



Culture in Residency: Material Resonance

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Entwerfen (Master) ● 253.J69 ● 5 ECTS ● SS 2023
Kick-Off ● Thu 2.3.2023 ● 15:00-17:00 ● HS17
Visit Sekirn ● 31.5.-1.6.2023
Preparatory Meeting ● Fri 16.6.2023 ● 09:00-16:00
Visit Final Jury ● Adaptive Reuse/ Material Library
Thu 29.6.2023 with Prof. Tina Gregorič
10-day hands-on workshop, Sekirn ● September 2023
first two weeks (specific dates tba on TISS)

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Known for its prominence among Austrian lakes, 83% of Wörthersee's shores are closed off by private developments. One of the remaining plots with potential public access to the lake is the Vienna Boys' Choir campus located in Sekirn. The 8 hectare plot is used by the choir in the summers and remains unused for the rest of the year. Their ambition is to keep the plot for future generations of the choir as well as to open it up to the general public for all-year-round cultural activities. Its slowly deteriorating existing buildings and diverse landscape offer a case study for reuse strategies of local resources and material waste streams for its future development.

We are living in a time of great challenges that forces us to fundamentally question our building culture. How can we as architects, designers and artisans contribute to a responsible dealing with resources? In front of the undeniable impact of humans on the nature and the resulting ecological crisis we are searching for sustainable design solutions in architecture based on material understanding. Low-Tech strategies that investigate local and traditional knowledge of material and intelligent climate-resilient constructive technologies can give an immediate answer.

Material Resonance is a workshop based on the knowledge and the experiments of the precedent design studios, especially on the results of the course Material Library in Sekirn. The hands-on design workshop is focusing on designing from interaction with earthen material and the surrounding nature. Through intuitive work and creating with clay, earth and minerals we reconnect ourselves to the material with its inherent potential by using the intelligence of our hands. Going into the depths of earthen material understanding, prototypes on a scale of one to one will be developed and realized during an experimental design process.

Various material mixtures from earth will be further developed, tested and examined for their applicability in clay plasters or 3-dimensional elements. With joy and ease the material will be perceived through the haptic and the correct handling of tools for the processing of the material. An essential part of the workshop is the documentation of the material processing and associated methodologies, the interdisciplinary exchange of knowledge among students and lecturers and finally the manifestation of the results into a handbook for local earth-based fabrication.

The course is part of 'Culture in Residency', a series of design studios by TU Wien that contribute to the ongoing development of the UNISONO campus: a long-term transformation of the Vienna Boys' Choir campus into a testing ground for interdisciplinary research, production and education on circular economic practices in the Alpe-Adria bioregion.