



stadt/garten Gmunden: Rituals of Assembly

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Design Studio • 253.087 • 10 ECTS • Ss2026
Kick-Off • Fri 6.3. 10:00-12:00
Excursion Gmunden • Wed 25.3.
Hands-on Workshop Vienna • Fri 27.- Sat 28.3.
Hands-on Workshop Gmunden • Mon 18.- Fri 29.5.
Further Information on TISS

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Today's extractive material practices demand a paradigm shift in how resources are used within the construction industry. The built environment must be understood as a resource itself, where making do with what already exists becomes the norm. Scarcity and constraint are no longer limitations but catalysts for new architectural typologies. Transitioning towards circular construction requires a systemic reorganisation of sourcing, processing, assembly and disassembly, grounded in territorial contexts and long-term ecological responsibility.

Building on the momentum of the European Capital of Culture Bad Ischl Salzkammergut 2024 and the Bioregional Assembly_Salzkammergut project, Stadtgarten Gmunden continues to evolve as a hub for bioregional design, collaboration and experimentation. Previous initiatives brought together international architects, designers, artists, universities and regional partners to develop resource-based strategies, prototypes and 1:1 interventions that strengthen social, ecological and economic systems while fostering long-term regional resilience.

In partnership with the Institute of Architectural Design at TU Wien, the practice-oriented programme 'stadt/garten Gmunden – dissassembly/reassembly' now expands this work, activating the site through participatory formats that engage local communities, foster collective making and position Stadtgarten Gmunden as an open laboratory for regenerative ecological, cultural and spatial transformation.

Extending the project's overarching conceptual framework and ambitions, „Rituals of Assembly“ investigates situated practices of material, social, and cultural narrative. Stadtgarten Gmunden will be further explored through 1:1 mock-ups as a procedural mode of production, characterised by cycles of assembling, and disassembling at full scale. Through this iterative practice of prototyping, the act of making becomes a ritual, emphasizing rhythm and collective engagement, fostering involvement and identity within the local community. The studio outputs will reveal the potential of regional resource networks while shaping new spatial possibilities for future developments of the site.

The design studio is part of the program of „LINA European Architecture Platform“, which aims to connect established institutions with emerging practitioners from architecture, design, and art to collaborate on strategies to tackle the climate crisis. The MAAK is a spatial practice based in Cape Town, South Africa, co-founded by Ashleigh Killia and Max Melvill in 2016. The studio works on institutional, community and research-orientated projects around the world with a focus on user-led and social-impact architecture. Space Saloon is a collective of architects, artists and researchers, led by Danny Wills, Gianmaria Socci and Rebecca van Beeck. Their projects build communities, promote learning and foster engagement through the production of transdisciplinary forms of knowledge.

Partner:

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