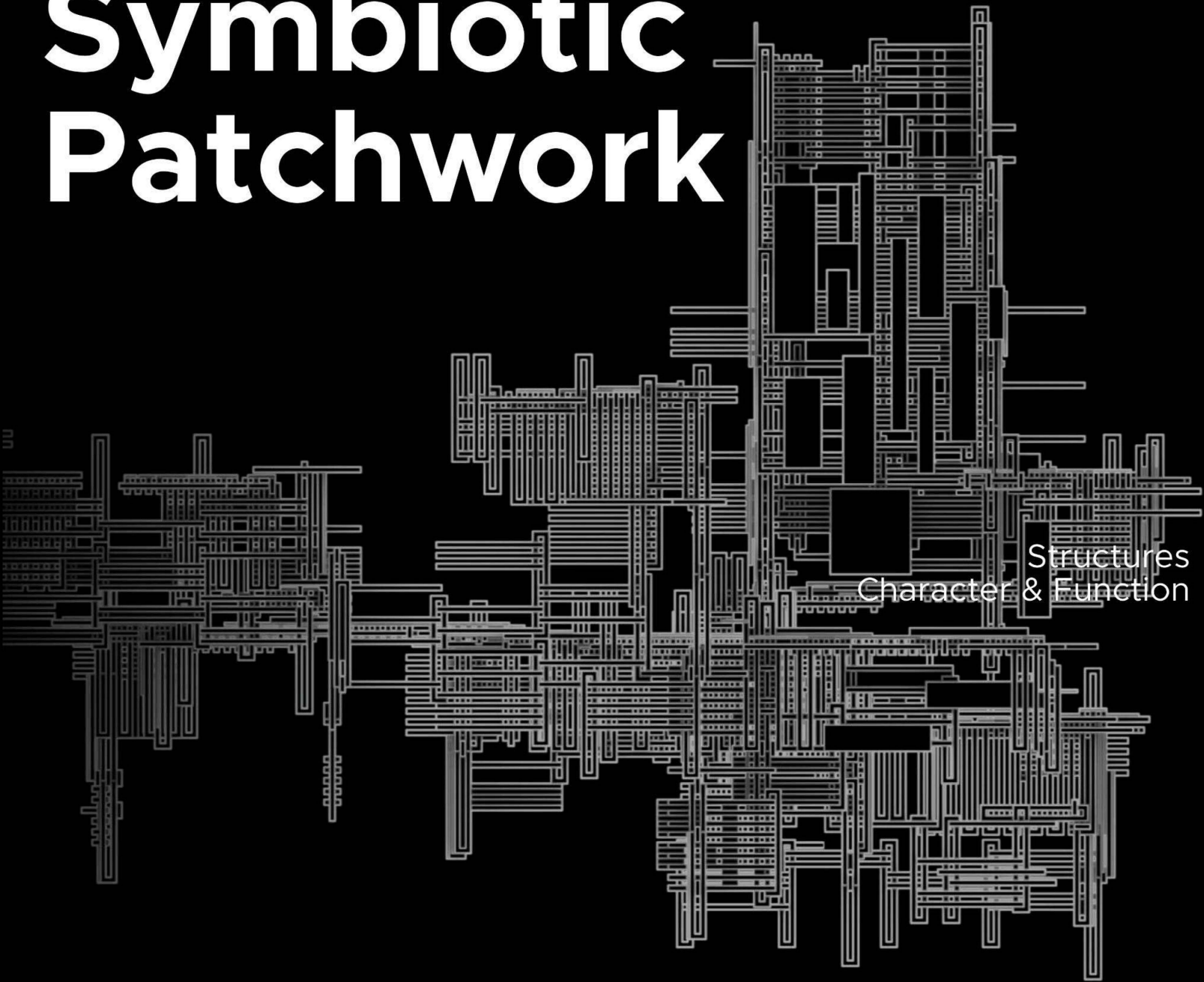


Symbiotic Patchwork



Structures
Character & Function

Bachelor
Design Studio E2
WS 25/26

i.sd
STRUCTURE AND DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF INNSBRUCK

Introduction Letter

Dear applicants,

We are excited to share with you the brief for this semester's E2 design studio. It will be taught by Mohamed Abdelhady Omar, architect and computational designer based in Vienna.



Mohamed Abdelhady

Mohamed studied at the Institute of Architecture – IOA (Studio Hani Rashid) at the University of Applied Arts Vienna, where he received his Master's degree. He has worked and collaborated internationally with leading architecture and design firms, including **Delugan Meissl Associated Architects (DMAA)** in Vienna, **Grimshaw Architects** in Dubai / London, and **LAVA** in Berlin, among others. His professional journey also includes three years of experience in China and collaborations with innovative design studios worldwide.

This semester's studio, "**Symbiotic Patchwork**," will explore how new structural interventions can coexist with existing megastructures, turning rigid frameworks into layered, adaptive, and character-rich environments.

We look forward to an intensive semester of research, experimentation, and design — and to learning from one another in the process.

Best regards,
Mohamed Abdelhady Omar

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Design Studio WS 25/26



University of Economics (UZA1)

1. Abstract

The former University of Economics (UZA1) in Vienna represents one of the city's most ambitious megastructures of the late 20th century. Today, the complex stands at a turning point: too large and rigid to function as intended, yet too significant to ignore. This studio will investigate strategies of architectural transformation through **volumetric and structural interventions**. Instead of replacing the existing, students will explore how **new insertions can coexist with the old**, generating a layered and symbiotic patchwork of spaces, programs, and atmospheres.



Design Reference

2. Design Proposal

The studio does not aim for a total masterplan but for **surgical architectural acts** that redefine selected portions of the building. Students will propose **functional additions** that address gaps in program, circulation, and identity. The focus will be on one of three main zones:

- **Atrium** – activating and occupying the building's internal voids
- **Roof** – transforming the vast horizontal surface into usable, expressive space
- **Edge** – negotiating the threshold between campus and city



Design Reference

Each intervention will combine **structural clarity** with **spatial imagination**, turning the existing building into a host for new forms of collective life.

3. Design Methodology

- **Site & Structural Analysis:** mapping existing grids, volumes, flows, and latent potentials
 - **Volumetric Exploration:** abstract massing studies as a tool to test structural and atmospheric possibilities
 - **Programmatic Integration:** grafting functions such as studios, labs, housing, or public spaces into the interventions
 - **Iterative Development:** moving from concept models to detailed architectural definition
 - **Synthesis:** embedding the intervention within the larger narrative of adaptive reuse and urban resilience
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Design Reference

4. Dates

Every Thursday, 10:30 AM