

On Collaborations

Symposium for Architectural Pedagogies

Friday, 21st Nov 25, 9.00 – 18.00

On Collaborations

There are various forms of collaborations. None of them are free of conflict, even if, at their root, they grow out of a common interest, aim at common objectives, and emerge from a feeling of togetherness. While it is clear that no architecture can emerge without collective organization, it is also impossible without individual engagement. So what are the core qualities of collective work and where do its boundaries lie?

Architecture is a joint endeavour, and architectural creations are the end result of processes of negotiation, but also of chance occurrences, unforeseen circumstances, tensions, and synergies. Collaborations are a necessity, and they are founded on the ability to work together effectively. More so than in many other disciplines, architecture brings together various interests, leading to conflicts that have to be negotiated. The different roles involved in architecture are, however, continually in flux, and meander between a range of external and internal perspectives, between non-knowledge and knowledge, or perhaps more accurately, between generalist and specialist knowledge, and ultimately have to navigate the cleft between vision and reality.

The requirements placed on the built space challenge us to engage in more in-depth and complex collaborations with representatives of other disciplines who have at their disposal other tools, come from different planning cultures, and set different objectives. What language and vocabulary can we find that will enable us to further architecture by moving beyond its boundaries, and which practical knowledge is necessary for this task? And how can this new culture of collaboration become established in architectural education and research?

Over the course of this symposium, participants will be invited to reflect on the points made above and, more specifically, to address the following two questions.

**1.
What is the
role of
collaboration
in architectural
education
and research?**

**2.
How can we
collaborate
with each other
in architectural
education
and research
in order to
reconnect
with society?**

Program

Part 1 What is the role of collaboration in architectural education and research?

Preparation for all registered participants

Please bring one favourite physical book to the symposium that reflects an aspect of collaboration in your field of practice. The book may relate to your professional, teaching, or research work. It could explore how collaboration unites diverse voices – through real-world examples, utopian visions, alternative approaches, or even dystopian scenarios of working together. These books will serve as catalysts for conversation during the table talks and will be photographed individually and collectively for inclusion in the symposium publication.

Any type of book is welcome – a specialist publication, a novel, a manual, or even a children’s book – as long as it resonates with your understanding of collaboration.

8.30	Check-in
Parallel venue	Book photo session Markus Käch & Miriam Rutherford
9.00	Welcome and introduction Manfred Huber Torsten Lange Heike Biechteler
9.30	Choir session – Seated Conducting & Audience Meditation David Helbich
9.45	20-minute Presentations Keynotes Helena Mattsson Céline Baumann Matthias Schuler & Anja Thierfelder

10.45	Coffee break
Parallel venue	Book photo session Markus Käch & Miriam Rutherford
11.00	Keynotes Mary Anderson, Assemble Susan Schuppli
11.45	Choir session — Earpieces David Helbich
12.00	Panel Discussion and Closing Stefan Kurath & Leona Lynen
13.00	Lunch break
Parallel venue	Book photo session Markus Käch & Miriam Rutherford

Part 2

How can we collaborate with each other in architectural education and research in order to reconnect with society?

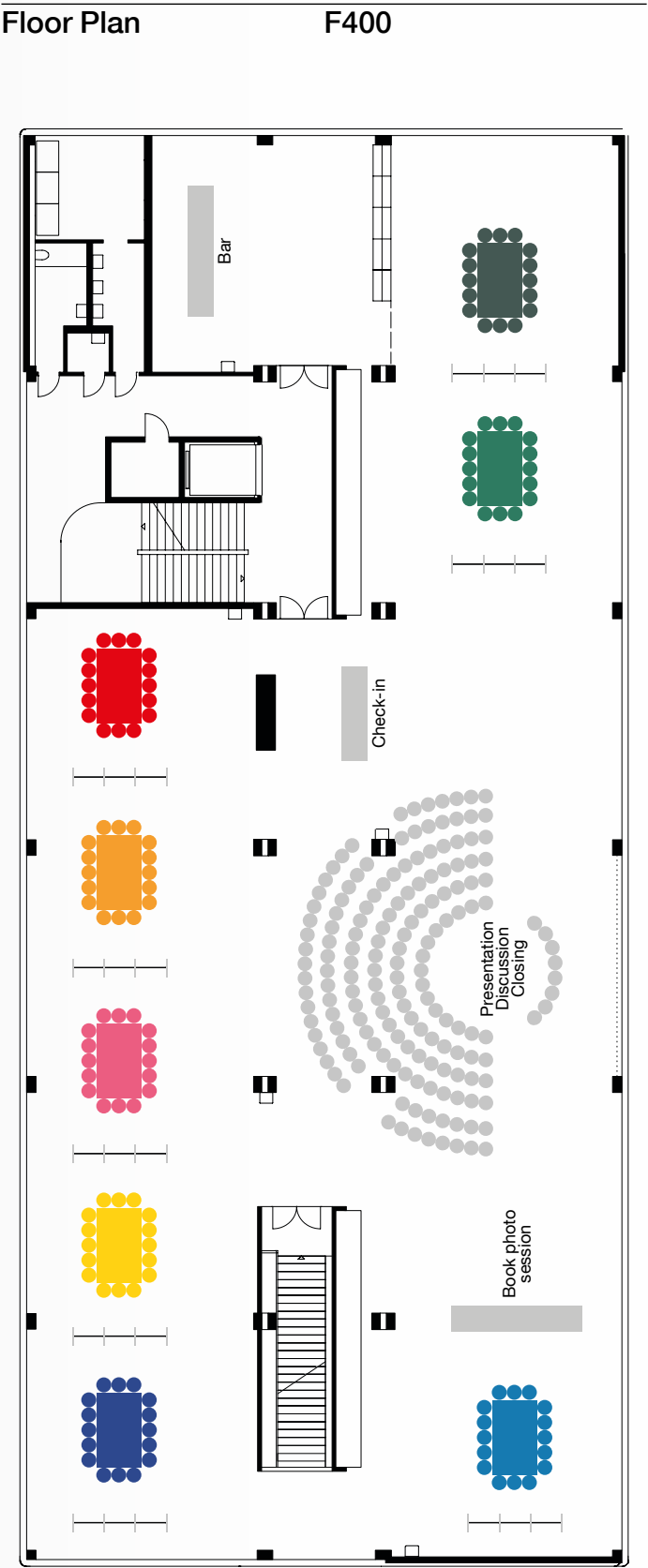
14.00	Introduction Heike Biechteler
14.15	Choir session — Speech choir “The Antiphon” David Helbich
14.45	Table Talks
Table 1	Collaborating with Society (Through research) Transformative Forms of Applied Research
Panel chairs	Isabel Concheiro & Séréna Vanbutsele, HEIA Fribourg

Table 2	Collaborating with the Existing Keeping What's Not Good
Panel chairs	Axel Humpert & Dominique Salathée, FHNW Basel
Table 3	Collaborating with Other Disciplines Cultivating Transgressions Across Disciplines: On the Role of Boundary-Crossing in Teaching, Collaboration, and Authorship
Panel chairs	Gunter Klix & Boris Gusic, HSLU Luzern; Jacqueline Pauli, ETH Zürich
Table 4	Collaborating with Climate Negotiating Evidence in Design
Panel chairs	Sascha Roesler & Julian Raffetseder USI Mendrisio
Table 5	Collaborating with Models Agency, Interaction, and Knowledge Production in Model-Based Collaboration
Panel chairs	Maxime Zaugg, ZHAW Winterthur & Philipp Urech, ETH Zürich

Table 6	Collaborating with Craftsmanship Collaborative Planning and Mutual Learning in the Design Process
Panel chairs	Anna Jessen & Mark Amman, ArchitekturWerkstatt OST, St. Gallen
Table 7	Collaborating with Technology Enabling Collective Work
Panel chairs	Nelly Pilz & Peter Staub, BFH Bern
Table 8	Collaborating with Pedagogy Collective Learning as an Institution
Panel chairs	Vera Kaps & Nazli Tümerdem, ETH Zurich
16.30	Preparing statements & coffee break
Parallel venue	Book photo session Markus Käch & Miriam Rutherford
17.00	Choir session — Tongue conducting David Helbich

17.05	(W)rapping up: What's next Live presentation and statement readings
17.45	Choir session — Human Delay David Helbich
18.00	Book launch: Teaching Urbanism & Bar Service
19.00	Dinner

	Collaborating with
● Table 1	Society
● Table 2	the Existing
● Table 3	Other Disciplines
● Table 4	Climate
● Table 5	Models
● Table 6	Craftsmanship
● Table 7	Technology
● Table 8	Pedagogy



Information

The symposium is geared towards teachers, researchers, practitioners, and students of architecture and related disciplines.

Where & when

Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Engineering & Architecture
Technikumsstrasse 21
6048 Horw

Wing IV, Floor F, Trakt IV, Geschoss F,
Atelier F 400

Friday, 21st November 2025

Disclaimer:

Please note that the symposium will be documented through photography and video recordings for internal and public communication purposes (such as reports, websites, and social media channels of the Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts).

If you do not wish to appear in these materials, please inform a member of the event team on site—your preference will, of course, be fully respected, and any recordings featuring you will not be published.

Organisation

Organiser

Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts
Engineering & Architecture
Institute of Architecture

Concept

Heike Biechteler
Gunter Klix
Torsten Lange

Text

Heike Biechteler

Advisory board

Prof. Stefan Kurath, ZHAW Winterthur
Prof. Axel Humpert, Architekturrat der Schweiz

Graphic design

Michael Müller
Daniela Spack

How to get there

Photography
Markus Käch
Miriam Rutherford

Camera
Jara Malevez

Bar
Thomas Summermatter
Tim Schwander
Karim Varano

Catering
plan b catering, Lucerne

Organizing Team
Predrag Bekcic
Yves Dusseiller
Andrea Giger
Pascal Hofer
Julian Holz
Martin Wecke
Oliver Zumbühl

Exhibition “On Collaborations” IAR
Gunter Klix
Achille Patà
Leopold Strobl

By train

From Lucerne with main lines S4 and S5 of the central line (Zentralbahn), stop: Horw; signs point out the route from the station.

By car

Motorway (Autobahn) Lucerne–Gotthard/Brünig, Exit Horw, follow the signs to Hochschule Luzern – Technik & Architektur. Limited paid parking spaces are available. Additional parking spaces can be found in Seefeld in the immediate surroundings.

Sponsored by:

^L^U^C^E^R^N^E **Campus Horw, Trakt IV, Atelier F400**

