



Flora Ruchat-Roncati, Bagno di Bellinzona Model, 1968

TENDENZEN

A REDISCOVERY

From the 1960s to the 1980s, Ticino was an architecture „hotspot“ which strongly influenced building culture in German-speaking Switzerland and even gained international recognition. In the characteristic landscape south of the Alps where the historical centres, villages as well as agricultural structures were transformed by sprawl, a whole generation of architects dedicated their work to improve the quality of the built environment. And so, it even countered the postmodern critique of modernism with a constructive idea: What is this modernist legacy able to perform in respect of history, landscape and social structures?

The protagonists of this group, such as Flora Ruchat-Roncati, Dolf Schnebli, Luigi Snozzi, Aurelio Galfetti, Mario Botta or Livio Vacchini, have given concrete answers to this question as individuals or in various constellations and cooperation with their projects and built works: private detached houses, public buildings such as an open-air swimming pool and many schools, as well as large-scale planning of the territory.

In 1975, with the exhibition „Tendenzen - Neuere Architektur im Tessin“, this heterogeneous and rich work was shown in German-speaking Switzerland in an exhibition curated by the gta, which spread the fame beyond the borders of Ticino and Switzerland. In the footsteps of the show's legendary catalogue we will explore the phenomenon of this unique architectural scene: How could in a provincial region a whole group of people suddenly develop such a visionary idea of architecture and actually implement it in countless projects?

We will visit, study and discuss these buildings, but also hike to experience them in the landscape. Each evening we will meet various guests, including Mia Hägg and Kersten Geers – both teachers at the Accademia in Mendrisio – at the Villa of VirginiaTech in Riva San Vitale, where we are allowed to stay. The Italian photographer Stefano Graziani will accompany us and, almost half a century after the publication of the exhibition catalogue „Tendenzen“, will seek a contemporary image of this now historical architecture.

TEAM

Julien Bellot
Victoria Easton
Stefano Graziani
Tina Küng
Meng Li
Christian Portmann
Nicolas Rothenbühler
Léonie Zelger
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SEMINAR WEEK

19. – 25.10.2020
Expense category B
(251 – 500 CHF)
8 – 20 Participants
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