

RÜMLANG

RÜMLANG, SEMINAR WEEK HS25 COMTE/MEUWLY

There is a farm in Rümlang. At its center, a barn. Cows long gone. Three peacocks call it home, scurrying among forgotten hay and lost functions. From here, the city of Zurich is out of sight and can only be guessed behind the Hönggerberg and Katzenberg hills.

Tractors pass by out of necessity. Cyclists and strollers out of leisure. Dogs on leashes and babies in carriers. Above the barn, 750 airplanes transport 80,000 people daily in and out of Zürich and across the globe.

The barn is a vessel we intend to fill: in an unused volume in a city where space is scarce we open up a “scope for studying the influence of constructive experimentation.”¹ During the first five weeks of the semester, 160 hands from the second year studio will explore its potentials: clearing, opening the space, creating access, providing heat, changing perspectives.

Through collective actions, participants will understand the place, design, and build – bringing about an enduring transformation of the building’s potentials. In collaboration with artist Arnaud Eubelen, the construction company *Stahl und Traum* as well as friends, guests, and visitors, we will explore what it means to work in and inhabit the barn. To build means to continue building.²

What is already there? What potentials can be intensified? What can be added? And ultimately: how will the public be included? The agricultural facility in Rümlang becomes a place where actions develop as part of life.

At the Chair of Architecture and Construction, we begin with contact rather than abstraction. We work with material and place, engaging in the act of making. Yet construction is not only a means to an end: it is a method of investigation, a way to explore, test, and translate spatial thinking. We promote *thinking through making*.³ The process is the project.

For one week we explore and test by hands-on building. Doing so, we will share meals and tools, build joints and bonds, celebrate craft and space, read in orchards and watch films in hay – bringing about the building’s lasting transformation.

Date:
20–25 October 2025

Participants:
15-25

Cost frame:
A (Included in the budget are some meals, materials, tools, and expertise of artists/craftspersons. Not included: accommodation and transportation)

Location:
Chätschstrasse 8, 8153 Rümlang

Practicality:
The students are asked to arrive on Monday with their own safety shoes.

- 1) Helga Blocksdorf, “Introduction: Constructive Disobedience” in Matthias Ballestrem, Katharina Benjamin, Helga Blocksdorf, ed., *Constructive Disobedience* (Basel: Birkhäuser 2024), 8–15, here 12.
- 2) Philippe Koch and Andreas Jud, *Bauen Ist Weiterbauen: Lucius Burckhardts Auseinandersetzung Mit Architektur* (Zürich: Triest Verlag für Architektur, Design und Typografie, 2021).
- 3) Tim Ingold, *Making: Anthropology, Archaeology, Art and Architecture* (London/New York: Routledge, 2013), 6.