



# Architecture School

Four Philosophers Scheme, Thomas Hirschhorn 2012  
Dance Deck, Kentfield California, Anna Halprin 1954  
FAU, Sao Paulo 1969

The FAU (1969) designed by Vilanova Artigas was an expression of the radical Paulista architecture school of the 1960s, and Gund Hall (1972) designed by John Andrews had similar grand ambitions. The HIL building tells a very different story, accidentally becoming the department of architecture when the ETH administration decided it was best to remove architecture students from the city centre where they had become too involved in the youth protests of the 1970s. The ugly brown building has never been much of an expression of our school's desires.

This semester we will use the diploma project to explore how the HIL building can be re-structured to be a base for the department, and a more hospitable and sustainable place to meet and work. Since it is unlikely that the present labyrinth could be improved by enlargement, our efforts will be to concentrate the existing, making it lighter, clearer and more flexible.

We will also study examples of more dispersed and non-institutional learning, like Anna Halprin's Dance Deck and Thomas Hirschhorn's Gramsci Monument, places that demonstrate how learning can be more flexible and responsive to both its students and to ever changing educational contexts. We will combine the idea of a central base with mutable cells, spaces in and around the city that can more closely engage with the diverse people and situations of Zurich and beyond. By working both with the centre and the non-centre, perhaps we can start to imagine an architecture school fit for the 21st century.

We will continue to collaborate with Newrope in three 'rooms of entanglement', workshops where content, process and place are considered in an expanded forum.

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