

PhD Seminar

Neighborhoods in Transition II

Potentials of urban slopes in a
post-carbon perspective

28-30 April 2025

Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne

Neighborhoods in Transition II

Potentials of urban slopes in a post-carbon perspective

Architectural design plays a crucial role in finding alternatives to urban sprawl, aiming to regenerate and qualitatively densify existing urban areas near public transport hubs. More broadly, it seeks to integrate the practice of building into the transition towards a post-carbon society. In Switzerland, as in much of Europe, many urbanized areas are located on slopes, presenting a unique set of challenges related to buildings, landscape architecture, public spaces, infrastructure, energy use, climate change adaptation, and mobility.

The doctoral seminar is designed to explore the complex dynamics of sloping neighborhoods. Taking an interdisciplinary approach, the course blends elements of sustainable architecture, urban studies, urban geography, and climate resilience, encouraging students to critically engage with the multifaceted nature of urbanity on sloped terrain. We will examine how sloping neighborhoods can adapt to the challenges of the post-carbon transition, considering historical contexts, contemporary issues, and prospective visions.

This course aims to foster in-depth discussions among doctoral students in architecture, urban studies, geography, and urban sociology, all of whom are interested in exploring sloping neighborhoods through the lens of a post-carbon future. Students will deepen their understanding of how architectural design can contribute to urban transitions, particularly in challenging topographies like urban slopes.

Organisation

Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

Integrated Design, Architecture and Sustainability (IDEAS)

Laboratory of Architecture and Sustainable Technologies (LAST)

Prof. Emmanuel Rey, Dr. Sophie Lufkin

In partnership with

Architectural Association School of Architecture (AA), London

Prof. Paula Cadima

With the participation of

Frédéric Bonnet (USI / Obras), Buchner Bründler (Basel), Paula Cadima (AA London), David Gogishvili (UNIL), Meier Hug (Zurich), Sascha Roesler (USI).

Place and date

Ecole polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL)

28-30 April 2025

Contact and registration

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