

Project studio:  
Reshaping places

The University of Texas at Austin  
School of Architecture

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## **Theme**

“Reshaping places” will focus on reflections on strong pre-existing conditions on project site. We will work with our sensitivity and technical backgrounds to identify and transform existing conditions to the benefit of the project.

In the course of the workshop we will accompany the students through the same process we do in our studio in Barcelona, dedicated to develop open competitions in different countries, most of them involved in the reconversion of industrial buildings to different use as a theme. The aim is that the students develop abilities that help them to recognize the unique characteristics of precedents – naturals or architectonics - that can work in favour of finding a new identity that is coherent with the pre-existences and the new use.

## **Main project**

The main project will deal with the transformation of an existing industrial heritage construction. We propose to work on the transformation of a Warehouse in Freiburg (Switzerland) into the new Museum of Natural History (MHNF), that was recently published as an open competition which will finish during next October. The program of the competition was reordered and translated for the purpose of this studio exercise.

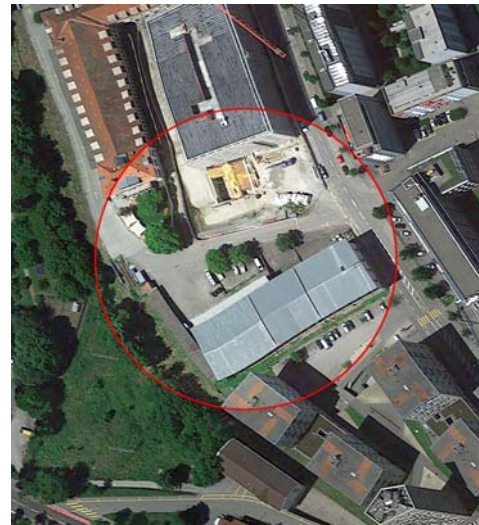
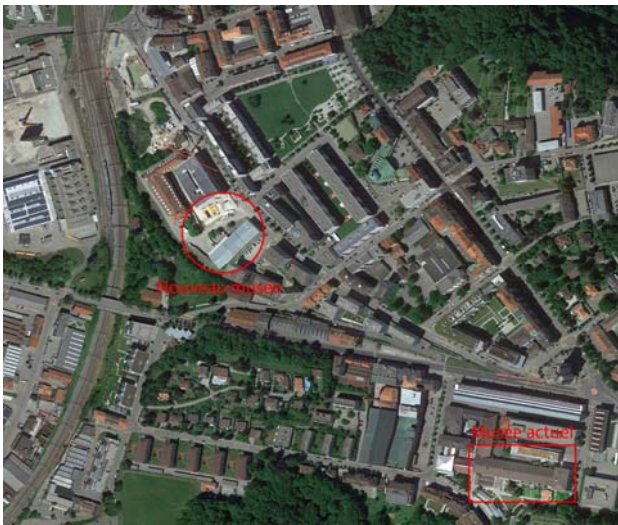
We will present the site and local context to give as much as possible information to studio's participants so they can do the proper analysis and evaluation.

The following themes will be covered:

- The spatial connections of the area with its surrounding
- The basic urban restrictions that have to comply
- Sociological aspects - the social structure of the surrounding area, the attitude towards the public and private space
- Functional program
- Energy sustainable aspects (illumination, temperature, sustainable construction techniques)

## Program

The Museum of Natural History of Freiburg (MHNF) is a cultural institution of the State of Freiburg (Switzerland). Since 1897, the MHNF has been housed in an old wagon factory on the Pérolles plateau. The MHNF, whose collections have been enriched over the years, currently has its facilities overcrowded, and, in addition, **it no longer meets the actual standards** for an institution of this kind.



*Orthophoto showing existing and new site for the museum*

Through this studio, you will have to find an optimal solution to the problem of moving and adapting the surfaces to the needs of the MHNF. A response of high architectural value is expected to qualify the site and the image of the museum.

The MHNF will place in Pérolles, a city district that is currently going through overall transformations. It will be located in the "Arsenals" sector, on the western edge of the district of Pérolles. It will be hosted by the Arsenal Warehouse no.2, a protected building located in that place, and which is destined to accommodate part of the museum's program. The proximity of the primary, secondary and high schools in the neighborhood, and of the Sciences Faculty and Botanical Garden, works the location in favor.

The space of the old industrial railway, which borders the site of the "Arsenals" on the west, will become a new axis of soft mobility (bicycle, pedestrian, and special vehicle access) that will connect the main railway station with the area of Pérolles. A second axis of soft mobility will be perpendicular to Route des Arsenauxill and will pass through the project site for the

implementation of the MHNF, which will allow connecting the museum site with the Foundry road, and furthermore, with the districts of Daillettes and Beaumont. The new MHNF will be strategically located at the intersection of these two new soft mobility roads. It will be also very important the treatment and functionality of the various outdoor spaces and the relationship with the surroundings.



*Warehouse photo and urban plan for new Pérolles district*

In its new environment, the MHNF will be visited by a big number of people, as well as several interested circles - from students to experienced scientist, with the learned amateur in between. It will play an active role in the activation of this renewed neighborhood by providing an infrastructure that will host and create bridges between the population and cultural associations.

### **The place and the perimeter of the project**

The program of the new MHNF will be divided between the old Arsenal Warehouse No. 2 (I), which will be adaptively reused, and an extension.

Parking: access to the underground garage of the future MHNF will be through the garage of the neighbor building (marked with G on urban development plan). There's a connection that is already built in the basement between MHNF and G-building, under the large staircase located against the south front of the building, only for passenger cars. See Annex 6. The service access for the MHNF, as well as for the groups of visitors buses or minibuses, will be located on the street level (not through the garage). It is planned that the underground garage of the administrative employees can also be used for the public on weekends.

### **Warehouse of Arsenal no.2**

The old Warehouse (I), called Arsenal No. 2, is registered and legally protected. The degree of protection includes the envelope of the building, the facades and the roof, the internal support structure, the general organization of the interior spaces, the characteristic elements of the facades and the interior arrangement.



*Warehouse – interior photo*

Interventions-modifications in the existing building can be proposed in the project, justified by space limitations and giving important benefits to meet the needs of the future museum, as long as they maintain the character of the building. In the same line, an eventual extension in a form of

extra top floors will require special attention with regard to the distribution of the loads, which should not disproportionately alter the existing structural system. The maximum height allowed is 21m from the street level (approx. 69 ft). The small annex built in the northwest (sanitary) can be demolished; it is indicated in the plans.

For the functional program see Appendix I.



## Delivery

To unify and simplify graphics and focus on the project, we propose to establish the following guidelines.

### General:

- All the produced drawings have to be printed in PDF format and should be printed on paper only when we carry out a presentation in UTSOA
- When printed, the paper to be used is normal paper (not glossy)
- The drawings should be in B&W with gray shades produced in the following line weight: 0,08 inches for elements that are sectioned, and with a line weight of 0,003 inches for the rest of the elements
- Hatches should be used only for pavement lines if necessary and should be on gray

### “Warm up Project”:

- 1 x A3 format, scale 1:500, with photos of a working model or simple 3d renders or hand drawings.

### Studio Project:

- Situation plan in scale 1:1000
- Landscape sections, where the relationships between new and surrounding building masses are shown 1:500
- Main floors drawings in scale 1:300 with the legend of the spaces and furniture. The ground floor plan should be drawn with the surrounding.
- Typical elevation drawings in scale 1:300
- Sections in scale 1:300 with the name of the spaces and furniture
- Perspective views that show the main idea. Color could be used.
- Concept diagrams
- Short text explaining the main aspects of the proposal

The format of the final drawings delivery must be on 2 x A2 panels glued on foam board and, also in digital format PDF and JPEG 300 dpi.

## Schedule

Date	Theme	To be produced and delivered	Present professors
29.08	Lottery presentation	-	Mónica Juvera Boris Bezan
31.08, 05.09.	Quick “warm up” small workshop project	Sketches / working model	Mónica Juvera Boris Bezan
06.09	Studio project: Project information, site analysis	-	Mónica Juvera Boris Bezan
12.09	“Warm up” project delivery Feedback comments via Skype	Quick drawings in scale 1:500 + diagrams + small text, everything on one A3 format	Mónica Juvera / Boris Bezan
17-19.09	Studio project	Sketch drawings	Boris Bezan
25.09	Skype meetings	Graphic analysis diagrams	Mónica Juvera / Boris Bezan
1-3.10	Studio project	Sketch drawings	Mónica Juvera
	Skype meetings	Sketch drawings	Mónica Juvera / Boris Bezan
15-17.10	Studio project	Sketch drawings	Boris Bezan
	Skype meetings	Draft drawings	Mónica Juvera / Boris Bezan
29-31.10	Studio project Lecture	Draft drawings	Mónica Juvera Boris Bezan
	Skype meetings	Draft drawings	Mónica Juvera / Boris Bezan
12-14.11	Studio project	Draft drawings	Mónica Juvera
	Skype meetings	Draft drawings	Mónica Juvera / Boris Bezan
26.11-7.12	Studio project	Final drawings	Mónica Juvera Boris Bezan
7.12.	Studio project presentation	Final drawings printed in normal paper (2 x A2) glued on foam board	Mónica Juvera Boris Bezan

## References

### Books

- Zuskin, S. Landscapes of Power: From Detroit to Disney World, University of California Press, Berkley, Los Angeles 1991
- John Urry, Consuming Places, Routledge, London, New York 1995
- Olsson, K. "Cultural build heritage as a strategy" in City and Culture: Cultural Processes and Urban Sustainability, Swedish Urban Environment Council, 1999

### Blogs and websites

- Jackie Craven, Adaptive Reuse - How to Give Old Buildings New Life,  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/adaptive-reuse-repurposing-old-buildings-178242>
- Official web page of the MHNF museum: <http://www.fr.ch/mhn/fr/pub/index.cfm>



## Appendix I – functional program

1.RECEPTION, CULTURAL ADMINISTRATION, INFORMATION	8210
1.1. Reception	
Reception, shop, loan service, office	1080
Storage of reception and loan service	390
Wardrobe and public WC	780
Staff WC	170
1.2. Cultural administration	
Office	390
Workshop	1290
Storage	320
Multi-purpose area with grandstand	1290
1.3. Lobby	
Multifunctional lobby with cafeteria	1720
Kitchen	260
Storage	260
Food and beverage storage	260
2. EXHIBITIONS *	25840
2.1. Permanent exhibitions	21530
2.2. Temporary exhibition 1 ("whitebox"). H ≥16,5ft.	3230
2.3. Temporary exhibition 2, H ≥ 11,5ft.	1080
3. ADMINISTRATION	5780
3.1. Direction - 3 x Office (260 sq ft each)1	780
3.2. Administration	
Office 4 - secretariat	390
Secretarial storage, reports and post office	390
3.3. Scientific collaborators - 4 x Office (260 sq ft each)	1040
3.4. Documentation and graphics - Local photography, digitalization and graphics	650
3.5. Shared spaces	
Meeting room and library	650
Consultation and determination room	390
Resting room	520
Staff WC	170
3.6. Archives and scientific collections	800

4. SERVICE SPACES **	11100
4.1. Shared spaces	
Technical office	260
Staff locker room	390
4.2. Production, assembly and repair	
Technical workshop	860
Carpentry workshop	1830
Color and glue workshop	540
Mechanical workshop	260
4.3. Taxidermy	
Workshop	520
Technical room	320
Laboratory	260
Cold room	220
Disinfection chamber	130
High risk collections	810
4.4. Concierge's office, technical spaces and others	
Concierge's room	390
Short-term storage room (for exhibition material)	260
Recycling room	170
Technical space	3230
4.5. Staff access and unloading area	
Staff access	650

**Total**

**50930**

5. PLANNING OF OUTDOOR SPACES ***	
5.1 Cafeteria terrace	1080
5.2 Outdoor space with entertainment place for 100 people and picnic area	6460
5.3 Place for access/delivery for the service access (3.4.5. Staff access and unloading area)	
5.4 Space for minibus (vehicle of approximately 20 ft long)	1 space
5.5 Covered space for bicycles	30 spaces

6. INTERIOR PARKING FOR VEHICLES	
Parking for cars (employees and visitors)	26 spaces
Parking for motorcycles	3 spaces
Parking for disabled people	2 spaces

7. SURFACE FOR POSSIBLE EXPANSION ****	
Surface for the future expansion of the MHNF or administration	21500 max

\*At least 75% of the objects that are currently exhibited in the museum will be exhibited in the new area of permanent exhibitions, including some very large objects such as the sperm whale (L 41 ft / W 8 ft / H 8.5 ft), the sea whale (L 35.5 ft / W 8 ft / H 6 ft) or the giraffe (H> 13 ft). The future permanent exhibitions will be organized in 6-8 space units (with their respective themes). For the first 10760 sqft H ≥ 16.5 ft, and for the remaining 10760 sq ft, H ≥ 11.5 ft.

Depending on the objects exhibited, the interior architecture of the existing building can be an integral part of the new scenography, or, on the other hand, be completely excluded, rather in “white box” exhibition rooms. The circulation surfaces are included in the exhibition rooms.

To load/unload, near a load elevator (dimensions of the cabin approximately 10 x 10 ft) serving workshops and exhibition rooms; no loading dock is necessary.

\*\* For all service spaces: H ≥ 10 ft desirable, for staff access H 15 ft with a door height of 14 ft without obstacles and 11.5 ft wide.

\*\*\*If the proposal is to remodel the outdoor space south of building G, inside the project area, there are already 58 places for bicycles planned for this building).

\*\*\*\* Depending on the project (minimum height of 11.5 ft per floor), an **extension** from 0 to 21500 sq ft can be proposed.)