Architectural design, the practicing of architecture, can't be separated from the contemplation and description of built architecture. The attempt to comprehend edifices should however stay completely independent of any need to be directly applied. An architectural design can be motivated by the study of a building, but it can also derive from its objection or be completely detached and have nothing directly to do with it.

With this in mind, the semester consists of two parts, that can be treated completely independent from one another.

In a first, four-week workshop, we will scan buildings by Vilanova Artigas, Francesco Borromini, Antoni Gaudi, John Lautner, Louis Kahn, Ludwig Mies van der Rohe or Kazuo Shinohara for their inherent spatial qualities. Individually developed drawings should aim at demonstrating, what can be only experienced subconsciously on-site: revealing spatial relationships and transitions that are only indirectly comprehensible and showing simultaneously what can only be experienced subsequently in reality. In this sense we aim at drawing representations of the analyzed buildings that in their abstraction and content are closer to a written text than to photography, firstly to train this specific skill, and secondly to form a common background experience for the actual design task of the semester, a stadium for the city of Zurich.

The task for the football stadium, one of the politically and publicly most controversially projects of the past decade(s). An assignment like this, with such a rich already existing project-variety, -multitude and -history, demands the gathering of enough information regarding the backgrounds, actors and history of this specific task in order to develop an independent, self-conscious, reflected and critical approach to form the basis for the elaboration and representation of all individual aspects of the architectural design, as for example the volumetric layout, the spatial-programatic organization or the materialization. Hence, we will attempt to design the highly sensitive and controversial project of the football stadium for Zurich as a critical spatialization of its political, social, cultural and/or economic conditions.

We understand the architectural drawing as a means of studying and criticizing a building, the same way we understand the architectural design for a building assignment as a means of investigating and criticizing the conditions of its time and society through architectural tools.

Luigi Moretti, curve per il calcolo della visibilità e curve di equippatebilità visiva in un stadio XII Triennale Milano 1960