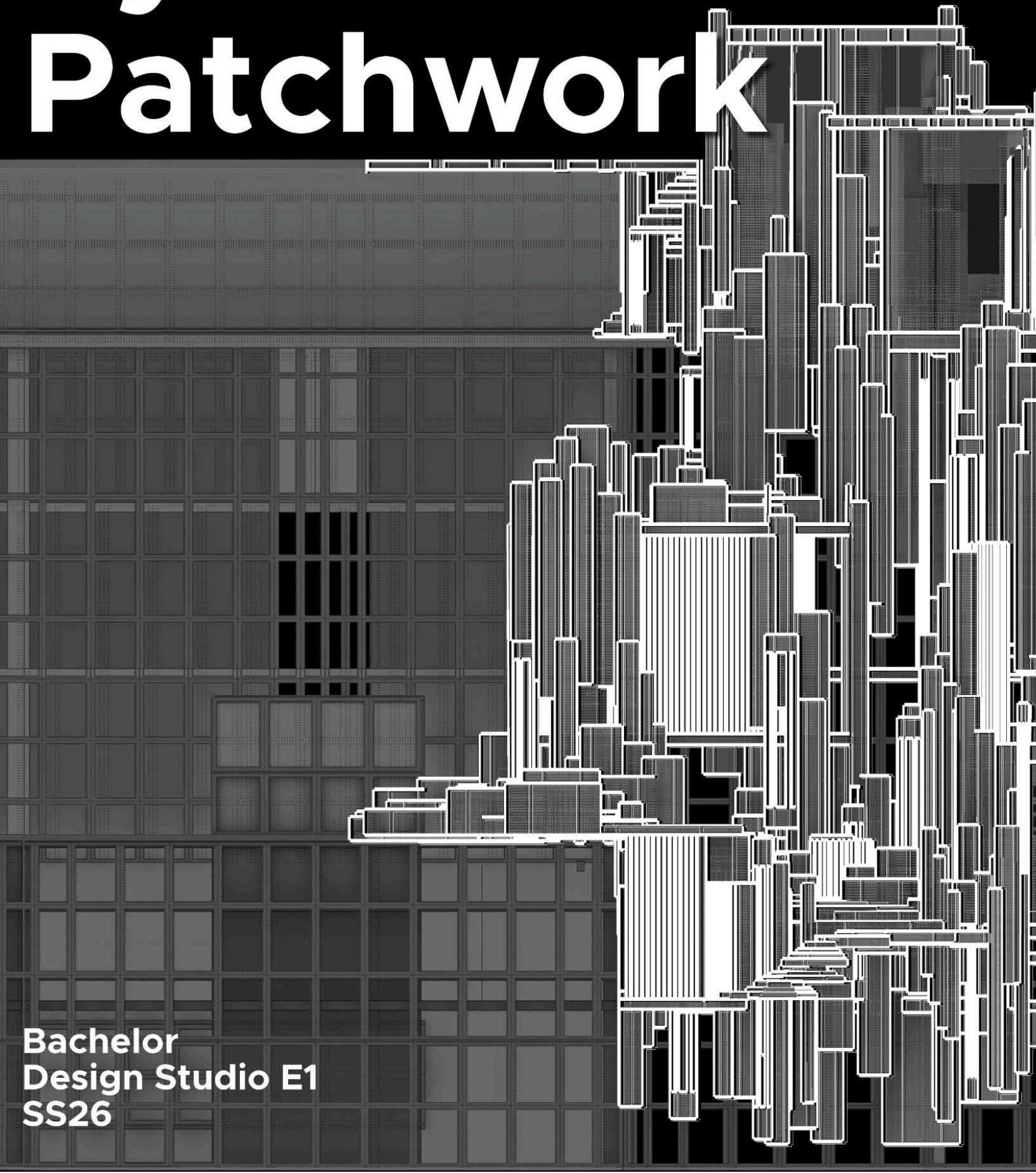


Symbiotic Patchwork



**Bachelor
Design Studio E1
SS26**

Introduction Letter

Dear applicants,

We are excited to share with you the brief for this semester's E1 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

Symbiotic Patchwork

E1 Design Studio SS 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

“Symbiotic Patchwork” describes an architectural approach in which new spatial systems coexist with existing structures, forming layered and interdependent environments. In this studio, patchwork is not understood as collage or decoration, but as **systematic occupation**: working within an existing grid, extending it, interrupting it, and transforming it through architectural means.

Students will explore how architectural space can be generated by:

- inhabiting repetitive structural systems
- working through subtraction, infill, and connection
- negotiating between old and new spatial orders



Design Reference

3. Design Methodology

- **Structural and Spatial Analysis:** mapping existing grids, volumes, flows, and latent potentials
- **Programmatic Integration:** Introducing simple collective programs (such as learning, working, or making) that support spatial clarity and architectural legibility.
- **Spatial Occupation :** Exploration of architectural interventions through subtraction, infill, layering, and connection within the existing framework.
- **Iterative Development:** Refining proposals through continuous feedback, moving from conceptual models to precise architectural definition.
- **Synthesis:** Embedding the intervention within the existing building as a symbiotic architectural system, where structure, space, and program are inseparable.



Design Reference

4. Dates

Every Thursday, 10:00 AM