

HS23 SEMINARWEEK



IMMERSIVE ROME



**Sunday, Oct. 22nd
to Saturday, Oct.
28th**

10-16 students

Category C (ca. 750 CHF
including accomodation,
transportation, entrances,
some meals)

Fabio Gramazio

Matthias Kohler

Carlotta Daro

Jonas Haldemann

Sarah Schneider

In its phenomenological conception of the *genius loci*, Christian Norberg Schulz proposes a visionary interpretation of the intrinsic identity of the eternal city. Given the volcanic origin of the roman region the ground is covered by a thick crust of ancient lava and ash, called tuff. Over time, waterways excavated the crust creating deep canyons suddenly interrupting the flat, calm, and wavy roman countryside. This natural constitution of the geography of Rome, argues the author, shaped future architectural and urban developments materialized by a distribution of the city made of interiorized spaces as exemplified by the Pantheon and its cupola, physically representing the encounter between the sky and the ground, and the Baroque urban layout made of deep narrow streets and idyllically rounded squares. "It has been said of Rome that it is a city where one feels inside while being outside." (C.N. Schulz)

Despite a certain deterministic interpretation of its historical development, this narrative evokes a possible perception of Rome as a totalizing environment. Our seminar week „Immersive Rome“ steps apart from a technological perspective to rather focus on the topographical and cultural identity of the city. The visits program proposes the discovery of places, sights, and areas from different epochs, going beyond classical landmarks, conveying in different ways immersive experiences. Our study week will address the urban structure of Rome made of architectural layers and historical references as a predigital experience of physical and cultural immersion.

We will start our seminar week with an overview of the city from one of its highest places, the rooftop tower of the Istituto Svizzero. We discover the eternal city by walking along architectural traces of the past, diving into the baroque world of ecclesiastical buildings and investigating urban developments from the 20th century (Esposizione Universale di Roma, Corviale, Constructions for the Olympic games 1960). By looking at the city from different angles through the eyes of movie makers, urban activists, engineers, and art historians, our journey becomes an immersive experience.