

Title: Paris city levels - urban utopias for Rive Gauche (M10/12 CP)

Assignment: Be realistic: think utopian.

1. The urban design studio will be structured into two parts.
During the first part of the semester, the students will mainly focus on theoretical research. They will study the history and current developments of utopian concepts for Paris. "Utopias can be good (humanist) or bad (neo-liberal), achievable (the city of plenty) or unachievable (the dream city), strategic (utopias of process) or illusory (architectural fantasies)" [Peter Markus, Columbia University NY]. Or simply: "Utopia is what keeps us alive" [Luigi Snozzi].
2. Based on these critical studies, the students will develop utopian design concepts for a specific site in Paris Rive Gauche, which is about 12 ha in total. The former industrial area has a challenging and rough topography. Existing urban design proposals tend to avoid these problems by covering the whole site with a huge concrete slab to create a new basis for urban developments. We reject this approach. Therefore, the students are asked to design smart alternatives, which incorporate all city levels of the site.

Deliverables:

Analysis of the history of urban utopias for Paris
Urban analysis of the site and its surroundings
Urban design concepts for the specific site in Paris Rive Gauche
Architectural detailing of the exterior spaces and the facades

Meetings: Thursdays, 13.00-18.00, 4th floor south / Fg Stadt

First meeting: Thursday, 20.10.2011, 14:00, 4th floor south / Fg Stadt

Presentation: Wednesday, 12.10.2011, about 10:50, Grand Lecture Hall (Gr. Hörsaal)

Limited enrolment: 25 students

Final submission: to be announced

Lecturer: Prof. Julian Wékel, Dipl.-Arch., MAUD Christoph Hesse, Dr. Xiaoping Xie

Languages: English/German