

EMANUEL CHRIST & CHRISTOPH GANTENBEIN
BENJAMIN DILLENBURGER | MARTINA VOSER

NOT GOOD ENOUGH

MASTER
THESIS

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Master-Thesis HS 2023

Chair of Emanuel Christ and Christoph Gantenbein
Chair of Benjamin Dillenburger
Martina Voser

Title and short description

NOT GOOD ENOUGH

The majority of our built-up territory is the unplanned or at least visionless built city, the loose agglomeration of suburbia. It is probably only a little exaggerated if we imply to most of the actors in the *agglomeration* that their building was, in a certain sense, only pragmatically built out of the moment and was probably not at all seriously meant with regard to a further future: sometime it will come away anyway and then perhaps it will be done properly. Unfortunately, in reality it is not like that at all. What was never really meant seriously in terms of urban development has now suddenly become bitterly serious. For we can no longer afford the demolition, the tabula rasa and the new construction, if only for ecological reasons. The incoherent, haphazardly built, unsustainable city has therefore become the immutable reality of our country.

The *agglomeration* is not bad in every respect. It very well has its poetic, rough and beautiful side. But in terms of density and especially in terms of the relationship between places and people (public space and public transport infrastructure), the *agglomeration* is a problem. It lacks urban and architectural coherence, in a way it simply lacks an idea - especially a long-term one.

This is where our studio comes in. In the Basel region, we want to rediscover a piece of this city that has evolved over the course of the 20th century and systematically investigate it at a concrete location, asking the question that is as simple as it is difficult to answer: what does this city, left to us by our direct ancestors, need in order to be transformed into a sustainable future? What is the structural minimum that is indispensable to improve the existing spatial and programmatic structures? Yes, actually there is enough: "*enough*", but unfortunately one must also say: very often what is there is simply "*not good enough*"! So there is a need for action. Our generation has the task not to replace the *agglomeration* with a new better city, but rather to transform it; towards a socially and ecologically sustainable city. Sustainable Urbanism.

For this generational project, we would like to develop pioneering exemplary projects with our master studio. Typological models will play a role, but they will hardly be applied directly. After all, almost everything is already there. It is rather the "typology ex post" that is to be invented here: an urban architecture that creates a new stable, interesting and sustainable urban order and architecture based on what is there.

In cooperation with the team of the chair Benjamin Dillenburger we will work with digital models and specific computer-aided tools (pointclouds etc.) in the research phase as well as in the actual project phase. They will help us to quickly and comprehensively capture what we have found in order to then use it to design the (not only virtual) new-old city. As an expert, Martina Voser will also accompany the project.

Follow link: <http://www.christ-gantenbein.arch.ethz.ch/master-thesis/hs23>

Description of preparation and elaboration phase

Preparation phase:

- Typological investigation in the agglomeration.
- Fieldwork and collection of material: documentation of the representative residential buildings in digital models, plans and photography
- Computer-assisted survey and representation of the studied buildings / urban areas. No prior knowledge in this area is expected. Students will be provided with the necessary tools.
- Analysis of the social, cultural, economic, climatic, energetic framework conditions in the agglomeration.
- Development of a basic design attitude, whereby the question of the sustainable development of the agglomeration is key.
- Development of a design-related narrative. Formulation of a scenario for an update, transformation or intervention in the agglomeration.

Elaboration phase:

Implementation of the developed scenario in a design.

Interventions at the level of the type, urban planning considerations and the technical/constructive elaboration are complementary, and the projects are developed at all levels.

Work to be done in preparation phase

Teaching formats:

Reading and discussion of texts relating to the agglomeration from the fields of urban planning, architecture and art.

Inputs:

Input presentations and tutorials on digital building surveys and visualizations
Inputs on typological research and on the graphic representation of information
Input presentations on the collage as a design tool

Research and working formats:

Individual research on social, cultural, ecological, economic conditions of the agglomeration.
Fieldwork and survey.

Expected outcome:

Digital analysis and documentation of the investigated buildings and urban areas with the provided digital tools.

Formulation of a scenario for the agglomeration tomorrow with image and plan material

Clear working hypothesis for the elaboration of the project

Ratio of grading by cooperation partners

Preparation phase:

Percentage Design Chair: 60%

Percentage Chair of Digital Building Technologies: 40%

Elaboration phase:

Percentage Design Chair: 70%

Percentage Chair of Digital Building Technologies: 30%