



at the end of the World: museums



img. 01 Musée d'Ethnographie de Neuchâtel, (c) Reto Duriet

This semester we will continue questioning Museums as institutions, buildings and practices. Our focus will shift to Neuchâtel, a city with colonial history, and work on the Musée d'Ethnographie. We will deepen our research on the Museum's ecology, imagine new programs and reshape the role of the institution through an architectural intervention, in a future with no objects to display.

The studio focuses on reimagining the role of the Musée d'Ethnographie de Neuchâtel within its urban context, set against the backdrop of Neuchâtel's colonial history. Throughout the semester, we will engage in rigorous research, learning how to critically analyze historical, cultural, and social contexts. We will develop skills to design thoughtful architectural interventions, nurtured by a research phase that enables them to understand the context and its entanglements with Neuchâtel's colonial history.

We will craft architectural scenarios that redefine the relationship between the museum's historical buildings, gardens, and their contents. This process includes creating a program, design, and narrative that reshapes how objects and spaces interact, ensuring that the architectural proposals are deeply informed by their research.

The Studio's mission aims for a „Decolonization from/of the Global Minority“ by breaking down the inherent superiority complex and repositioning the institution and context in which we work, in order to better situate our perception within a long, entangled and multilayered understanding of our place in the world. Through research and architectural design, we aim to contribute to a „Decolonization from/of the Global Majority“ by taking steps to acknowledge the dispossession of knowledge and create thresholds toward their restitutions. Advocating for hyperlocal practices, the studio imagines architecture „at the end of the World,“ rejecting Eurocentrism and embracing non-colonial ways of thinking and designing.

Teaching Team

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