



Inherited Frameworks – Paris

Guest. Prof.
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Napolitano (LAN)

Entwerfen (Master) ● 253.L24 ● 10 ECTS
Weekly Meetings Fridays ● 09:00 - 17:00 ● PR 14
Kick-Off ● Fr. 08.03.24 ● 10:00 - 14:00 ●
Sem. AE U1 - 3 ● Course held in English

Excursion to Paris planned ● exp. March 2024

INHERITED FRAMEWORKS aims to explore the transformation of an existing parking structure into a housing project in Paris. The goal is to establish a reciprocal link between architecture and the city, considering the architectural project as part of a longer story and a broader composition where each element expresses the values of the whole.

Why a transformation project?

Rehabilitation and transformation projects of existing structures, besides their evident ecological and environmental benefits, are fertile grounds for innovation. They are true creative adventures where the architectural project evolves through non-linear stages. [...]

Rehabilitation first means understanding the heritage, its potential, and its limits before subjecting it to transformative actions. It's being attentive to places until they surprise us and proposing additions or modifications. It's continually reevaluating the project and moving step by step. [...]

Why Paris?

Paris is the densest city in Europe in terms of population and human density - 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 the nineteenth-century modernity. 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 his intervention as a fully planned and designed new city project. [...]

Why automobile garages?

After World War I, the automobile became commonplace, and its rapid and spectacular success gave rise to a new architectural archetype: the hotel for automobiles, later called a garage or parking. The years 1946-1973 witnessed a wave of construction of "Grand Garages" in Paris. Like cinema or airports, the garage-parking is one of the modern programs par excellence: a multi-story building, reinforced concrete, characterized by a ramp. Its form is streamlined to the extreme: elementary, technically and economically optimized, potentially repetitive and duplicable indefinitely. The values of modernist progress are embodied in these structures, and 29 quai de Grenelle is part of this wave.

Approximately 70 years later, around 65% of Parisian households no longer have a car, and garages-parkings have gradually lost their utility to become new land opportunities. Due to their "absence of program, neutral and generic character, allowing them to be understood as possible, even ideal, containers for programmatic indecision and the constant evolution of uses," these architectures have become privileged territories for urban evolutions today.