Unhabitable inhabitat SUMMER SCHOOL 2020 31.08-04.09 *in* Geneva.

# EPFL ETHzürich

ABOUT



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### Unhabitable habitat

### " - What did you miss the most inside ? - Life<sup>1</sup>"

The ongoing COVID 19 crisis, has provided an uncanny portal into not only how interrelated our planetary habitat is, but also on the issues of the 'unhabitable'. Notions such as social distancing and self-isolation, the impossibility or the oddity of it have suddenly become part of everyday public discourse. More importantly, the crisis and the lockdown that ensued it, has visibilised 'unhabitable habitat' which has been inconspicuous so far.

Habitat is commonly defined not only by spatial qualities responding to basic human needs, but also by a balance between private and collective lives. Some values attributed to domestic space as a way to develop private life are home, autonomy, rest, comfort, privacy and protection, and those attributed to the collective are cohabitation, sharing, community and sociability. While these values are promoted and celebrated in the architectural pedagogy, they are not always applied in practice. Through engaging future architecture practitioners, planners, artists, social scientists, PhD and Master students, the objective of the summer school is to critically explore the 'unhabitable'. How does rationalization and safety have in its definition and in the (social) production of spaces? Is it possible to understand unhabitable in terms of ethical (decency) and physical boundaries (what is bearable)?

This summer school offers a large array of topics allowing to tackle fundamental political issues related to unhabitable habitat such as: informality, vulnerability, and utopias of common values. From specific environmental issues and different geographical contexts, from non-visible to the nearby objects, our aim is to collectively explore the question of institutionalized and non- institutionalized 'inhabitability'. Through the summer school, we will pay attention on particular case study such as bunker<sup>2</sup> in the city center of Geneva, which along with other examples such as emergency night shelters and students' housing will therefore be investigated serve as sits to investigate inhabitability, interrogating the answers given by these places to the current crisis. The focus in particular will be on the settling, appropriation and subversion of uses in the domestic space, not as anecdotic and superficial accommodation principle of the living environment, but as everyday forms of resistance and expressions of the inhabitants' political agency.

The aim of this exercise is to explore the issues of domesticity, reuse, appropriation, vulnerability, institutionalization in habitat and to co-produce an analytical methodology to investigate this. A number of lectures during the summer school will explore themes such as: the role of researchers and designers in these issues? Through which means and resources can one develop active and critical researches for spatial projects: academic (articles, communications), artistic (audio-visual or performative, productions), architectural (plans, maps, sketches) or activism (collective strategies, demonstrations, manifests)? The summer school will provide an opportunity to study sound as a means to capture ambiances (sonic atmospheres, noise, resonances, sonority) and the story of their inhabitants (testimonies and conversations). By rejecting the systematic use of visual images, we will aim to develop other ways to capture and depict space, such as sound recording, interview and description. These will be used towards the production of a series of podcasts on the 'unhabitable habitat'.

<sup>1</sup> Excerpt of the documentary film « Bunkers » of the film director Anne-Claire Adet.

<sup>2</sup> From 2004 to 2018, 650 asylum seekers lived in 10 bunkers in the canton of Geneva.

### Monday - Day 1

<u>12:00 – 14:00</u> Gathering and camp installation in *Maison Baron* 

<u>14:00 – 18:30</u> Introduction and presentation of the week by organisers : speakers guests/ workshop/case studies/final work A. First guest speakers talk B,C,D in *Usine Parker* 

<u>19:00</u> Dinner and group formation in *Maison Baron* 

### **Tuesday – Day 2**

<u>09:00 – 12:00</u> Speakers interventions E,F in *Usine Parker* 

<u>12:00-13:00</u> Lunch by Molotofu

<u>13:00 - 15:00</u> Site visit with guest speakers

<u>15:00 – 18:00</u> Working session by group Students presentation to the organisers and speakers of the day of the chosen themes/case study/methodology in *Usine Parker* 

<u>19:30</u> Dinner in *Maison Baron* 

#### \* Informations

The summer school will be in English, and some parts in French. The site visits will be in *Geneva* and includes PC shelters (bunkers). The workshop will be based on these visits and will have the aim to create, as final attended work, a sound object composed by interviews, visit comments and or sounds of places.

### A. Marie Trossat (FR), architect and sociologist & Nitin Bathla (IN), architect and artist - Organizing Committee

« Introduction of the Summer School -Unhabitable in a context of COVID 19»

### B. Cristina Del Biaggio (FR), PhD, geographer - guest

Since 2012, Cristina Del Biaggio has been interested in the geographical, political and social challenges of migration. Her research covers border issues, border barriers and migration routes, also the media treatment of migration issues as well as housing for exiles in Switzerland.

C. Luca Pattaroni (CH), PhD, sociologist - OC supervisor «Imprescriptible habitability : elements for an anthropology of dwelling. »

#### D. Valentin Bourdon (FR), architect - OC

« Standards of habitability from an architectural perspective. »

E. Clément Thiry and Chloé

Schuiten (BE), artists - guests Artists duo based in *Brussels*, they founded the Laboratory of living differently». Each of their actions is defined as a capsule of life experimentation that escapes from the rhythm of our society by turning and bending habits. In their capsules of life, they bury themselves in roundabouts, live along highways or create their own industrial sanatorium.

F. Mathilde Chénin (FR), artist - OC « Informal housing and collective utopia. The case of two artistic residencies : one within in a *troglodytic site*, the other in a *former ciment works*, in *France*.»

### Wednesday - Day 3

<u>09:00 – 12:00</u> Speakers interventions G,H,I in *Usine Parker* 

<u>12:00 -13:00</u> Lunch by Molotofu

<u>13:00 - 15:00</u> Site visit with guest speakers

<u>15:00 – 18:00</u> Working session by group Students with the organisers and speakers of the day developing their work in *Usine Parker* 

<u>19:30</u> Dinner in *Maison Baron* 

### F. Anne-Claire Adet (FR), political scientist and filmmaker - guest

She is a political scientist, working at the intersection of arts & politics. She is a filmmaker and notably directed Bunkers (2016), a documentary film on migrants' sheltering in Civil Protection shelters, in *Geneva*.

### G. Mohammad Jadallah (SD/CH), journalist and activist - guest

Sudanese journalist, Mohammed sought asylum in Switzerland in 2014. He was in the head of the Stop bunkers movement, which gathers about 200 asylum seekers.

### I. Marie Trossat (FR), architect and sociologist - OC

«Uninhabitable or inhospitable? Temporary occupations for undocumented workers, emergency night shelters for transmigrants and centers for asylum seekers, in *Brussels and Belgium* »

### Thursday - Day 4

<u>09:00 – 12:00</u> Speakers interventions J,K in *Usine Parker* 

<u>12 :00-13 00</u> Lunch by Molotofu

<u>13:00 - 15:00</u> Site visit with guest speakers

<u>15:00 – 18:00</u> Working session by group Students with the organisers and speakers of the day preparing their presentation in *Usine Parker* 

<u>19:30</u> Dinner, open working sessions with residents artists and guest speakers in *Maison Baron* 

### Friday - Day 5

<u>09:00 – 12:00</u> Speakers last interventions L,M in *Usine Parker* 

<u>12 :00-13 00</u> Lunch by Molotofu

<u>13:00 - 15:00</u> Students final presentations Feedback and final comments by Charles Heller and Luca Pattaroni in *Usine Parker* 

<u>15:00</u> Goodbye party in *Maison Baron* 

#### J. Facundo Fernandez (AR) and Sabine Kastner (DE), architects guests

Both architects, Facundo Fernandez is head professor of "Non-domestic" Seminar at FADU-UBA (Buenos Aires, AR), which explores social and domestic conditions in different contexts, while Sabine Kastner interests lie in the exploration of complexities that create specific contexts by transferring social and cultural behaviors into space. Together, they develop the concept of «Prescribed Comfort» which describe phenomena that are shaped by feelings, ways of life and environments.

### K. Nitin Bathla (IN), architect and artist - OC

« Contested Forests and counterecologies to the urbanisation of commons in a Delhi without Borders »

## L. Joan Stavo-Debauge (FR), PhD, sociologist - guest

Author of « What is hospitality? Coming to the community », Joan Stavo-Debauge develops since his PhD a research on urban hospitality considered as the relation between people and environnements. Hospitality then appears as a quality susceptible to be applied to multiple scales, mechanims and territories.

#### M. Charles Heller (US/CH), PhD, researcher and filmmaker - guest https://forensic-architecture.org/

The work of Charles Heller has a long-standing focus on the politics of migration. In 2015, he completed a PhD in Research Architecture at Goldsmiths, University of London, where he continues to be affiliated as a research fellow. He is currently conducting a postdoctoral research in Geneva.

N. Luca Pattaroni (CH), PhD, sociologist - OC supervisor Comments and conclusion. The summer school is adressed to master or PhD students, it will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from the 31th of August until the 4th of September, 2020.

The fee participation is of 270 CHF.- for the PhD students and 162 CHF.- for master students. PhD students from ETH domains can obtain 2 credits. For the others, you can contact us nor your administration.

Meals and accommodation are in our charge. For accommodating, you will be invited to camp in the beautiful garden of la Maison Baron.

For any further informations : unhabitable-habitat@epfl.ch !



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### ENG.

This summer school invites applications from Masters and PhD students pursuing studies in architecture, art, design, geography, social sciences, social work and urbanism. Organized in partnership between ETH Zurich and EPFL, the summer school is primarily geared towards the students from these domains. However, we will be happy to receive a few candidates from other academic domains in Switzerland and beyond as well. The available places at the summer school are limited to 15-20 students and depending on the number of applications, a selection will be made from among the applicants. Please include the following as one PDF of 1 or 2 pages in your application and send it to **unhabitable-habitat@epfl.ch** latest by <u>the 15th of June, 2020</u>. The applications can be submitted in either English or French.

• **Present yourself** (*academic course you are pursuing, your research topic(s), its links with the thematic of the summer school*)

• Explain your motivations (what is your interest to participate in the summer school?)

• Present us one or two cases that you link with the thematic of the summer school 'Unhabitable Habitat' (projects, initiatives, situations)

### FR.

La summer school est ouverte aux étudiants de master et de doctorat en architecture, art, design, géographie, sciences sociales, travail social et urbanisme. Il s'agit d'un partenariat entre l'ETH Zurich et l'EPFL et les étudiants de ces deux domaines sont les bienvenus. Nous serons cependant heureux de recevoir des candidatures d'autres univers académiques. Les places sont limitées à 15-20 étudiants ; en fonction du nombre de candidatures, une sélection sera faite. La candidature doit présenter sous le format PDF d'1 ou 2 pages au maximum les éléments ci-dessous et être envoyée à l'adresse email **unhabitable-habitat@epfl.ch** avant <u>le 15 juin 2020</u>. Vous pouvez candidater en français ou en anglais.

• **Présentez-vous** (parcours académique, vos problématiques de recherche, ses liens avec *la thématique*)

• Expliquez vos motivations (votre intérêt à participer à notre summer school)

• Présentez-nous un ou deux cas que vous reliez à l'habitat inhabitable (projets, initiatives, situations)

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