



SOCIAL AND HEALTH CENTRE IN ACQUAROSSA, TICINO

Competitions represent one of the core disciplines of architectural design. In preparation for professional challenges, we propose to simulate a recently concluded competition.

The given competition brief is technically and operationally very demanding. The concept of a socio-sanitary center is to integrate the traditional functions that are typical of an elderly home with those of a hospital, as part of a new model of care, with a multidimensional character. In light of an increasingly growing and extended life-expectancy population, how can we accommodate the eminent need for living spaces that can provide and integrate socio-health support? How do we imagine to live in the future?

Students are expected to fulfill all the given requirements entirely. Exceptions must necessarily result from in-depth research. Otherwise, individual interpretations cannot be accepted. Students are expected to develop independently and individually a clear concept and elaborate it coherently into a detailed architectural project.

The requirements of the competition brief are the following:

- . A project that enhances the site and dialogues harmoniously with the existing elderly home;
- . Programmatic synergies and physical connections as well as functional, relationship, proximity and service sharing with the existing elderly home;
- . A special focus on the efficiency of emergency vehicular access for ambulances;
- . During the construction of the new building, the normal functioning and activities of the elderly home should not be compromised;
- . The slope on the west side of the elderly home is affected by a residual natural hazard level, and appropriate external protection measures should be implemented.

More about the competition:

<https://competitions.espazium.ch/de/wettbewerbe/home/nuovo-polo-sociosanitario-di-acquarossa>

Description of preparation and elaboration phase:

Preparation phase:

- Analysis of the design brief: understanding of organizational, functional, and social requirements;
- Understanding of the program – historical development of the typology, current standards and analysis of contemporary examples (state of the art);
- Research on the correlation between typological specificities of the program and structural principles;
- Collection of case-studies of comparable objects;
- Concept study: development of an organizational, functional, and structural principle.

Elaboration phase:

- Specific design according to the emerging topics from the preparation phase.

Teaching format:

The preparation phase aims at defining the design criteria for the elaboration phase. This phase consists of a research part, which will be done in the format of group work and a concept study part that will be done in the form of individual work. Both phases will be assisted weekly in the form of collective or individual feedbacks by the assistants and intermediately discussed during three reviews with Christian Kerez and Axel Paulus.

Ratio of grading by cooperation partners for the preparation and elaboration phase:

The grade will be defined in accordance with both cooperation partners.

Preparation phase:

Percentage designer(s): 80%

Percentage non-designer: 20%

Elaboration phase:

Percentage designer(s): 80%

Percentage non-designer: 20%