



Slides from Ernst Gisel Archive, gta Archive

# The Importance of Being Ernst

Atelier Gisel is seeking applications from twenty-four early career architects to resume professional and creative activities of one of Zurich the most important architectural practices. Applicants should demonstrate an interest in documenting, re-imaging and extending the practice's seminal architectural oeuvre built between the 1940's and the 1990's.

Atelier Gisel is a three-storey building near Klusplatz, designed in 1973 for and by the office of Ernst Gisel. Following the closure of the office after six decades of professional practice, Gisel gifted the atelier, alongside his archive, to ETH on condition it remains a place where architecture is practised. In many ways, Gisel's former office set the gold standard for the architectural

and building culture of Zurich in the second half of the twentieth century. We shall use our direct experience of the studio and the archive as a starting point for translations of past exemplars into contemporary questions. What material strategies would one develop to achieve the same refinement, the same *genus loci* but in the era of climate emergency?

The task may seem straight forward and modest at first, but it will require a rigorous and radical imagination to develop a contemporary architecture that is both specific and could become the standard for which architecture aspire. Low carbon, accessible, playful, sculptural, expressive or discreet; they can all work as long as you remember the importance of being Ernst.