

CYCLES & SPACES



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Architecture is about creating spaces and habitats that are as diverse and multi-layered as possible.

The historical connection between architecture and water is evident, from the wells of Chand Baori to the intricate gardens and palaces of Alhambra. This deep-rooted relationship demonstrates how water and architecture shape each other, leaving us with incredible examples of this symbiotic connection.

In the modern era, we may have overlooked some crucial aspects. Water is a precious common, of increasing importance, finite natural resource, vital not only for humans but also for biodiversity on our planet. As so, it should not be taken for granted. Our aim is to underscore the significance of water in both the present and future of our lives and cities. Why squander such a vital resource? Of the water we use daily (approximately 190 liters per person according to the UN), only 3% is used for drinking. The rest is reintroduced into the sewage system, treated and then returned to 'consumption'.

Can we do better? Can we use more water in our structures and in a more sensible and efficient manner? Is it possible to create an infinite loop of cycles that maximizes the use of this natural resource?

With these considerations in mind, we will explore the potential of existing structures in the urban context as well as related spaces such as gardens and squares. The interventions should promote the establishment of water cycles and social interactions within these structures, but also fostering connections to sustainable ideas and biodiversity in the city.

Architecture is about creating Spaces. The specific program for these interventions will be determined by the students based on their research and personal interests. We will elevate water to the center of our discussions and treat it as an architectural element, making it visible.

By embracing circular thinking, the projects will support ecological diversity and enhance the resilience of ecosystems.

Key-Words

Cycles
Water
Forms of Living
Spatial Development and Urban Policy
Re-use
Working with the Existing
Elaboration of Drawings
Synthesis Drawing
Photo Essay
Model Making
Storytelling
Calculations

Ratio Grading

Preparation phase:	30%
<i>Chair Maria Conen</i>	50%
<i>Chair Max Maurer</i>	25%
<i>Chair David Kaufmann</i>	25%

Elaboration phase:	70%
<i>Chair Maria Conen</i>	70%
<i>Chair Max Maurer</i>	15%
<i>Chair David Kaufmann</i>	15%

Preparation Phase

In the preparation phase, students will conduct extensive research on specific structures and their surroundings. This will involve discovering and mapping existing cycles and illustrating them through various means of expression. The work will range from a broader understanding of the site and its context to a detailed analysis of its components, providing a strong foundation for the elaboration phase.

Students will examine the given case study and produce an in-depth investigation, examining its history, material qualities, typology, construction, and social dimension. This research will be presented through drawings, including plans, sections, and facades, along with a synthesis drawing, photographic essay, and text. As a base, we'll produce calculations that show the water behaviour in the sites. We'll use these numbers as a base, and try to improve them with the student projects developed in the next phase.

To enrich the preparation phase, input lectures and texts will be shared and discussed among students.

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Elaboration Phase

The projects developed by students should engage with social, political, and sustainable visions. The architect's role is to create spaces for humans and animals while taking care of the urban fabric and nature. Students will work around forms of living but complementary programs can be added according to the story of each project using the knowledge acquired in the preparation phase. We can affirm that developing a narrative to guide the project is essential to its success.

To develop their projects, students will build study models using „found materials“ to investigate proposals and prove design decisions. In addition to model-making, students will use hand drawings to verify and develop their designs. Thinking in terms of re-use is encouraged, as structures are dismantled and destroyed every day, and materials and resources can find new life and purpose in architectural projects, prolonging their cycle. Architectural elements such as columns, windows, and doors can be repurposed and incorporated into the design.

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