ETH

Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich

ETH Zurich, Department of Architecture

ETH Studio Xaveer de Geyter, 2017

Team: Xaveer de Geyter, Michel Sikorski, Kathrin Sindelar, Mathieu Wellner

10 Projects

Students: Lital Levi, Flurin Steiner, Anja Bischoff, Axhija Blerta, Giorgia Mini, Michele Roncoroni, Ella Mathys, Urban Steiner, Cilgia Hofer, Sahra Roman, Noé Cuendet, Marc Lehmann

Exhibit Opening: Friday, 3 November 2017, 18.00h

FU Berlin (Rostlaube), Habelschwerdter Allee 45, 14195 Berlin

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Theme: FU Berlin – Campus and Public Space

Architecture and public space

If in general buildings and architecture impact on the quality of the inbuilt, the public space, the idea of this studio is to invert this relation and to generate architecture from carefully studying the inbuilt. This attitude provokes an important shift of focus, as public space becomes the main topic and architecture is a means to define it. This displacement opens new fields of possibilities for architecture. Any architectural project is about the public realm. Instead of focusing on program or structure as the stones for the creative process for the design of a building, it is the relation to public space that becomes the main trigger.

Campus and public space

In a society were learning is increasingly present and its methods are evolving faster than ever, the inherited architectures of campuses may seem too specialized and locked. During one semester the projects investigated scenarios aiming to conciliate functional specialization and openness to change and society in time. The studio focused on the design of a university campus building and its immediate surroundings, the architecture resulted from the dialogue and relationship of the university with its urban environment. The designs did not necessarily concern an entire building, depending on the situation; students elaborated a critical part of a campus building, or on the opposite a whole campus. The projects explored both new ways of working and leisure on the scale of individuals, as well as possible new relationships between the campus and the city. Depending on the situation projects used both landscape and infrastructure.