

Press release

Swiss Spring School 01 – arts and crafts smart

Spatial compositions with iridescent plaster surfaces, installations with broken bricks, LED modules and cover panel systems are displayed next to fragile natural stone objects, grip studies and material analyses. The works created within the scope of the *Swiss Spring School 01* show interpretations of traditional craftsmanship and its handicrafts that go beyond conventional applications – keeping with the motto of this project week: "arts and crafts smart".

With the implementation of this first *Swiss Spring School*, the Architectural Council of Switzerland has created a new, common teaching format that promotes exchange between and serves as a discussion platform for all Swiss architecture schools, according to Johannes Käferstein (HSLU), President of the Architectural Council.

The *Swiss Spring School 01* was hosted by ArchitekturWerkstatt of the University of Applied Sciences St. Gallen. The Head of ArchitekturWerkstatt, Anna Jessen, and her team were responsible for the event.

With "arts and crafts smart", Anna Jessen has defined a guiding motto that symbolises the goal of the ArchitekturWerkstatt of facilitating cooperation with local craftsmen in order to explore and further develop the potential of materials and products. Construction is increasingly industrialised and digitised in the contemporary world. Concurrently, exceptional architecture, especially in Switzerland, is characterised by individual craftsmanship and innovative entrepreneurship. The *Swiss Spring School 01* utilises and addresses the special quality of Eastern Switzerland's artisan culture. Each of the participating Institutes of Architecture led a design studio that formulated concepts for their use and development in close collaboration with one of the craft enterprises involved in the analysis of production methods, materials and products.

This close cooperation between the curious students and experienced craftsmen already began to bear fruit within days. The resulting works show a deep understanding of the material and its possibilities together with a curiosity to reinterpret it: In one example, plaster surfaces are used to work out room proportions (Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio, Jonathan Sergison with Kradolfer Gipserhandwerk plastering), in another, cover panel systems are used to shape the room (Studio FHNW, Institute of Architecture, Dominique Salathé, Axel Gassmann, Tommy Neuenschwander with Geberit). In other studios, the analysis of materials and product functions has led to new proposals such as functional or haptic door handles (studio HSLU Lucerne, Lando Rossmailer, Johannes Käferstein with Mega Beschläge) or has inspired play on the material properties themselves. The studio of HTW Chur, Philip Loskant, Noëlle Bottoni, worked with the mass, resilience and simultaneous fragility of stones with Schmitt Natursteinwerk. The studio of EPFL Lausanne, Martin Fröhlich, Yannick Claessens, used a material impermeable by Wi-Fi provided by Sefar to create transparent retreats and thus play with the ambiguity of the material. The design potential of LEDs (studio HES-SO Genève, Emma-Julia Fuller with Fluora) was investigated. The studio of ETH Zurich, Friederike Kluge and Florian Schrott, Annette Spiro chair, explored potentials of building with brick raw material and broken brick with the Brauchli brickyard. The application of fabrics and textiles as spatial objects and surfaces was analysed by the studio of ArchitekturWerkstatt St. Gallen, Anna Jessen, Mark Ammann and Stefan Forrer, using the products created by Tisca Tischhauser.

The next project week of the Swiss Council of Architecture is expected to take place as a summer school in mid-2020.

St. Gallen 25 February, 2019

Swiss Spring School 2019 – arts and crafts smart
8 – 15 February, 2019 at ArchitekturWerkstatt St. Gallen

Studios

Studio 01

ArchitekturWerkstatt FHS St. Gallen Anna Jessen, Mark Ammann, Stefan Forrer,
Tisca Tischhauser

Studio 02

EPFL Lausanne, Atelier EAST, Martin Fröhlich, Yannick Claessens
Sefar AG

Studio 03

Accademia di Architettura di Mendrisio, Jonathan Sergison
Kradolfer Gipserhandwerk / plastering

Studio 04

FHNW, Institute of Architecture Dominique Salathé, Axel Gassmann, Tommy
Neuenschwander,
Geberit AG

Studio 05

HSLU Lucerne Lando Rosσμαier, Johannes Käferstein,
Mega Beschläge / mountings

Studio 06

HTW Chur Philip Loskant, Noëlle Bottoni,
Schmitt Naturstein / stonecuttery

Studio 07

HES-SO Genève, Emma-Julia Fuller
Fluora Leuchten / illuminations

Studio 08

ETH Zurich, Friederike Kluge, Florian Schrott, Annette Spiro
Brauchli Ziegelei / brickyard

Architectural Council of Switzerland

The network of Swiss architecture schools

The Architectural Council was founded in 2008 as a discussion platform for the Schools of Architecture in Switzerland. It unites all universities and universities of applied science of Switzerland teaching architecture as well as the Swiss Association of Engineers and Architects (SIA) and the Federation of Swiss Architects (BSA), the corresponding professional associations, on one common platform. The Architectural Council has the goal to harmonise architectural education within Switzerland, promote research and, as a united front, sensitise politics for architecture as a discipline. The Architectural Council advocates for a close connection between teaching, research and practice.

<https://www.architekturrat.ch>