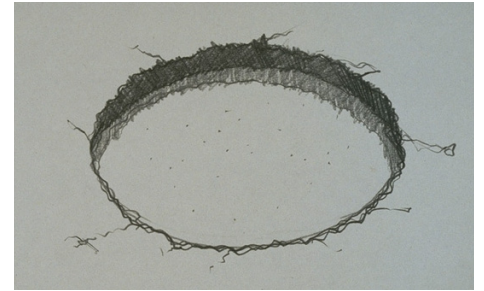


Roots. HS 2013 V01

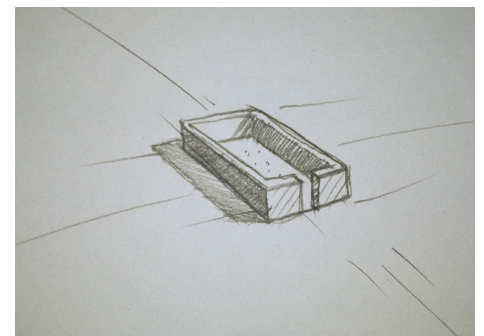
Origins of landscape

Our understanding of nature in the landscape has roots both past and future. This course is not an inventory of landscape histories and its heroes, but rather a critical observatory of the present environmental conditions we live-in, drawing from the past what could be applied to the future. The composite understanding of landscape and nature that we hold for true, results from a complex combination of rational and sometimes irrational preconceptions inherited from a variety of periods both far and near. This undergraduate lecture series extends over two semesters, the first part (Herbstsemester) will inform you on the significant roots of the past that we all still carry in our understanding of landscape today, the second part (Frühjahrssemester) will focus on the establishment of future roots that will carry with them a determined line of action in the landscape today. We want to place you, the student, at the crucible of a continuum in landscape thinking and landscape acting both past and future. What does it really mean to “think nature”, or to “act nature”?

We want young designers, engineers and architects to think concretely and responsibly about the evolution of the environment and the forces that shape it and transform it. This course will not focus so much on stylistic debates about landscape architecture through history to the present, but rather look critically at the major forces behind spatial reductions and alterations in the environment. But this is not a course on environmental morality either. We want each of you to challenge the way you look and think about landscapes and the environment at large. We want you to look actively and responsibly at the spatial evolution of landscape forms that are most pertinent to our times. The goal here is not to feed you some sort of universal history of landscape architecture. It is rather focused on the different steps that have contributed to the present devolution of our immediate environment. This is a cultural approach to nature, which is in tune with imbalance provoked by the human necessities of our times, call it landscape architecture if you will. We want to help you identify the main cultural patterns of a time/space continuum that we have inherited from the past and that still transcend our history to this day. The course will try to show how our landscape has evolved diachronically in both a generative and degenerative mode. We hope that this will help forge a better understanding and respect of what little is left of nature.



Archetyp I – Clearing
 Sketch Christophe Girot



Archetyp II – Hortus conclusus
 Sketch Christophe Girot

please turn page

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The temptation of escapism from environmental concerns is great today, it is best expressed in the placid nostalgia and contemplation of a long lost nature. We believe on the contrary in the regenerative construction of nature, call it new generative landscape if you will. We are in a situation that allows little place for doubt or nostalgia. There is a real need for inventive solutions that are appropriate to our age. In the second half of the course we will show you determined actions that are clearly reasoned and grounded on the environment. We believe that we can reverse what we still think irreversible. Our vision will, therefore, mix unabashedly the concerns of today with those of the tomorrow, the ideas of the past with those of the future, with the firm belief that a new kind of well informed landscape architecture will become the vital basis of your daily practice.

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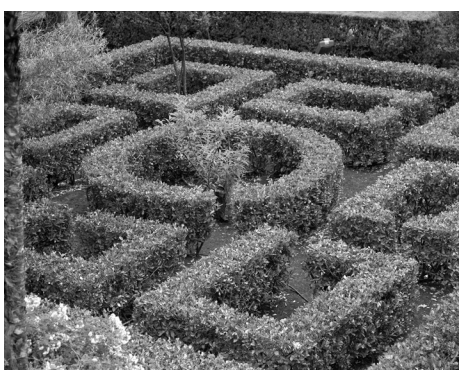
Deposito di Sigirino/TI. Alptransit. Photo: Ch.Girot



Water circle in Glasgow. Photo: Ch.Girot



RedWoods. Muir Woods, California. Photo: Ch.Girot



Alcazar in Sevilla. Photo: Ch.Girot

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