



In early Gartenstädte, the table stood at the heart of domestic life – a place of social convergence where produce from nearby gardens was prepared and shared. It embodied a connection between inside and outside, cultivation and consumption, symbolizing a relationship between the home and its surroundings. Anchoring our exploration around the table as both a physical and conceptual element, we focus on how food production, social interaction, and ecology intertwine within housing projects.

This semester, we focus on Winterthur, a city with a rich garden city heritage. What would a contemporary garden city look like, and how might it balance increased density with the essential need for nature and community? As Donna Haraway writes in *Staying with the Trouble*: “The world is made by those who make it with others. To become-with is to co-create and to be open to new forms of relation that are neither human-centered nor solely human.” We aim to explore innovative, inclusive design strategies that integrate people and nature, from interior spaces to gardens, guided by circular principles in resource use, water management, and biodiversity.

The Gartenstadt concept, rooted in Ebenezer Howard’s vision of small, self-sufficient towns offering healthier living conditions for the working class, envisions homes and their outdoor surroundings as one environment. However, today’s urban densification – characterized by expanding built areas, infrastructure, and sealed surfaces – threatens green spaces, trees, and biodiversity. To create truly livable cities, we must rethink the boundaries of the entrance door and embrace the critical role of the landscape in fostering well-being.

We will analyze the thresholds and borders in existing Gartenstädte to uncover ways in which added density can coexist with vibrant green elements. Our objective is to repair the often-neglected relationship between home interiors and their exterior counterparts – spaces that support both ecological life and social connection. By reimagining the table as a site for preparation, exchange, and shared experience, we seek to revitalize the foundational ideas of the original garden city for contemporary challenges. The goal is to design sustainable living environments that harmonize with their natural context, fostering communities that thrive in balance with nature.

