft partition between projects. The shelf should be used to display 3D objects (physical models, mock-ups, found objects), static or moving images (video, interior/

exterior images, site photographs, sketches), as well as other media such as texts, booklets, audio, etc. Students are asked to develop a bespoke display proposal that organises their various documents into a narrative that effectively communicates their thesis on queer ageing.

**A 400-word text**

Based on the text from the first phase, each student is asked to expand their specific focus on the theme of queer ageing in the design project. The text should explain how the research has influenced crucial design decisions at the scale of the urban, the building, the room, and the body.

→ INTERIM REVIEW IV

**2 multiscale drawings, on a double A0**

Further developed and finalised based on the interim review III.

**A 1:200 model**

Further developed and finalised based on the interim review III.

**A 1:20 model and 1 interior image of the model, on an A3**

A 1:20 model will be developed during the design phase to articulate the design project at the scale of the room. The model should reflect design choices on light and fenestration, access and circulation, finishing and materiality, construction detail, furniture, and interior atmosphere. The model will be photographed to generate an interior image that represents the spatial quality of a key space from the design.

**A 1:2 mock-up**

Further developed and finalised based on the interim review III.

**2 video clips**

Finalised by the interim review II.

**A curated shelf display**

Further developed and finalised based on the interim review III.

**A 400-word text**

Further developed and finalised based on the interim review III.

Yokohama Apartment  
by ON design partners, 2009



Illinois Regional Library for the visually impaired  
and those with reduced mobility, by Stanley Tigerman, 1978



■ EXPECTATIONS

Using formal, organisational, social, and environmental principles and informing two- and three-dimensional design. Understanding construction and structural systems and their coherent formalisation. Considering the environmental impact and reuse of the design. Making clear architectural drawings and moving images at different scales to illustrate and communicate an architectural design both technically and experientially.

■ KEY DATES

- 30.04.24, 13.00 – 17.00, Interim Review III
- 24.05.24, 18.00, Final Hand-in
- 27.05.24, 09.00 – 16.00, Colloquium
- 30.05.24, 09.00 – 16.00, Final Conversations

■ FEEDBACK

Students will work in constant conversation with the teachers as well as with external voices who will be invited to participate, not only in formal crits and reviews, but also during the project development process. Members of queerAltern and Queerbeet will review the work and provide feedback. There will be three major interim reviews during the semester.



PHASE I	05.02.24	06.02	
	→ 17:00: Downloading the master thesis program.	→ Introduction to the syllabus, ageing and queer ageing in the context of Switzerland.	
		→ Introduction to the course bibliography and the case studies.	
		→ Reading.	
07.02	13.02	14.02	20.02
→ Collective text discussion.	→ Introduction to the programme, deliverables of the 1st crit and the performance format.	→ Lecture by Claudia Thiesen (Queerbeet).	→ Individual tutorials with Joseph Baan.
→ Introduction to the site.		→ Lecture by Irina Davidovici (gta Archives). (TBC)	
→ Site visit, on-site tutorials, and apéro.	→ Individual tutorials.	→ Performance workshop with Joseph Baan.	
21.02	27.02	● 28.02	05.03.24
→ Construction site visit. (TBC)	→ Guest lecture. (TBC)	→ INTERIM REVIEW I	→ Collective review on architectural references.
→ Individual tutorials.	→ Short talks by the members of Architecture and Care.		→ Individual tutorials.
06.03	13.03	■ 26.03	● 27.03
→ Parity Talks 9.	→ Programme diagram workshop.	→ COLLOQUIUM	→ INTERIM REVIEW II.
	→ Individual tutorials.		→ Lecture by Simon(e) van Saarloos.

PHASE II	10.04.24	17.04	24.04
	→ Introduction to display curation.	→ Individual tutorials with engineers and Hindernisfreie Architektur. (TBC)	→ Individual tutorials.
	→ Individual tutorials.		
● 30.04	08.05.24	15.05	22.05
→ INTERIM REVIEW III	→ Individual tutorials.	→ Individual tutorials.	→ Individual tutorials.
→ Lecture by Hindernisfreie Architektur. (TBC)			
● 24.05	■ 27.05	● 30.05	
→ FINAL HAND-IN	→ COLLOQUIUM	→ FINAL REVIEW	
→ Exhibition opening at 18.30.			



# Studio guests *and collaborators*\*

- Angelique Chan
- Anne Lacaton
- Hindernisfreie Architektur
- iLiana Fokianaki
- Illias Hischier
- Irina Davidovici
- Jacqueline Pauli
- Johnny Leya
- Joseph Baan
- Mariam Issoufou
- Marija Marić
- Merve Bedir
- Michael Birchall
- Oliver Burch
- Silke Langenberg
- Simon(e) van Saarloos
- Tanja Reimer
- Vera Sacchetti

\* Complete list of studio guests and collaborators to be confirmed.



Film stills from *Grandma* by Paul Weitz, 2015



Film stills from *Gerontophilia* by Bruce LaBruce, 2013



# Teaching team

ANNA PUIGJANER (she/her) is a PhD architect and researcher, co-founder of MAIO, an architectural office based in Barcelona. Her work, linked to feminist studies, is focused on inclusive domestic architectures able to redefine formerly biased structures. She is currently Professor of Architecture and Care at ETH Zürich. Previously, she taught at the Graduate School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation GSAPP at Columbia University, at the Royal College of Arts, London, and at the Barcelona School of Architecture ETSAB/ETSAV - UPC. Anna has presented her work widely, including the Art Institute of Chicago, the Venice Biennale, and the New York Museum of Modern Art. Her research project Kitchenless City was awarded the Wheelwright Price (2016) by the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

DAFNI RETZEPI (she/her) born in Greece in 1992, is an architect EPFL and a teaching assistant at the Chair of Architecture and Care in ETHZ since 2023. She is a PhD candidate at the University of Bologna, Italy. She is one of the founding members of the architectural office Sujets Objets /, based in Geneva. In 2019, she co-founded the experimental practice Arimna. Interested in the latitudes of practice and the highways of theoretical formulations, her projects and research examine contemporary architectural discourses under the light of relations to the recent cultural, economic, and political past.

LISA MAILLARD (she/her) is an architect and researcher. She studied at ETH Zürich, Goldsmiths (London), and King's College London, and has worked in participatory urban planning processes in Zürich. Her work covers questions related to bodies, gender, sexualities, law, space, and their intersections, with a particular focus on reproductive justice and the spatialities of street-based sex work. Lisa is a founding member of Kollektiv Erika, an informal, non-commercial gastronomy collective. She also works on geolocation for Airwars, a non-for-profit agency monitoring civilian casualties in conflict zones.

POL ESTEVE CASTELLÓ (he/him, they/them) is an architect and researcher. Pol's work focuses on the relationship between body, space, and technology with a special interest in non-conforming bodies, non-canonical histories, and collective, anonymous design. Their work has been presented in different formats, including writing, performative talks, and installations. They are a practising designer and a co-founder of studio GOIG. Pol is also affiliated to the Architectural Association and The Bartlett (UCL).

HE SHEN (they/them) studied architecture at ETH Zürich, with a Master's Thesis on hidden interiors of historical LGBTQIA+ spaces in Zürich. He curated Cabin Crew (gta exhibitions) and Sexkino Roland (Nexpo) with Querformat, examining the built environment through queer art. He makes performative cooking events with Kitchuan, exploring memories and identities through food. He writes on art, performance, and architecture. Shen is interested in how the understanding of space can be broadened through performance.

BARBARA BOSSHARD (she/her) has been president of queer-Altern since 2019 and, on behalf of the association, project manager of the successful cooperation with the foundation Alterswohnungen and the Gesundheitszentren für das Alter. In 2026, the first queer living space in Switzerland, Espenhof – We Live Diversity!, will be inhabited in Zürich. Barbara Bosshard worked for many years as an editor for the Swiss Television and has authored two books. Den Himmel berühren (Touching Heaven) deals with the companionship of her life partner who died of cancer in 2008, and Verborgene Liebe (Hidden Love), the story of the gay couple Röbi Rapp and Ernst Ostertag.

CLAUDIA THIESEN (she/her), \*1973, studied architecture at Bauhaus University Weimar (D). She moved to Zürich (CH) in 2001, where she started her own business as an architect in 2008. In 2019, Claudia founded Thiesen & Wolf Company with Sabine Wolf. Together they develop cooperative housing projects in the non-profit housing sector. Since 2022, as a co-founder of the Queerbeet association, she is committed to provide housing for the needs of queer people. A first project is planned together with the Hauptstadngenossenschaft on the Viererfeld in Bern.

JENNY SCHÄUBLI (she/her) is involved in various housing projects for the elderly. The focus of her work is the development of forms of housing for young and elderly queer people. As a trans person, she is involved in various queer organisations. Jenny has her own office, and has been designing, planning, and building spaces for over 30 years as a qualified interior designer. With a creative mind and an open ear, implementing ideas and offering advice for the organisation, realisation, and construction management of renovations or conversions. A central concern of hers is the strengthening of and networking between various queer organisations.



Members of Asco in 1975. From left to right: Willie Herrón III, Humberto Sandoval, Patssi Valdez, Gronk, and Harry Gamboa Jr



# Learning objectives

## → Forming critical architectural positions

Formulating clear and precise questions, using abstract ideas to interpret information, considering diverse points of view, reaching well-reasoned conclusions, and testing alternative outcomes. Performing qualitative and quantitative architectural research and translating it into architectural language. Gathering, assessing, recording, and comparatively evaluating relevant information and performance data in order to support conclusions.

## → Detailing architectural proposals

Designing in response to territories of care and their characteristics, including the urban context and historical fabrics, soils, topography, ecologies, climate, economies, etc. Using formal, organisational, social, and environmental principles and informing two- and three-dimensional design. Understanding construction and structural systems and their coherent formalisation. Considering the environmental impact and reuse of the design. Making clear architectural drawings and moving images at different scales to illustrate and communicate an architectural design both technically and experientially.

# Evaluation

- Final grade consists of 40% preparation and 60% elaboration phase (fixed).
- Each student's work will be graded as a whole project after the final crit.
- The grade will reflect the work presented in the final crit and the overall progress of the project over the duration of the studio.
- There will be no arithmetic breakdown of the final grade, but a single final grade.
- You will be given formative feedback on the progress of the project in three interim crits and during tutorials.
- Tutorials shall be used to inquire on progress and receive formative feedback.
- By the end of the preparation phase, a decision will be made whether students continue or interrupt the Master's Thesis based on their grades for the preparation phase.
- Written warning will be sent to students at risk of failing, however the absence of such notification is no guarantee of a pass.
- Each student is responsible for recording any feedback during crits. Students are encouraged to coordinate with class peers to take notes during crits and presentations.
- Attendance to all programmed teaching activities is mandatory and only justified absences will be accepted.



# Code of conduct

The studio will comply with all regulatory codes of conduct applying to university life and teaching activities in the ETH.

Further information on ETH code of conduct and conciliation service and respect can be found in the following pages:

- [www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/associates/campaigns-dam/respekt-dam/documents/Code\\_of\\_Conduct\\_Respect.pdf](http://www.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/associates/campaigns-dam/respekt-dam/documents/Code_of_Conduct_Respect.pdf)
- [www.ethz.ch/staffnet/en/emploment-and-work/consulting-and-coaching/difficult-situations/interne-fachstelle-respekt.html](http://www.ethz.ch/staffnet/en/emploment-and-work/consulting-and-coaching/difficult-situations/interne-fachstelle-respekt.html)
- [www.arch.ethz.ch/en/parity-diversity.html](http://www.arch.ethz.ch/en/parity-diversity.html)

In addition, and aligning with the ethos of the Chair for Architecture and Care and the Parity Group initiative, special attention will be put towards any form of discrimination including gender, sexuality, age, ability, neurodivergence, race, ethnicity, religion, and social and cultural background.

# Due dates

- 28 February 2024  
Interim Review I
- 26 March 2024  
Colloquium
- 27 March 2024  
Interim Review II
- 30 April 2024  
Interim Review III
- 24 May 2024  
Final Hand-in
- 27 May 2024  
Colloquium
- 30 May 2024  
Final Conversations



# Bibliography and filmography

Texts and films will have a key role in the studio. At the beginning of the semester, we will immerse ourselves in a series of readings and screenings in order to construct a theoretical and practical understanding of the studio’s driving topics, focusing on care and including but not limited to gender, sexuality, and ageing.

We will delve into queer and ageing theories to build up an understanding and sensibility towards these topics and their correlated social collectives and architectures. The selection of texts aims to help the students gain a minimum critical knowledge around the key theories and positions within the contemporary debate on care. They present a series of tools and examples that may be essential for the development of the research and design.

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Delz, Sascha, Rainer Hehl and Patricia Ventura (Eds.). *Housing the Co-op: A Micro-political Manifesto*. Berlin: Ruby Press, 2020. #Architecture #Kinship

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Labruce, Bruce, dir. *Gerontophilia*. 2013.  
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Lifshitz, Sébastien, dir. *Les vies de Thérèse*. 2016.  
Macqueen, Harry, dir. *Supernova*. 2020.  
Martinessi, Marcelo, dir. *Las herederas*. 2018.  
Meneghetti, Filippo, dir. *Deux*. 2019.  
Mills, Mike, dir. *Beginners*. 2010.  
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Patterson, Jamie, dir. *Tucked*. 2018.  
Sachs, Ira, dir. *Love is Strange*. 2014.  
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Care.