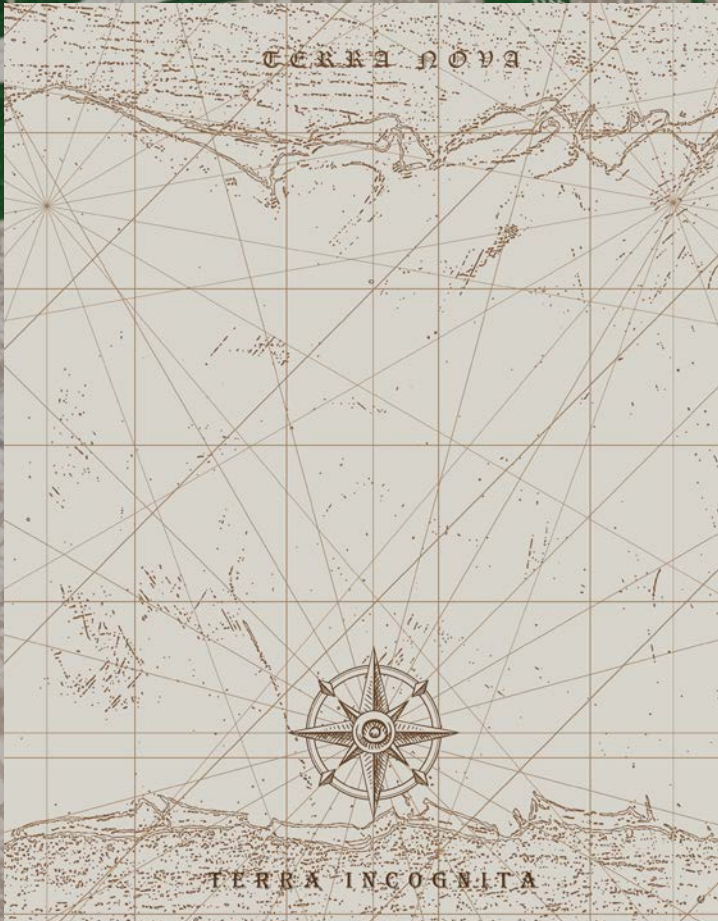


Reflecting Design, Building Capacity



Independent Study
Winter Semester 2026/27



UNIVERSITÄT
LIECHTENSTEIN

LSA

Liechtenstein School of Architecture
Urban Design and Spatial Development Unit

This independent study fosters a reflective and research-based approach to design. With the aid of a 'studio logbook', students learn to systematically reflect on their design decisions in terms of their environmental, social and economic impacts, and to apply the 'building capacity' approach as a design-tool for transformative, goal-oriented, and regenerative, inclusive and productive relevant results. Design, research and collective learning join for a combined process that consciously shapes sustainable transformation.

Each urban and architectural design can and should contribute to tackling societal challenges such as climate adaptation, biodiversity, social participation, regional value creation, resilient settlement structures or sustainable resource use.

Using a questionnaire, students examine during the studio's course the extent to which their projects' designs address such objectives already and what strategies, means or themes they need to develop to achieve them.

The 'Studio Logbook' serves as a tool for continuously documenting and reflecting on the design process in a structured way. Much like a nautical logbook, important decisions, developments and insights are questioned and recorded on an ongoing basis, resulting in a comprehensive record of the project's journey.

The methodological basis is the 'Building Capacity' approach, with its three dimensions: regeneration, inclusion and production. Any design is understood not merely as a creative product, but as a tool for developing regenerative, inclusive and productive potential. The logbook makes these aspects clearly visible within the design process and supports their integration into planning and design decisions for both process and project.

Another key focus aims for collaborative learning. In facilitated sessions, students share observations, challenges and insights, and develop a collective procedure of reflection. Testing the criteria matrix and questionnaire of the ongoing research project developed for analysis as a design-tool interlinks research and design, thus understanding design as a knowledge-generating process for sustainable and transformative spatial development.