



Unveiling Water

Water, being the basis of all life on Earth, plays a pivotal role in shaping cities, fostering healthy ecosystems, enabling production, and promoting coexistence. This semester, we aim to create cycles within the studio.

The course of human life and the progression of civilisations have been profoundly shaped by the interactions with water and the creation of water infrastructure. Bringing water to new areas facilitated advancements in agriculture and allowed us to build cities.

With increased urbanisation, the amount of sealed surfaces in our cities is growing. The rainwater in cities often vanishes somewhere in a hole and flows into a large canal under the street. Due to climate change, storm rains are becoming more frequent, and the rising temperatures are exacerbated by the quantity of sealed surfaces in the city. With this, our existing water infrastructure is coming under increased pressure to manage the larger volume of water.

In collaboration with Prof. Dr. Max Maurer and the chair of Urban Water Systems, the studio intends to create water-centric projects in Zurich that are embedded within an existing context.

Depending on the project, water can be integrated according to program requirements. By embracing circular strategies, the projects aim to foster biodiversity and enhance ecosystem resilience. Hence, a comprehensive approach to water cycles within houses, gardens, and landscapes is vital, encompassing water collection, reuse, recreational use and habitat creation.

In order to get closer to the existing context, we will use photography and on-site drawings during walks to approach and document our discoveries. In the studio, we will work with drawings, models, and model photographs as forms of representation of ecological, architectural or infrastructural ideas. Furthermore, we will use synthesis drawings to summarise the ideas of the projects and tell their story. The work will take place in groups of two.