

floating points

Studio led by:

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Master Program - Fall semester 2020

HEAD-Genève / Interior Architecture

Head of Department: Dr Javier F. Contreras

— **HEAD**
Genève

Reading
a line.



A precious and changing line.

In order to make the most of our limited ability to travel, we will (re)discover a regional condition of almost mythological importance: the lake shore. A precious and changing line, disputed by public and private access. We will first attempt to read this line and measure its promenades, fishing harbors, collections of villas, buildings that changed function over time, restaurants, sport centers, etc. We will look at what is already present in order to identify buildings in which new public programs could find a perfect home.

Right: Palafittic village, Neuchâtel Lake, near d'Estavayer-le-Lac, Switzerland.
Photography: Taken in 1921, Musée National Suisse.



Reflecting on the public and the domestic.

The aim of the semester is to reflect on the public and the domestic. On interior spaces and their potential qualities and meanings. On the influences these spaces could have on the wider landscapes that surround them.



Right: Jo Nagasaka / Schemata Architects, Rice shop, Tokyo, Japan, 2014.
Photography: Kenta Hasegawa.

Reading
the points.



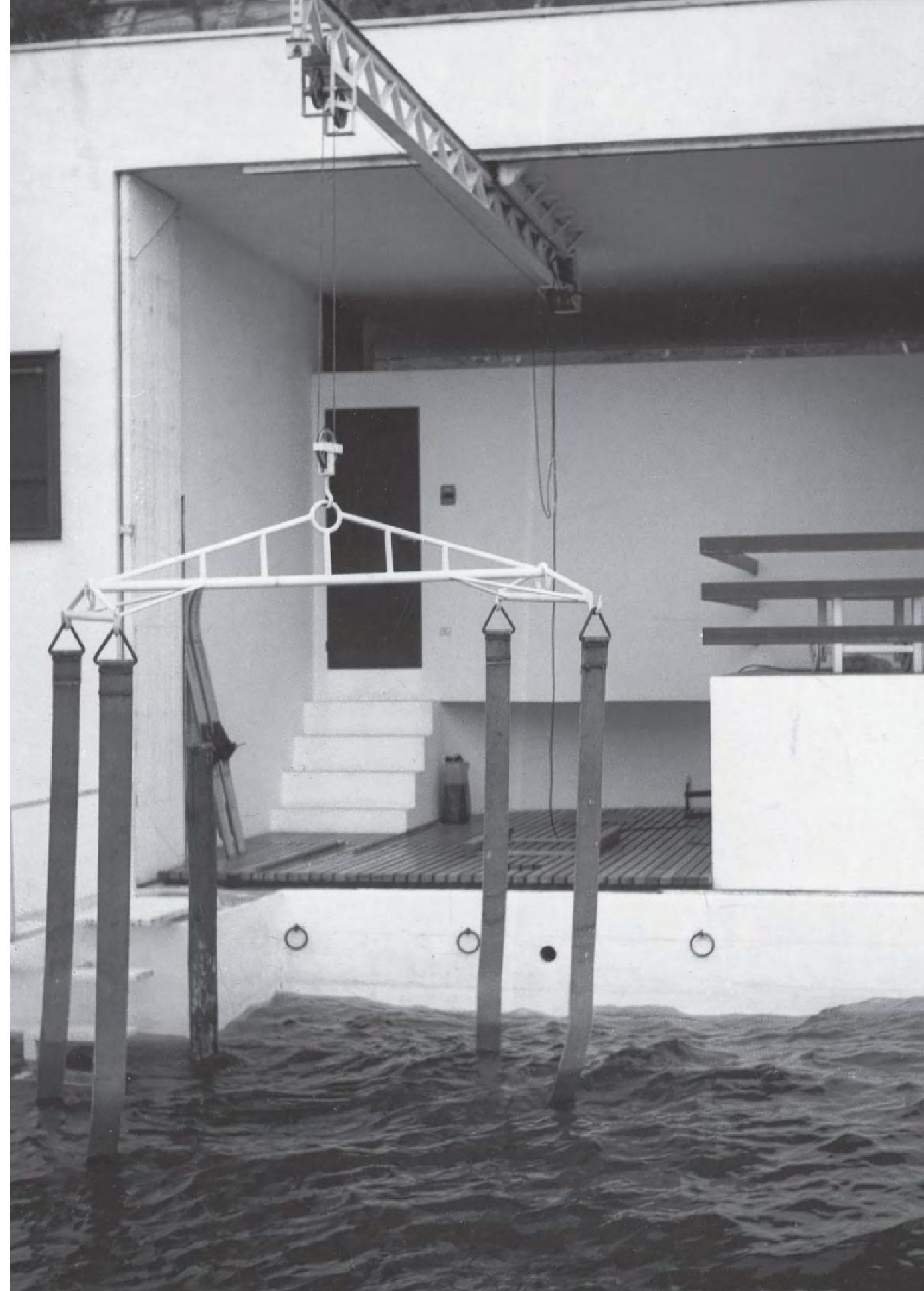
Challenging modest strategies.

In times when new domestic architecture is characterized by a supremely dry and neutral palette of interiors (as shown in the last Swiss contribution to the Venice Biennial of Architecture), and when many new public buildings are bunker-like objects turning their backs on the public realm (Swiss museums of the last decade are almost caricature-like examples), we will dive into modest strategies aiming to challenge our collective view of these types. We will conceive architecture projects that punctually blur the hard categories (private, public, interior, exterior, urban, domestic, etc), and we will attempt to appreciate the various impacts these projects could have.

Right: Álvaro Siza, Museum Moinho de papel, Leiria, Portugal, 2009.
Photography: Fernando Guerra.



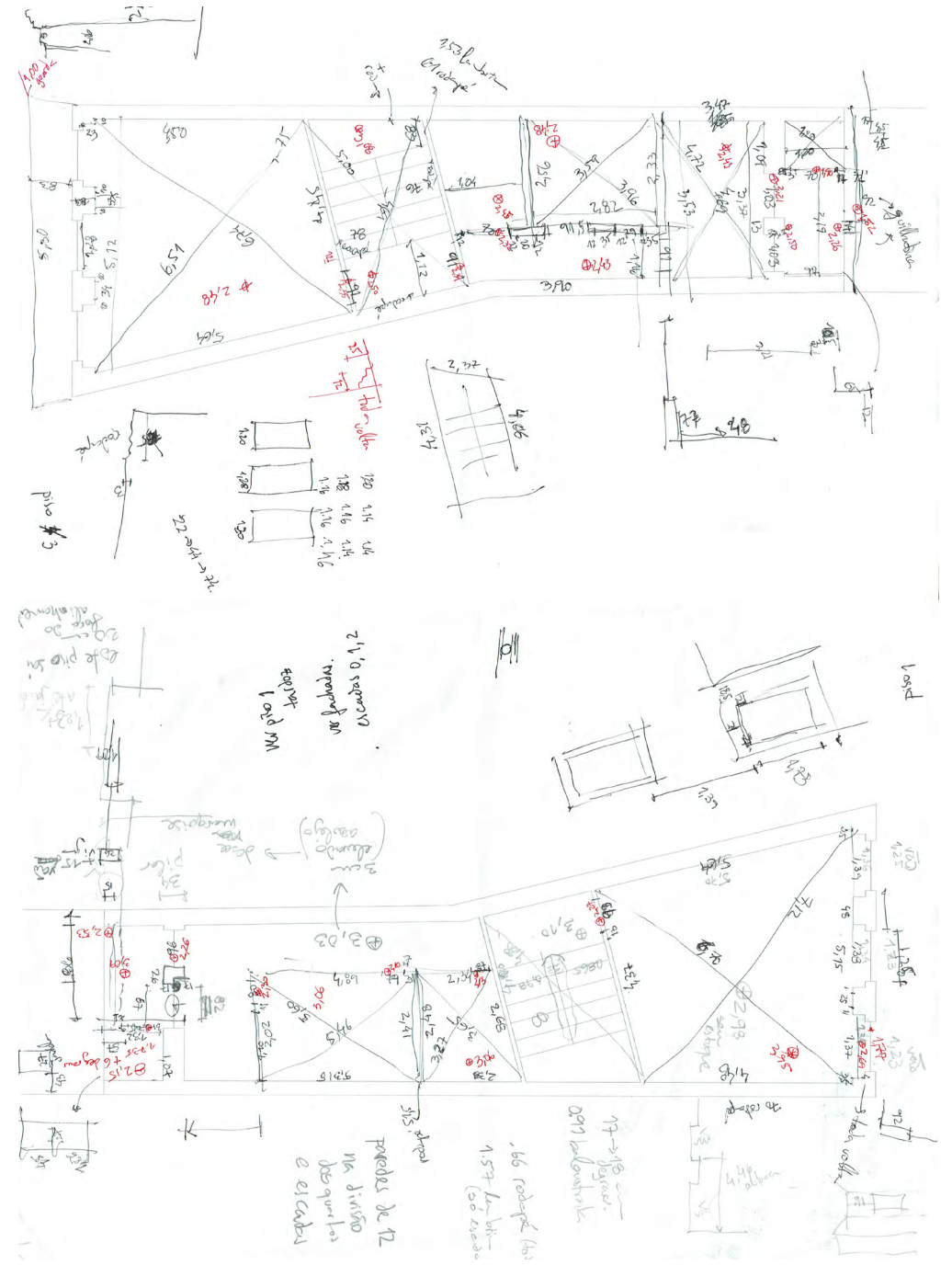
Conceiving
architecture
projects that
punctually
blur the hard
categories.



Right: Giorgio Grassi, Casa A Vello di Marone sul Lago d'Iseo, Italy, 1962.

Surveying to understand.

We will survey these buildings in order to understand the qualities and shortcomings of their architecture, as well as their specific relationship to the coastline and the public realm at large.



Revealing unknown heritage.

Based on these findings we will conceive architectural projects in which the old and the new coexist without erasing each other. We will define spatial strategies and constructive details which carry this coexistence, while bringing the spotlight to unknown heritage.



Right: Álvaro Siza, Urban renewal, Salemi, Italy, 1990.
Photography: Roberto Collova.

Thinking through photography.



Left above: Lewis Baltz, The New Industrial Parks 1974.

Left center: Luigi Ghirri : Colazione sull'Erba, 2019.

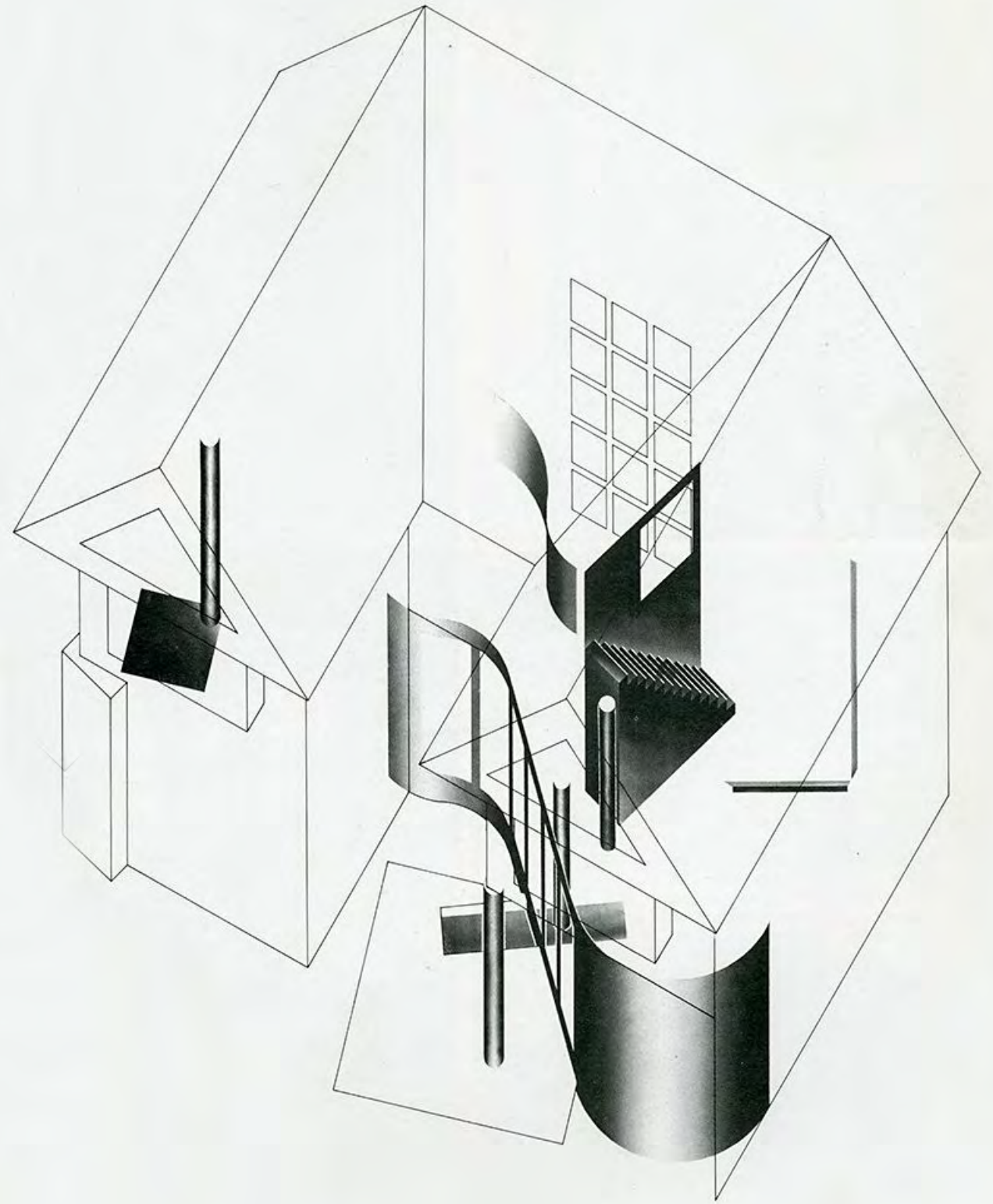
Left bottom: Candida Höfer, Köln / VG Bild-Kunst, Bonn, 2015.

Right above: Walter Mair / Lütjens Padmanabhan architects, Binningen, Switzerland.

Right center: Bas Princen, Earth Pillar, Solo Galerie, Paris.

Right bottom: Koji Taki, Repeating Crevice / Kazuo Shinohara, 1971

Depicting with comprehensive drawings.



Right: Atsushi Kitagawara, GA Houses, 1983.

06.10.20

FIRST JURY

Deliverables:

1 booklet of survey
2 photographs
1 “comprehensive” drawing

Guest critics:

Kai Reaver, Digital Technologist and Theorist. Oslo
Roberto Zancan, Research doctor and professor of history and theory
Besa Zajmi & Romana Castiglioni, Architects, Studio Barrus, Zürich

Schedule:

12-1pm: MIDIS d’archi, Studio Barrus & CENTRAL
2-6pm: Jury

Place:

Georges Addor Room, Elna Building, Av. Châtelaine 5, Genève

09.11.20

SECOND JURY

Deliverables:

2 photographs
1 “comprehensive” drawing
1:20 / 1:50 model

Guest critics:

Line Fontana, Fagart & Fontana, Paris
Philippe Rahm, Philippe Rahm Architectes, Paris
Diana Ibáñez López, CREATE, London
David Knight, DK-CM, London

Schedule:

12.15-13.30: MIDIS D’ARCHI
14-19h: Jury

Place:

Online: Teams: <https://cutt.ly/bgAywTa>

07.12.20

THIRD JURY

Deliverables:

2 photographs
2 “comprehensive” drawings
1:10 / 1:20 model
1:1 / 1:5 mock-ups

Guest critics:

Youri Kravtchenko, YCRA, Geneva
Simon Husslein, Atelier Simon Husslein, Zürich
Radim Louda, CENTRAL, Brussels
Catrina Stewart & Hugh McEwen, Office S&M, London

Schedule:

9-12am: Jury
12-1pm: MIDIS d’archi, Central (Brussels) & Office S&M (London)
2-6pm: Jury

Place: Online

20.01.21

FINAL JURY

Deliverables:

2 photographs
2 “comprehensive” drawings
description of research and project
images illustrating the project
execution project
1:10 / 1:20 model
1:1 / 1:5 mock-ups

Guest critics:

Martina Bischof, architect, Zürich
Götz Menzel, GayMenzel, Monthey
Javier Fernandez Contreras, associate professor and dean of Department of Interior
Architecture at HEAD – Genève, Switzerland

Schedule:

9 - 12.30 am: Jury
12.30 - 2pm: Lunch break
2 -7pm: Jury

Place:

Design Room, Ground Floor, Bâtiment H
Av. de Châtelaine 5, 1003 Genève

