



# Form, City and Density – Learning from Paris, Planning for Vienna.

Guest Prof.  
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Entwerfen Master ● 253.G32 ● 10 ECTS  
+ LVA ● 253.G55 ● 5 ECTS

weekly meetings Thursdays and Fridays ●  
09:00 – 17:00 ● hybrid modus ● course will be held  
in English ● application with portfolios via Tiss

## LEARNING FROM PARIS

In the spirit of Joël de Rosnay, who in 1975 called for the definition of a new tool for observing and grasping the infinitely complex, we think it is appropriate to develop a tool for building cities that is at once conceptual, methodological, and operational to enact these values and fulfill the current physical, social and environmental challenges of our cities. The urban fabric of Paris and its buildings are a powerful source of inspiration for the design of this tool. Paris is the densest city in Europe in terms of population and human density - meaning inhabitants + jobs and among the 5 densest cities in the world. At the origin of this model are the work and thought of a central figure, Baron Georges-Eugène Haussmann. From 1853 to 1870, as Prefect, he completely reformulated the foundations of the city according to the values of modernity of the nineteenth century. If we consider the size of the urban fabric involved (75% of the built environment) and the speed of the works (in less than 20 years), we can easily consider its intervention as a new fully planned and designed city project. With an eye to current challenges, one can decipher the properties of Haussmann's urban fabric through a process of dissection, classification, and comparative analysis. At each level and according to each component, the urban fabric of Haussmann's Paris expresses a set of characteristics guaranteeing several fundamental balances: density and viability, permanence and resilience, sobriety and diversity, connectivity of long and short distances, identity and universality, intensity and a welcoming urban spirit, and between attractiveness and inclusiveness.

The goal of the studio is to establish a reciprocal link between the architecture and the city, and to thereby consider the architectural project as part of a larger composition where each piece expresses the values of the whole. This is not an urban planning class, or a dogmatic exercise in the notion of context. Throughout this semester, we will erase the limits between the different scales and disciplines to place the architectural project once again at the center of urban challenges and opportunities. The example of Paris will serve the student in the first part of the semester to consider the intertwining relationship between urban form and density, the design of the void and the various components of the architectural and urban project. The singularity of the City of Light will have enabled a conceptual methodology to be defined which will subsequently be applied to Vienna. The learning outcomes from Form, City & Density is to use the city as a material, as an inexhaustible source of ideas and stories to feed the architectural project.

## PLANNING FOR VIENNA

In concrete terms, the project will be applied using an extremely realistic approach. Students will receive specific programs, planning regulations, accessibility requirements and fire safety regulations for the site. Students will begin with «a real framework» to learn how to get out of the ordinary, to find their own freedom in this very constrained system.

The site chosen is that of the Vienna Ice Skating Club & the Hotel Intercontinental. This place has already been the object of competitions and studies, and the different proposals have been at the origin of a debate on verticality, density and monumentality in the city.