



Seminar Week Spring 2025

Cost: Frame C, contact: ehrl@arch.ethz.ch



Subject: Seminar Week to Paris

Date: March 17–21, 2025

Costs: Category C (501-750CHF)

Participants: 16 students

Dear Student,

We would like to invite you to join us on a journey to Paris where we aim to explore fantastical environments that reflect diverse world views. Paris is a city that represents a richness of visions, and we will engage with both its iconic and imaginative sites to understand how the images of the city we all have are realized and appropriated.

Our journey starts at Disneyland Paris, a symbol of the engineered imagination. We will examine not only the theme park itself but further its situation within the outskirts of the big city and its surrounding environment as well as the infrastructure that supports it. From there, we will delve into other examples of imaginative worlds like Ricardo Bofill's L'Espace d'Abraxas and Les Arcades du Lac or the Versailles castle complex, with a focus on the Hameau de la Reine, the rustic retreat imagined by, and built for Marie-Antoinette.

In addition to visiting sites and projects, we will touch base with the important recent music history of Paris, with genres such as French Touch and Hardcore Rap and their origins and roots within the complex city fabric of Paris and its banlieues, offering us another layer of investigation. Throughout our journey, we will engage with critical voices — architects, activists, and artists who challenge staged realities and engage with the reproduction of heritage. Our goal is to see beyond the stereotypes of supposedly known sites, encouraging you to question scripted realities and find unexpected layers while exploring the boundaries of our environments of interest.

With curiosity, empathy, and an understanding of reality we would like to invite you to engage in discussions about urban transformations, fluid futures and constructed realities. We hope you will join us in this collective exploration.

We look forward to getting to know you!

On behalf of the NEWROPE Chair,

Ellena Ehrl, Sophia Garner, Juan Barcia Mas, Freek Persyn, Michiel van Iersel