

Real Estate & Agency



Seminar Week Fall 2022

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Basel- Mulhouse- Freiburg- Strasbourg

Subject: Seminarweek
Date: 31 August 2022

Dear student,

Have you ever wondered how large urban transformation processes come about? Which are the driving forces? Who are the actors involved? Especially when projects do not start from scratch but deal with the existing and given pre-conditions, any change entails a complex entanglement of interests. In this process, the architect plays only one of many roles that are mutually dependent and sometimes even conflicting. What role do for example real estate dynamics of market driven developments play in transformation processes? What alternative development models do exist? What kind of tools can help to establish adaptive re-use as an inclusive approach?

We invite you on an explorative journey along the Rhine – a river of historic and emotional importance for Europe connecting various countries, including Switzerland, France and Germany. We will slowly move from Zurich via Basel, Mulhouse, Freiburg to Strasbourg – via train, bus, bike and boat. Some of our stops are included in the programme of the Trinational Architecture Days 2022 of the “Maison européenne de l’architecture – Rhin supérieur”

In each city we will visit one large urban transformation project. We will listen to different perspectives, different voices and enter into dialogues with people involved. We will try to find out what role owners, interim users, activists, municipal offices or institutions such as universities or museums can play in these processes. Local experts will join us along the way and introduce us to the current dynamics: Who decides what? Which power relationships are at stake? Who has which power to act – who has which agency?

During the evenings we will collectively share our meals in order to digest the impressions collected. These evenings are also test situations to design informal exchange. Our trip will culminate in a playful performative dinner with local stakeholders in Freiburg, tackling the transformation process of the “Europaviertel” – a moment that both, generously invites and critically challenges.

We are looking forward to embarque on this adventure with you,
Your NEWROPE Team

C. Schauben

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