

EMPTINESS

CONFLICT

CONFUSION

CONSERVATION

CONSTELLATION

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What's actually empty in this city?

In Zürich, 0.33%* of all built surface is empty.

Emptiness is a scarcity.

But in an over-regulated city like Zürich,

Emptiness is no coincidence.

It has to be on purpose - or useless, unwanted, outdated, neglected, forgotten or very expensive.

We will search for these empty spots, and we want to ask:

Why is it empty?

Since when is it empty?

How long did it take to become empty?

What's the dimension of it?

Is the emptiness accessible?

Who used to use it?

Who owns the emptiness?

Whats is the durability of this emptiness?

Will it stay empty?

How much does the emptiness cost?

Who profits from it being empty?

What's the potential of it?

Who knows about the existence of it?

What do people tell you about it?

And what may happen next?

* In 2020, 162'000m² out of Zürich's 53'680'000m² of built surface were officially empty.

THE DIPLOMA IN 3 MOVEMENTS

(PREPARATION PHASE)

Movement I: observe

Movement II: experiment

During the preparation phase we will work in two movements, where we will debate, research, investigate and experiment. The goal is to explore a collection of empty spaces in Zürich and use them as a prism - a refracting moment that allows to shed light on the contemporary production of the city. In Movement I it is about discovering these places by strolling through the city, documenting, calculating, measuring and drawing. In Movement II we want to experiment with these discoveries and make them productive. These two movements will be structured by collective moments of debate and exploration. The preparation phase shall provoke individually developed conclusions, binding together the findings that orbit around the empty spots.

(ELABORATION PHASE)

Movement III: imagine

Based on the findings and experiments of Movement I and II, an architectural project will be developed in Movement III. The proposal should be seen as a reaction to the findings of the preparation phase, be it on a material, social, ecological or any other level of your interest. Guided by the %-attitude, we want to imagine a possible future, inspired and provoked by what we can find in our surroundings. Where the journey will lead we don't know yet, but we will dive into a process of debating, drawing, writing, measuring, building - and end up with architectural projects which hopefully go beyond our imagination.

GRADING RATIO FOR PREPARATION & ELABORATION PHASE

33.3% CHAIR OF ARCHITECTURE AND PERCENTAGE

33.3% CHAIR OF HISTORY & THEORY IN ARCHITECTURE

33.3% CHAIR OF CONSTRUCTION HERITAGE AND PRESERVATION