



Good-Enough Architecture

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Bachelor 253.O90 ● Master 253.O91

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Mid Term ● WED 20.05. ● Finals ● WED 24.06.2026

Institut für
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INTRO

As the cracks within modernity's narrative of accumulation, growth, and control widen, the relevant questions with regard to building are no longer how to optimise, but when to act, how much to do, and when to stop.

Against the backdrop of a century shaped by the assumption of resource abundance, we explore what architecture can become under limiting conditions. We ask: how can architecture operate after its myth of the ideal is exhausted? Good-Enough Architecture describes an approach that resists optimisation, completeness, and the pursuit of ideal solutions. In the context of rising urban temperatures and increasing climatic pressure, questions of sufficiency and spatial comfort become particularly urgent.

LIMITS

The task of design today lies in discovering and defining the criteria for when and how to take action. Instead of treating limits as constraints or problems to overcome, Good-Enough Architecture understands them as productive forces that inform construction, space, and the relations among all bodies that inhabit them.

LEARNING FROM THE EVERYDAY

The approach is rooted in so-called non-professional or self-taught practices. The knowledge inherent in the continuous adaptation, adjustment, and repair of environments is understood as a shared intelligence of making do with what is given. Historically existing on the sidelines of modernity, the course seeks to learn from these practices in order to extract principles grounded in sufficiency for engaging contemporary concerns of resource scarcity and climate adaptation.

LOOKING AT THE URBAN IN-BETWEEN

By taking a step to the side, the course looks at intermediate and in-between spaces within the urban fabric of Vienna, such as courtyards, passageways, and entrances—spaces that are neither fully public nor fully private, and where the grip of institutional aesthetics gives way to DIY solutions. The semester is structured as a response to a specific site within the city of Vienna.

METHOD

Switching between laboratory, artist studio, and urban flâneur, the course unfolds in three successive phases.

We begin with observation and documentation of intermediate spaces within the urban fabric of Vienna and the specific building under investigation. Related disciplines will inform this phase. We then move into material testing and prototyping, working through the physical act of making to explore limits, tendencies, and construction logics. The final phase culminates in a design proposal situated within a concrete building, translating material insights into architectural intervention.