

STUDIO IBA BASEL.2: A NEW TRINATIONAL WATERFRONT

NTNU FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS

PROFESSORSHIP OF ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN DESIGN - PROF. KERSTIN HÖGER

PARTNERS: KANTON BASEL-STADT, IBA BASEL

SPRING 2012



The studio and seminar will be conducted in partnership with the city and canton of Basel as well as the International Building Exhibition IBA Basel 2020. Under the guiding theme “growing together” and “together growing” the IBA Basel seeks innovative answers and visionary projects regarding the common development of the trinational region Basel. As a contribution to the IBA Basel, the studio will explore how the Rhine and its waterfronts can serve as a connective space and symbolic heart for this cross-border area.

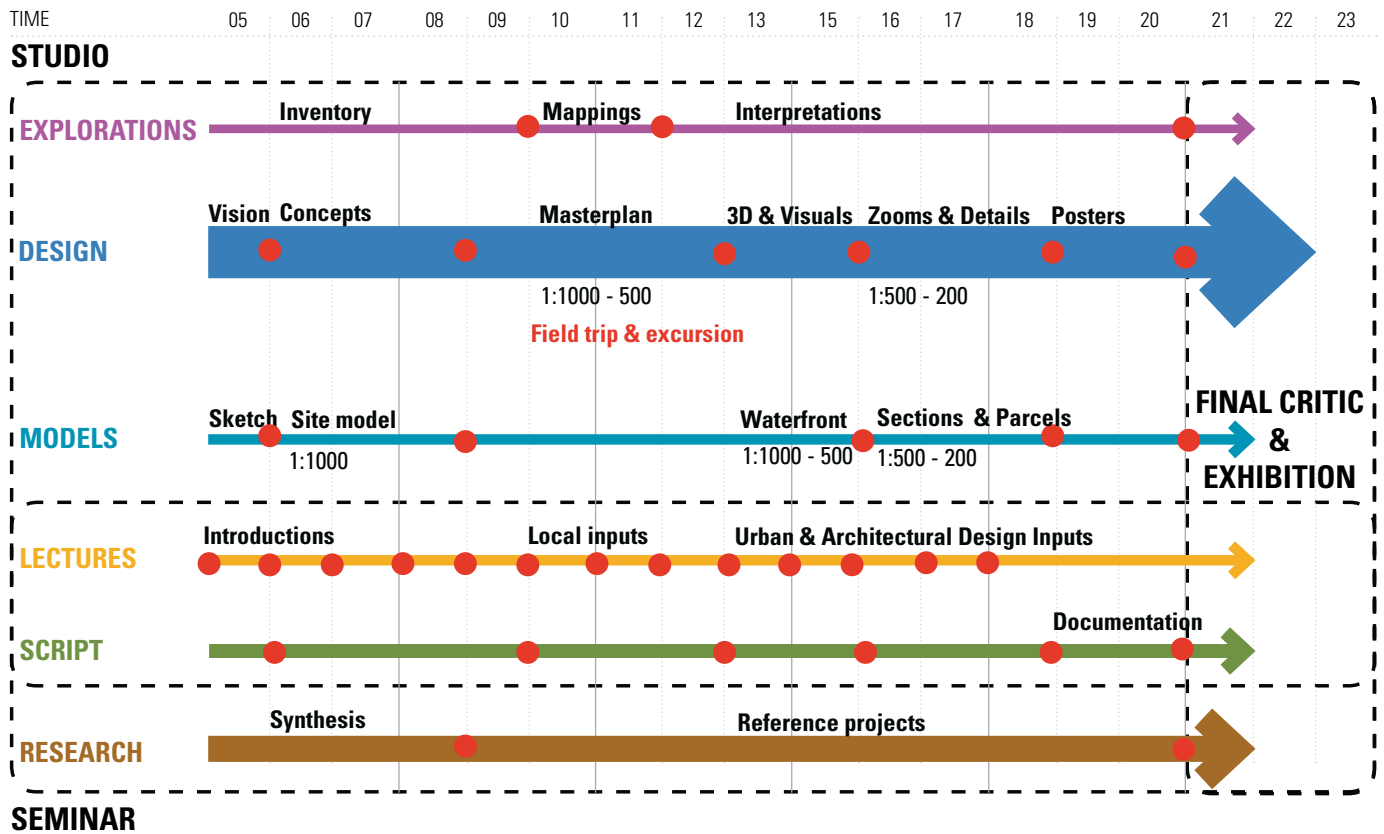
In many respects, the future development of the Rhine harbors is of special importance for the trinational agglomeration of Basel. They play an indispensable role in the supply of mass goods to an entire country. From an urban perspective, the Rhine River serves as a backbone for the whole region. In this way, the harbors in the border triangle between Switzerland, Germany, and France hold a central position. The Rhine also forms a large open and natural space, not only for places abutting the water, but also for bordering districts. As with all central locations, many demands are made upon this shared space, and these demands may at first glance appear to conflict with one another. Considering that the further development of the port industry will only make sense in conjunction with strategies and plans that cross national boundaries, it is necessary to develop complementary concepts for both the urban and port developments of the bordering harbors and cities.

As specific studio site and IBA performance space, we have chosen the Rhine Island and Harbor in Basel North, which is directly located along the border triangle. Currently, the area is marked by port infrastructure, containers, silos, warehouses, tanks, railway and sorting lines, as well as functional and office buildings that date from the past century. Adjacent to this port zone lie the two residential districts of Kleinhüningen and Klybeck, which are isolated, suffer from pollution and noise from the port activities, and are urgently in need of modernization. Current plans propose to update harbor logistics and to relocate parts of the port away from the waterside and towards the railway. With the implementation of these plans, new areas along the Rhine will become free for urban development.

The studio will develop masterplan for a mixed-use urban waterfront that connects city and port functions across national borders. Based on the results of our first Studio IBA Basel.1 and the state of the art of the planning by the city of Basel, we will further elaborate urban design and architectural proposals for the phased restructuring of the Rhine Island, as well as for its connections with the harbor and surrounding districts in Basel (CH), Weil am Rhein (D), and Huningue (F). Major themes of the studio will be the transformation, activation and urban development of the area through a mixture of informal and formal uses, low budget/ high culture and high budget / low culture activities. The existing qualities on the site and along the Rhine can be strengthened in a number of ways: former oil tanks and silos can be converted into leisure parks and cultural centers, harbor piers into urban islands, and empty warehouses into temporary spaces for urban pioneers.

In the future, the Rhine must be reconceived as a connecting element of the trinational metropolis, and its waterfronts must be developed in cooperation with neighbors. The goal is to create high-quality places for living, working and recreation along the water that consider the many characters and identities that are already present.

METHOD



The studio and integrated project course are structured into six interrelated streams.

Based on the existing analysis report, we will produce a comprehensive inventory and mapping of our site and its context. Constant interpretation of our analyses will inform the design process.

The design process will begin with a visioning phase, in which you will develop ideas for the studio projects. These ideas will then be further developed into design concepts, strategies, and proposals throughout the semester: first, on an urban design scale by elaborating together one to three masterplans for the transformation and development of our waterfront site; and second, on an architectural scale with detailed proposals for individual building parcels and open spaces. The proposals on both scales will be refined in iterative exploration, design, and modeling loops. We will build and heavily use models as design tools to develop adequate urban structures, spatial configurations, and building typologies for our project.

A lecture series will give you a broader perspective on contemporary urbanism and architecture. It will include introductions to the studio and seminar topics, input from local actors and stakeholders, as well as presentations and readings on related urban design and architectural issues.

In the research work, we plan to conduct a common synthesis report of the results from Studio IBA Basel.1 and the state of the art of planning by the city of Basel. As reference examples for our studio work, we will review comparable waterfront developments, including our case studies of Amsterdam Eastern Docklands/Borneo Sporenburg, Duisburg Inner Harbor, Hamburg Hafen City, Malmö Bo01, Nantes Island, Rotterdam Kop van Zuid, and Oslo Bjørvika, as well as other waterfronts in European harbor cities: e.g. Barcelona, Copenhagen (Island Brygge, Nordhaven), Dublin (Docklands), Düsseldorf (Medienhafen), Frankfurt (Westhafen), Genoa (Harbor), Köln (Rheinuhafen), London (Docklands, Canary Wharf), Venice.

Throughout the semester, you will write about your design and research projects, helping you to guide and document the progress of your work. All work will be published in a book and featured at an exhibition hosted by the city and IBA Basel.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The learning goal is to gain advanced skills and experience in urban design and architecture, concept development, visionary thinking, and presentation techniques, which will enable you to tackle complex urban challenges and to synthesize your knowledge into a design project. The studio and seminar seek to provide a comprehensive package linking design, research theory and practice.

COURSES & CREDITS

Studio AAR4605 Byforming II/ Urban Design II, 15 ECTS

Seminar AAR4905 Byformingsteori / Urban Design Theory, 7.5 ECTS

TEAM

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PARTNERS

Kanton Basel-Stadt, Thomas Waltert, www.planungsamt.bs.ch

IBA Basel 2020, Martin Jann, www.iba-basel.net

IBA University Laboratory

Regional Planning Team, Martin Josephy/ Philippe Cabane/ MVRDV Winy Maas, www.mvrdv.nl

ETH Studio Basel, Jacques Herzog, Pierre de Meuron, Manuel Herz, www.studio-basel.com

Port of Switzerland, Sabine Villabruna, port-of-switzerland.ch

Rhenus, Claudia Bracher, www.rhenus.com

Ostquai, Anton Marty, www.ostquai.ch

Brasilea, Daniel Faust, www.brasilea.com

Das Schiff, www.dasschiff.ch

Neubasel, Christophe Scheidegger, Konrad Sigl, neubasel.ch, www.areal.org

Swiss Terminal, www.swissterminal.com

Migrol, Rubino Marconi

Werkraum Warteck pp, Martina Siegwolf, Sandra Suhr, www.werkraumwarteckpp.ch

Beat Presser, www.beatpresser.com

DURATION

30.01. to approx. 31.05.2012

EXCURSION BASEL

5.03. to 22.03.2012, accomodation, http://www.werkraumwarteckpp.ch/projekte/alphabet/guest_studio

EXHIBITION BASEL

Planned end of May/ June 2012 together with IBA Basel and Kanton Basel-Stadt

COURSE HOURS

Mondays/Tuesdays/ Thursdays/ optional Wednesdays 10 am to 6 pm.

It is required that you work and actively participate in the studio and attend all instructions, lectures and work sessions.

LANGUAGE

English (formal), Norwegian, German, French, Spanish etc.

LITERATURE

Switzerland: An Urban Portrait, ETH Studio Basel: 2006, Roger Diener, Jacques Herzog, Marcel Meili, Pierre de Meuron, Christian Schmid (eds.)

MetroBasel - A Model of a European Metropolitan Region, ETH Studio Basel: 2009, Jacques Herzog, Pierre de Meuron, Manuel Herz (eds.)

Bauen am Rhein (Building on the Rhine), Professorship of Peter Zumthor, 2006/07

Waterfronts, in: Situation – KCAP Architects and Planners, NAI Publisher: 2005, Kees Christiaanse et al. (eds.)

From HUBS to MUDs: Reflections on high-density, in Situation: 2005, Kerstin Höger

City and Port: The Transformation of Port Cities, Han Meyer, 1999

Ecological Urbanism, Harvard GSD: 2010, Mohsen Mostafavi (ed.), contributions by Rem Koolhaas / OMA, Bruno Latour, Andrea Branzi, Stefano Boeri, Martha Schwarz, Raoul Bunschoten, Herzog & de Meuron et al