



Pyramid of Cestius, Cimitero Acattolico, built 12 BC, Rome

# SPACES OF MEMORY

## FUNERARY MONUMENTS IN ITALY

We want to experience architecture, that was intended to store the significance of a life against the erasing effect of time. This search will lead us into immersively crafted interiors, melancholic spaces of anonymity and humble signs of human existence embedded in nature.

Leaving Zurich on Sunday morning, we will travel by bus along the river Po, cross the Apennine with its renaissance cities, and approach the metropolises in the south, from where we return by train. On our trip we will visit mausoleums of emperors, the tempietti of Alberti and Bramante, Etruscan necropolis, labyrinthic Roman catacombs, piranesian tombs on the via Appia, the monumental cemeteries of the 19th century as well as their modern interpretations by Aldo Rossi and others. As Adolf Loos pointed out in his famous quote on graves, these artefacts oscillate in between architecture and art and seem liberated from a spatial function, because their main purpose is: to remind us. Taken as objects they tend towards being pure forms and images, yet they differ from classical sculptures as they remain connected to a life-story and are deeply rooted in a place. Taken as architecture, whether we enter an underground catacomb or hike on a field, the picturesque views and scenographic perspectives, are as much part of their narrative as the symbolic meaning. We will take our time on site, to occasionally catch these impressions with charcoal on paper.

For a better understanding of these strange witnesses of other times, which have left our city-centers in the course of the hygienic movements in the Age of Enlightenment, knowledge and empathy is required. With the help and expertise of our guests, the collective study of selected texts and our observations and analytical competences as practicing architects, we will start to involve ourselves with the topic. Travelling by train and bus leaves us some time to speculate on the relevance of funeral architecture in our contemporary urban condition:

How do we store immaterial values beyond our time?  
How do we want to remember close ones?  
Do we want to be remembered?

### TEAM

Julien Bellot  
Victoria Easton  
Tina Küng  
Meng Li  
Christian Portmann  
Nicolas Rothenbühler  
Léonie Zelger  
Stefano Zeni  
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### SEMINAR WEEK

20.3. – 26.3.2022  
Expense category D  
(max. 1000 CHF)  
15 – 22 participants  
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