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Urban Myths

How three mature sequoia trunks, measuring up to 1.1m in diameter, became available in Zurich is somewhat vague; accident, sickness, potential danger of falling, overcrowding? What we do know is we have some very precious material and we have the opportunity to make something useful and special. It is a coincidence that allows a new structure to create new space. We will start this semester by making a space for gathering in the garden.

The shift in focus from making to the wider territory will remain emphatically hands on. If maps, laws, policies will inform our design, it will be led by direct encounter with the architecture on site. We shall investigate how space is produced, by whom and for whom. And here, we are not constrained by humans only. The site will be a walk across Zurich from forest to forest. You will document the spatial, constructed and

natural conditions traversed, in ascending scales until a singular space is identified which reveals both visible and invisible constructs that govern the built reality of Zurich. What coincidence of material resources with technical and political tools produce the conditions for the spatial structure we inhabit?

The selected point along the walk will be the location of a full scale intervention. The aim is to alter, restore or repair but above all to transform the space in material form to reveal and enable a new civic function. You should know and test your rights.

Look at a gate, a fence, a forest, a lawn or a yard, a party wall or a neighbour's window, weeds growing between paving slabs. These are the beginnings of architecture; the constraint but also the opportunity to transform things into a more equitable space for us and others.