



Crystal Palace, London 1851

# *Labour Reframed*

A large number of historic structures in Switzerland are connected to industry, a reflection of the early and significant industrialisation of the country. The survival of these structures individually and in groups is related to the continuing importance of industrial production in the Swiss economy. Nonetheless, many factories, mills and storage buildings from the 20th century are underused or stand empty. The most magnificent of these, with their promise of universal and conceptually open structures are distant relations to the Crystal Palace of 1851, an early and influential statement of smooth, capitalist space. The colours, ornament and spatial arrangements for Joseph Paxton's endless structure were designed by Owen Jones, the author of the *Grammar of Ornament* a work that in 1856 laid out a paradoxical relation between culturally based ornament and global capitalism.

We will engage with a collection of these underused industrial structures in the eastern part of Switzerland, to consider how they can once more be a productive part of contemporary life at the same time as retaining their presence as historic monuments that act as instruments of continuity within an ever changing built environment.

The Chairs of Caruso and Delbeke will together engage with these complex themes. The research phase of the diploma will compile a new *Grammar of Ornament* where students will have the opportunity to collect, research and represent new constellations of form spanning from the ancient world to the present. This new *Grammar* will be guided by a written essay that each student will use to position their project within a larger argument. The preparation phase will also include a close survey of the existing buildings including an analysis and mapping of how people and processes were originally accommodated. The second phase will apply these lessons to the design of major additions and intensifications of a collection of existing industrial structures, adding a grammar of energy and construction to that of history and ornament. Our goal is to discover the beauty that is held within the age of upcycling.

Diploma, FS 2023, ETH Zürich

Chair Caruso

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