

An abstract geometric collage within a semi-circular frame. It features a complex network of thick red lines crisscrossing over various patterns and colors including yellow, blue, green, pink, and black-and-white checkered and striped motifs. The background of the collage is a light gray gradient.

# HOW. DO. WE. BUILD. AGAIN.



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*From what do we build?  
How should we build?  
What can we learn from the old?  
What must we unlearn from the new?*

**How. Do. We. Build. Again.**

**INTRODUCTION**

The big challenges facing architecture are clear—**resource scarcity, climate urgency**—so our question is precise: How do we build without using new materials?

By looking at materials and waste differently. By joining and processing better. By letting the old become the new. By questioning our aesthetic preferences.

This studio invites you to think about how we can build again. We start with the materials and zoom out to the building. From close up to a finished project. From detail to building. Making the future from what is already here.

The studio will be organised in 3 actions, each anchored in a conversation reflecting on how do we build again, given current societal, economic and environmental challenges. For the first two actions, you will work individually, while the third action will be done in groups of two. Each action builds upon the previous, exploring making as thinking, starting from what already exists.

*“We’ve already created everything we need.  
The challenge is to better understand and find value in what already exists.” - Søren Pihlmann*



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1-2: Filip Dujardin - Memorial I-II  
3-4: Unknown - Construction waste  
5-6: Ernst Lohse - The Western Gate of Copenhagen  
7-8: Lendager - Resource Rows

## Action 1: MATERIALS

What materials are there? How can they be disassembled? How can they be reassembled? What can we do with leftovers? How can these materials be processed? How are they joined? Which old techniques can we learn from? Which new? How can materials be used again?

In the first action, we will visit three sites that will become our material bank for the studio. You will work together to photograph, draw, measure, map, and analyse found materials to create a common catalogue, learning from existing examples. You will work individually with the found materials to investigate how they can be processed and reapplied, researching old and new techniques. How can these materials be joined and organised? What aesthetic and functional potential do they contain? Workshops and knowledge-sharing set a common ground—examining the potential within the found materials at 1:1.

*"It's about thinking the whole process in reverse. We start by looking at what materials already exist before we begin drawing. That's essentially how people have worked through most of history." - Thelma Slaatto*



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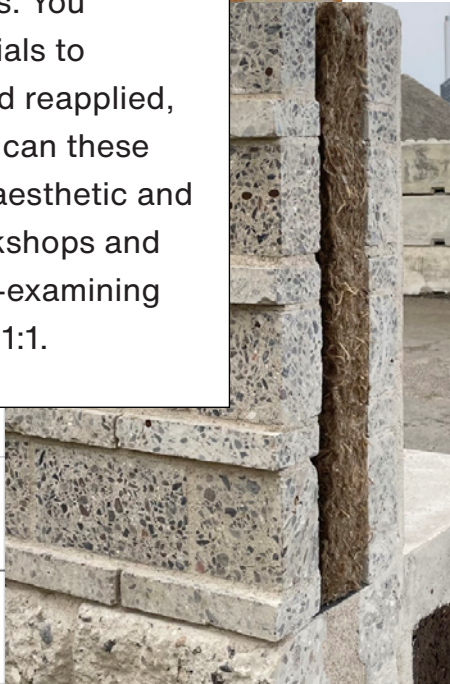
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## Action 2: ASSEMBLY

How do materials create space? How do they make a floor, a wall, a roof, a facade? What new relations can be made? How are different elements connected? How do they perform together? What traces of previous lives remain? What atmosphere do they produce? How do they assemble again?

The second action is all about assembling materials to create space. Using the common catalogue, you will draw, design and build a 1:20 fragment that will reflect on what makes space. Taking inspiration from precedents, practices and research on assembling materials in three dimensions, you will create a part of an architectural structure. Each assembly will engage with archetypical structural elements within a building such as floor, wall, roof, facade, providing a solution for how enclosure, support, and aesthetic appeal can be managed. Input, workshops and tutorials will provide an insight into how to draw, visualise and detail the designs.



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- 1: Maxence Grangeot - Upcycling of Concrete Rubble
- 2-3: Slaatto Morsbøl - Inside Out, Downside Up
- 4: Ruina - Entulhite
- 5: Frankish Castle - Paros, Greece
- 6: Slaatto Morsbøl - Udsyn 2024
- 7: Pihlmann Architects - House 14A
- 8: Josef Plecnik - National Library of Slovenia
- 9-10: Norell/Rodhe - Raamland
- 11: François-Xavier Louis - LIF Twice a House

Action 3: PRACTICE

What is the goal of the practice? What will it design?  
What is the program? Where is it located? How will it  
relate materials and their assembly to a context? How  
can it envision building again?

In the last action, two students will form a practice.  
Each practice will design a building / a place. The  
practice defines its own location and program. If it  
is repurposing an existing building, creating a “new”  
building or a bit of both. Each practice will, through its  
design, reflect on how future buildings can be adapted  
or built from mostly existing materials/fragments  
and how they can relate to their context. The chosen  
approach will have its starting point in the previous  
two actions. Through the design, the practice will  
showcase a vision for how we can build again.



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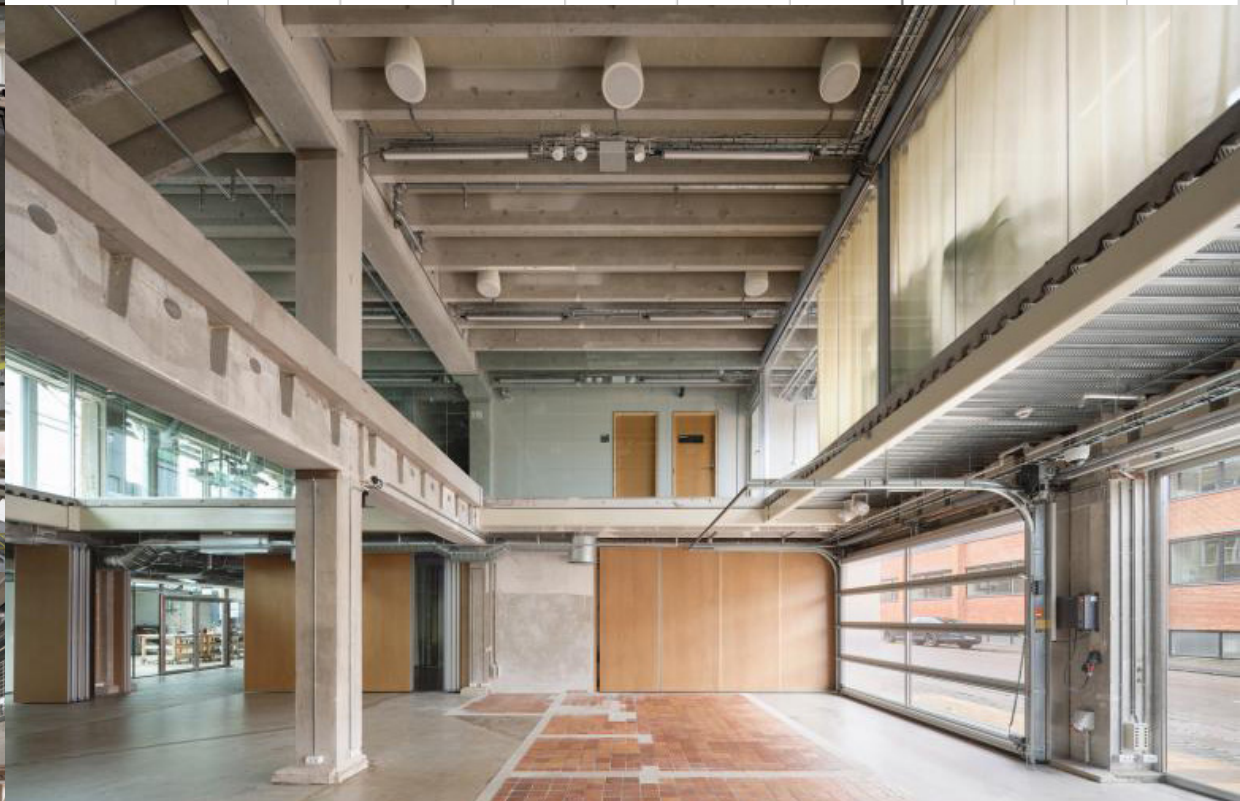
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1-2: Pihlmann Architects - House 14A  
3-5: Ju Taillieu Architects - Pachtwoning  
6-7: Eagles of Architecture - Geradstraat 5 Studios  
8-9: Pihlmann Architects - Thoravej 29

METHODOLOGY

Participants in the studio will collectively engage with topics brought forward by initiatives like <https://www.houseeurope.eu/>, while studying examples from architects and offices such as Jo Taillieu Architecten, Superuse Studio, Lendager, Pihlmann Architects, Herzog & de Meuron and Josef Plecnik.

The studio emphasises creative exploration combined with critical analysis of existing projects/ research while implementing lessons learned into design work. Participants will refine their ability to focus on essentials, filter relevant information and enhance personal working methods, including self-organisation and collaboration within teams. These tools and methods aim to foster both independent and collective learning while encouraging creativity and critical thinking. The studio will be a mix of informal design crits, discussions, presentations, tutorials and workshops to guide you in the design process.

The studio will be taught mainly on Thursdays (with exceptions relating to workshops, guests and public holidays) and in English | German.

INSTRUCTORS

**Mathias Bank** is from Denmark and has a background from the University of Applied Arts in Vienna, while also having worked for BIG Architects in the past. He recently finished his PhD on generative AI processes in early architecture design at the university.

**Layla van Ellen** is from the Netherlands/ Belgium, and she studied building technology at TU Delft and holds a PhD from Newcastle University in living architecture. Her focus is on sustainability transitions.

CALENDAR

This is an early **preliminary** overview of the current studio calendar. A detailed version for the first semester will be available at the Studio Introduction in October.

02.10.25 Studio Introduction

02.10.25 *Action 1: MATERIALS* Start

09.10.25 Site visits

06.11.25 *Action 1: MATERIALS* Review

12.11.25 *Action 2: ASSEMBLY* Intro

11.12.25 *Action 2: ASSEMBLY* Midreview

08.01.26 *Action 2: ASSEMBLY* Final

08.01.26 *Action 3: PRACTICE* Concept

29.01.26 *Action 3: PRACTICE* Design

16.04.26 *Action 3: PRACTICE* Production

11.06.26 *Action 3: PRACTICE* Exhibition

25.06.26 Studio Finals

1-2: Herzog & de Meuron - 543 Hortus  
3-4: Nordsten - Products  
5: Sami Dubois - LIF Twice a House  
6-8: Norell/Rodhe - Under Construction