The next 100 Years
Scenarios for an Alpine City State
Salon Suisse 2014
curated by Hiromi Hosoya & Markus Schaefer
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Salon Suisse—Palazzo Trevisan
degli Ulivi, Campo S. Agnese,
Dorsoduro 810, Venice—biennials.ch
Introduction

The modern nation of Switzerland was founded in 1848 as a federation of historic city-states and alpine valley cantons. They represent the central nodes and connecting corridors of a much older and larger urban network stretching across the European continent. Their tributary territories had been forcefully liberated by the French during the years of the Helvetic Republic and joined the federation as independent cantons.

In the rest of Europe reactionary politics were regaining control. Meanwhile, our liberal somewhat backward enclave at its heart concentrated pragmatically on installing the infrastructures and institutions that still underpin its success today: railroads, banks, insurance services or the Federal Institute of Technology (ETH). The Swiss stubbornly resisted the accumulation of urban mass as well as of political power and built a federated, polycentric country held together by a perfectly oiled clock-work of infrastructure and common sense.

In the meantime, modernity ran its course. Its transformative, universalizing and globalizing force is the thematic undercurrent of this year’s Biennale curated by Rem Koolhaas. Fuelled by technological progress and advanced by individuals freed from feudal bonds, modernity resulted in conquests and colonies, territorial wars and
in this context what would a contemporary conception for Switzerland be? If it had to be re-found today, what would be its guiding principle, its business model, and its social contract? What places and spaces, landscapes and urban settings could architects imagine for it? What are images and narratives that could refresh a collective vision?

The Salon Suisse will be modeled after a Constitutional Assembly and serve as a thought experiment on critical urbanity involving three groups of people – academics, professionals, and citizens – thinkers, doers and activists. Together, they seek to envision a state and ultimately a physical environment inspired by the trends but above the fray of today’s political reality.

Hiromi Hosoya & Markus Schaefer
Salonniers, Salon Suisse

unspeakable destruction, but also in stunningly efficient global production chains and an exuberant urban culture – a highly networked world united behind an almost universally shared ideology of free markets and ultimately what Neil Brenner calls a planetary urbanization.

But this apparent end of history also meant the onset of doubt. Today historians, economists, sociologists, ecologists and – increasingly – complex system scientists remind us that transformation is a continuous process. Sustainability might serve as a politically convenient fiction of perpetuating the status quo – albeit with electric cars, green buildings and recycled Coke cans, but time and again questions regarding the resilience of the global system we have built re-emerge.

Cities are the linchpin of this discussion. They are the cultural infrastructure for exchange that undergirds our industrialized, networked and knowledge-based civilization; they are the combustion engines of innovation, command centers of control and incubators of fantasy that propel progress. Over half of humanity now lives in cities and almost all of humanity lives a life dependent on value chains that are located in or controlled by urban regions.

Projecting this Biennale’s preoccupation with the last century into the future and using the historic arc of the Venetian city-state as a backdrop, how might we envision the next 100 years? And
Opening
June

Inaugural Session
The inaugural session takes place on 7th June at 11 am and is accompanied by a brunch. This initial hearing is meant to collect short statements on possible “Scenarios for an Alpine City State” as a missive for the Salons to come.

Spatial planning has been the subject of several recent votes. The current public debate revolves around urban density, speculation, sprawl, and the loss of agricultural land. But new ideas are also emerging: adaptive low-budget transformations, reindustrialized inner cities, cooperative utopias, autarkic full-service housing developments, urban farming or metropolitan councils. The hearing will collect a rich array of viewpoints and show the diversity of contemporary spatial concepts and practices.
Opening Day
Saturday, 7th June

11 am

Inaugural Session

Swiss architecture has an excellent reputation and very strong professional structures and institutions. The ongoing building boom still generates outstanding projects. At the same time, below the surface of Swissness new ideas and voices are also forming; concepts and working models are emerging that might anticipate a more diverse, or maybe more fragmented future, a future that is formed less around stability and wealth, but more about agile adaptation and ideas – more local and more global by necessity. Maybe in the craft and diligence of today, we can find the activist realism of tomorrow. Are architects mere executors of market potential or are they able to actively participate in shaping the future; should they and how?

The statements will be collected and passed on as a brief to the Salon Suisse sessions that follow in September, October, and November 2014.

Participants include among others:

- André Bideau, author and critic
- Benedikt Boucsein, BHSF
- Daniel Buchner und Andreas Bründler, Buchner Bründler Architekten
- Barbara Buser, Denkstatt/in situ
- Philippe Cabane, urban and social design
- Stefan Cadosch, SIA
- Christoph Craviolini, Raumdaten
- Fabienne Hoelzel, fabulous urban
- Barbara Holzer, Holzer Kobler Architekturen
- Rolf Jenni, Raumbureau
- Momoyo Kaijima and Yoshiharu Tsukamoto, Atelier Bow-Wow
- Christian Kerez, architect
- Stefan Kurath, urbanplus
- Daniel Niggli, EM2N
- Rico Oberholzer, MOA
- Mathias Heinz, pool Architekten
- Christian Salewski, ETH Zurich
- Antonio Scarponi, Conceptual Devices
- Cristina Woods, VWA Verzone Woods Architectes
Design—The Nature of Cities

While the planning disciplines have a lot of professional expertise in working on cities, there is surprisingly little scientific insight into what actually makes cities work. We still go about urban design and planning very much like alchemists, with many preconceived notions, some dogmata, the occasional brilliant insight, but few hard facts.

Cities are agglomerations of people. They are a product of social interactions and shape us while we shape them. They are as complex as society itself. As such, cities elude complete control. Urbanism oscillates between top-down planning decrees and bottom-up organic growth, the result being an uneasy mix – often charming, sometimes toxic – of the planned and the accidental.
Night One
Thursday, 4th September

6 pm
Space, Time and Infrastructure:
Kim Stanley Robinson, Edward Soja, David Gugerli

There is a contemporary obsession with systemic thinking. It surfaces in science fiction, inspires game design, affects disciplines as diverse as urban geography, anthropology or ecology and is formalized in complexity research by physicists or mathematicians. In the process, the supposedly distinct academic arenas of society, economy and politics are merging with those of the biophysical world into what Wallerstein called a World-System theory. History is not its central frame of reference, but rather the relationships inside such a system and how they unfold in and are determined by the specifics of space. The topography of Mars in Kim Stanley Robinson’s “Mars Trilogy” then starts to resonate with Edward Soja’s theories of space or David Gugerli’s description of infrastructure as the foundation of Swiss nation-building.

Night Two
Friday, 5th September

6 pm
Systems, People and Power:
Didier Sornette, David Graeber, Georg Kohler

Cities are complex systems. This complexity is based on a variety of cultural techniques that stabilize relationships between people (from institutions to symbols), that ensure communication (from writing on clay tablets to the internet), and that control resource flows (from infrastructure and industry to military and money). Urban space is based on the sum of such techniques. With their increasing sophistication they allow for a growing abstraction from material reality. Today we control resource flows that span the entire globe and are financed by an integrated financial system. However, with integration comes interdependence and with abstraction volatility. While Didier Sornette studies such interdependence and its dynamics, David Graeber works towards a vision of a more egalitarian and stable society.
Cities are catalysts for interactions. Research done at the Santa Fe Institute shows that cities exhibit scale effects: larger cities generate more opportunity with less infrastructure per inhabitant. This effect explains the transformative power of urbanity despite the often negative consequences of scale. As portals to the global economy and culture, cities are attractive; and in an urban age, cities compete and cooperate with other cities. They tend to grow and link up as Denise Pumain demonstrates in her research. But what happens when growth stops? After the boom in the 1980s, Japan experienced almost two decades of deflation and is now facing a shrinking and aging demography. With his concept “Fibercity” Hidetoshi Ohno proposes a comprehensive plan for a shrinking metropolis.
Build—The Reality of Cities
In no other nation is the divergence between a politicized public debate on space and a largely apolitical discourse amongst architects so apparent. The public debate has taken a decidedly anti-urban turn, given the results of recent votes to curb immigration and growth. All over the world, urbanization, often spurred by neo-liberal policies, led to anti-urban sentiments, from the Tea Party in the US to rural communities in Japan. Yet, what are the concepts, models and visions that the planning disciplines can offer? Will the future consist of globalized city-states pitted against their increasingly disenchanted hinterlands? The suburbs are fault lines where rural self-images collide with urban lifestyles resulting in an uneasy mix of values prone to political manipulation.
Night Four
Thursday, 9th October

6 pm
Intentions, Rules and Politics: 
Thomas Wagner, Thomas Held, NN

Urban space is a product of social interaction rather than merely of a planner’s design intent. Or, as David Harvey once wrote: “The freedom to make and remake our cities and ourselves is one of the most precious yet most neglected of our human rights.” But how is this right exercised? Not only is Switzerland a direct democracy, but it also has a long liberal tradition aimed at equitable development, which only recently began to be eroded by liberalization. The spaces of politics and of economy have drifted apart through globalization. Singapore practices an active combination of both in a global context. When the city-state gained independence from Great Britain and was excluded from Malaysia, it had to excel and create relationships proactively to survive. Entrepreneurial urbanity by decree was the only way forward.

Night Five
Friday, 10th October

6 pm
Plans, Programs and Participation: 
Yasuaki Onoda, Ariane Widmer, Adrienne Grêt-Regamey

Cities are defined by time as much as by space. Most urban areas are an hour in diameter. With faster transport cities extend in size. Car-based transport generates flat and sprawling cities; train lines produce necklaces of dense cores. Form follows infrastructure resulting in large, polycentric urban regions surpassing administrative boundaries. Planning organizes the effects of such large-scale dynamics on local spaces and mediates between diverse political entities. Yet, how can quality emerge and local identity be respected? Ariane Widmer has been involved since eight years in the planning of Lausanne-Ouest. Yasuaki Onoda is an architectural planner who collaborated on the Sendai Mediatheque. After the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, he founded ArchiAid and uses the same skills to reconstruct places and communities.
Night Six
Saturday, 11th October

6 pm

Interactions, Commons and Public Space:
Jan Gehl, Yoshiharu Tsukamoto,
Marc Angélil

Cities are more than ensembles of well crafted volumes. Their defining factor is not just built density, but also interaction intensity. Only when urban growth results in urban quality will it be accepted by its inhabitants. Modernity resulted in a loss of local identity and in a globalization of architectural styles and technologies. Yet, Yoshiharu Tsukamoto of Atelier Bow-Wow’s research shows that progress and local identity do not need to be mutually exclusive. Jan Gehl has documented how modern cities repel human interaction through a lack of human scale and an overabundance of infrastructure. He argues that we can build cities in a way that takes human needs for inclusion and intimacy into account. This has little to do with style or ideology but rather with how architects and urban designers think about people and their interactions.
Use—The Culture of Cities
Cities are a knowledge society’s main means of production. When Henri Lefebvre postulated the “Right to the City”, he claimed the right of people to shape their own destiny. Building cities means building society and is more than a consequence of market forces or political compromise. New social relations require new spaces and vice versa. Previous Swiss urbanists accepted that Switzerland is a polycentric urban network and worked on dispersing opportunity, growth and infrastructure. With global urbanization pressures, an abundance of cheap capital, an impasse in rethinking the country-city divide and a lack of urban experimentation, this network becomes unbalanced. Competing visions are blocking, rather than complementing each other.
Night Seven
Thursday, 30th October

6 pm
Cooperative, Open and Resilient:
Hans Widmer, Hannes Gassert,
Hubert Klumpner

Cities are anonymous; real communities only exist in the countryside, so the cliché. Yet the inverse can also be true. Swiss cities grew through the agglomeration of small historic centers into rich mosaics of places and social milieus. Inflated housing standards, outdated zoning laws and formulaic real estate developments strain this system. With his book “bolo’bolo” Hans Widmer wrote a manifesto for an urban tribe, the basic social unit in an envisioned utopian-ecological future. His ideas already served as inspiration for cooperative housing projects, some realized others in planning. Digital networks and communities might complement his vision. But are they the beginning of a new, agile and inclusive data liberalism or just the ultimate modernist project of virtualizing social relations to the economic benefit of the very few?

Night Eight
Friday, 31st October

6 pm
Communal, Collective and Constitutive:
Norihito Nakatani, Jiang Jun, Harry Gugger

Cities are infrastructure for location factors. Accessibility, proximity and density result in higher land values, which can be further increased through an intelligent mix of functions and open spaces. Urban development is the most fundamental value-additive process without which there would be no economy, culture or progress. Yet, to whom does this value belong and how can it be ensured that more value is created than destroyed? Contemporary China is a laboratory of urbanism drawing from the blueprints of rural collectives, millennia-old urban bureaucracies and Western capitalism. Jiang Jun spent years studying its many varieties conjured up by an accelerated process of copying and transformation, while Norihito Nakatani researched the village patterns that can still be found in a culture as metropolitan as Japan's.
Night Nine
Saturday, 1st November

6 pm

Identity, Ideas and Institutions:
Martin Heller, Mark Leonard, Marcel Meili

Medieval cities had walls as they were mercantile implants in a feudal society, easy prey to conquest. With advances in military technology and infrastructure, walls became obsolete, even burdensome. The Gründerzeit cities expanded over the footprint of their former defenses, while a mechanized military enforced national borders. The concept of sovereign nation states in turn goes back to the Westphalian peace accord that introduced the modern state system. After the destruction of the world wars and the dismantling of colonial empires, the state system transformed again to supranational alliances in a highly integrated global market. The institutional setting has changed constantly, and yet cities remain at the core of the global economy. Will urban regions be de facto city-states in an urban age?
Opening Day

Opening — Inaugural Session

Saturday, 7th June
11 am — Inaugural hearing on possible “Scenarios for an Alpine City State”

Salon 1

Design — The Nature of Cities

Thursday, 4th September
6 pm — Space, Time and Infrastructure

Friday, 5th September
6 pm — Systems, People and Power

Saturday, 6th September
6 pm — Scale, Progress and Durability

Salon 2

Build — The Reality of Cities

Thursday, 9th October
6 pm — Intentions, Rules and Politics

Friday, 10th October
6 pm — Plans, Programs and Participation

Saturday, 11th October
6 pm — Interactions, Commons and Public Space

Salon 3

Use — The Culture of Cities

Thursday, 30th October
6 pm — Cooperative, Open and Resilient

Friday, 31st October
6 pm — Communal, Collective and Constitutive

Saturday, 1st November
6 pm — Identity, Ideas and Institutions

Closing Weekend

Final Assembly — A session to summarize and edit the results of the previous Salons in collaboration with writers and journalists

Thursday, 20th November
6 pm — Plot, Play and Participation

Friday, 21st November
6 pm — Narratives, Descriptions and Scenarios

Saturday, 22nd November
6 pm — Open Editorial Meeting and Party
Closing Weekend
November

Final Assembly
Cities are a collective endeavor built on ideas and visions. Based on high investments and slow returns they are a bet on the future. Yet, most of what makes cities work is not visible to the eye. Cities are also a social construct based on conventions, rules, even clichés.

While architecture has a defined role in real estate development, urban design is concerned with externalities and the distant future and has, especially in Switzerland, no clear standing. It is an interdisciplinary endeavor that takes commitment and discourse, a science of the generic and an understanding of the specific.

It is not a project for autonomous authors, but for multi-lingual generalists.
Night Ten
Thursday, 20th November

6 pm
Plot, Play and Participation:
Daniela Kuka, Frédéric Kaplan

Fuelled by an abundance of energy, mobility and capital, pharmacological freedom from the consequences of sex and almost global, postcolonial peace, the years after the wars were a time of weightlessness with the conquest of outer space as its ultimate metaphor. Fate was replaced by choice, societal mores by emancipation. The ensuing multi-option society is being occasionally unified by visceral spectacles and fluidly organized by digital technologies trapping us in our own seeming uniqueness. Meanwhile, the transformative power that defined Modernity is slowly running out of steam. Frédéric Kaplan presents “Digital Venice” a collaborative effort by the EPFL and Ca’ Foscari University to reconstruct Venice’s past. Daniela Kuka applies “pre-enaction”, a method for experimental game-based research of the future.

Night Eleven
Friday, 21st November

6 pm
Narratives, Descriptions and Scenarios:
Finn Canonica, Roger Monnerat, Lukas Bärfuss, André Bideau

Based on technological progress and near instantaneous communication, we have an almost perfect understanding of the current moment and as a result of the volatility we thereby generate no idea about tomorrow. Planning has become impossible, constant flexible adaptation the rule. But is this an inevitable result of progress, or a sign of a system having reached its maturity? What are alternative ways of thinking the future? How would a society, its cities and villages be organized to thrive under such scenarios? What happens to weightlessness when gravity kicks back in? What patterns will coalesce, what structures will solidify? And what can architecture provide to prepare?
Night Twelve
Saturday, 22nd November

6 pm

Open Editorial Meeting and Party:
Finn Canonica, Roger Monnerat,
Lukas Bärfuss, André Bideau

Throughout the events, lessons have been collected from the Salons and the Biennale as a whole. This last day is an attempt to sum up and reflect, structure and organize. It is also an editorial meeting for a planned publication in which the audience is invited to join.
Biographies

Marc Angélil
(born 1954) is Professor of Architecture at ETH Zurich. His research focuses on social and spatial developments of metropolitan regions worldwide. He is the author of several books, including “Cidade de Deus!” on informal mass housing in Rio de Janeiro and “Cities of Change: Addis Ababa” on urban transformation in developing territories. He practices architecture at agps, a firm with ateliers in Los Angeles and Zurich. Angélil is a board member of the Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction.

Lukas Bärfuss
(born 1971, Switzerland) lives and works in Zurich writing novels (“One Hundred Days”, 2008) and plays (“The Sexual Neuroses of Our Parents”, “The Bus”, etc.) that are being staged to critical acclaim worldwide. Between 2009 and 2013 he was writer-in-residence and dramatic advisor at the Schauspielhaus Zurich. He has received numerous awards, including, most recently, the Berliner Literaturpreis (2013). His latest novel, “Koala”, was published in spring 2014.

André Bideau
(born 1966, Switzerland), architecture theorist and critic, teaches at institutions in Europe and the US. Trained as an architect, he was editor of werk, bauen + wohnen for numerous years before receiving his PhD in architecture and urban history. Bideau writes and lectures on the impact of Post-Fordism on architecture production and urbanity. He was research fellow at Internationales Zentrum Kulturwissenschaften in Vienna and is the author of “Architektur und symbolisches Kapital” (Birkhäuser 2011).

Finn Canonica
(born 1965, Switzerland), journalist, has been editor-in-chief of Das Magazin, the weekly supplement of Tages-Anzeiger Zurich, since 2007. Before joining Das Magazin in 1997 he worked for the Keystone Press AG and Die Weltwoche.

Angelus Eisinger
(born 1964, Switzerland) is a historian who researches urban development and planning history with a focus on the dynamics between planning practice and socio-political processes. He co-founded the Metropolitan Culture programme at HafenCity University Hamburg, where he was a professor from 2008 to 2013. Since then, he directs the Regional Planning Alliance RZU, a non-profit competence center for planning in Zurich and its metropolitan region.

Hannes Gassert
(born 1981, Switzerland) is a civic entrepreneur, activist, author and curator at the intersection
of technology, media and culture. His activities focus on the worldwide web, human-centric technology, business models beyond profit, democracy and transparency, media art and real people. He is co-founder of Opendata.ch, Switzerland’s open government data community and lobby group, and organizer of the make.opendata.ch “hackdays”, an intense prototyping format.

Jan Gehl (born 1936, Denmark) is an award-winning architect and urban design consultant. He founded Gehl Architects – Urban Quality Consultants, who utilize empirical analysis to understand how the built environment can allow humans to thrive. He is Professor Emeritus at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts and published several books including “Life between Buildings” (1971), “Cities for People” (2010) and “How to Study Public Life” (2013). Major city-improvement projects include Copenhagen, Stockholm, Rotterdam, London, Amman, Muscat, Perth, Melbourne, Sydney, New York and Moscow.

David Graeber (born 1961, USA) is an anthropologist and professor at the London School of Economics. He works on theories of value, money, debt, politics, manners, magic, class, social movements and social theory. As an avowed anarchist, he is a member of the labor union Industrial Workers of the World. He is the author of “Debt: The First 5000 Years” (2011) and was a leading figure of the Occupy Wall Street movement.

Adrienne Grêt-Regamey (born 1965, Switzerland) is an environmental scientist and landscape planner. Since 2008, she is Professor of Planning of Landscape and Urban Systems (PLUS), at the Institute for Spatial and Landscape Development of ETH Zurich. Her research focuses on integrating environmental considerations in spatial planning processes, risk-based decision-making for landscape and urban development as well as participatory approaches in landscape and environmental planning.

David Gugerli (born 1961, Switzerland) is Professor for the History of Technology at ETH Zurich. He has published books on a wide range of topics including the history of electrification, the relation of cartography and nation building, the history of database technologies and the history of the reinsurance industry. Currently he is researching the history of the knowledge-society during the late 20th century.

Harry Gugger (born 1956, Switzerland) is an architect and professor at École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), where he heads the Laboratoire Bâle, a satellite of
EPFL Lausanne devoted to the investigation of design at the interface between urban issues and architecture as well as to the study of developing qualities of space, inhabitation, and architecture. He founded Harry Gugger Studio and serves as a board member of the Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction.

Thomas Held (born 1946, Switzerland) is a sociologist, consultant and lobbyist. Besides researching and teaching in Switzerland and abroad, he was involved as a consultant in the development of the Culture and Convention Centre Lucerne – KKL Luzern. From 2001 until 2010 he was director of the free-market liberal Swiss think-tank Avenir Suisse. He currently heads the project Musikinsel Rheinau and has a weekly column in Das Magazin (Tages-Anzeiger, Zurich).

Martin Heller (born 1952, Switzerland) is a curator and culture entrepreneur. He was director of the Zurich Museum of Design and artistic director of the Swiss National Exhibition Expo.02. In 2003 he founded Heller Enterprises and has since worked independently. He headed Linz 2009 European Capital of Culture and is currently responsible for planning the content of the future Humboldt Forum in Berlin. In 2010/2011 he was involved in the concept development for the International Building Exhibition Berlin (IBA) in 2020.

Hiromi Hosoya (born 1965, Japan) is an architect and co-founder of Hosoya Schaefer Architects. She studied architecture at Rhode Island School of Design and at Harvard University Graduate School of Design. She worked for Toyo Ito in Tokyo, has taught design studios at Cornell University and at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design, and was a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Austria.

Jiang Jun (born 1974, China) is a research-architect, archive-editor and writer. He is founding editor-in-chief of Urban China Magazine, was project director at Strelka School of Architecture, Design and Media, Moscow, as well as visiting fellow at the ESRC Centre on Migration Policy and Society at Oxford University and is associate professor at Guangzhou Academy of Fine Arts. He curated the exhibition “Street Belongs to…All of Us!” in China in 2008 and has been the chief-editor of several books, including “Urban China: Work in Progress” (2009) and “A Village by the SEZ” (2010). He is the curator of the Pavilion of China at the 14th International Architecture Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia.
Momoyo Kaijima and Yoshiharu Tsukamoto (born 1969 and 1965, Japan) are architects and together founded Atelier Bow-Wow, an architecture firm based in Tokyo. Their interest lies in diverse fields ranging from architectural design to urban research and the creation of public art-works, which are produced based on the theory of “behaviorology”. These urban research studies led to the experimental project “micro-public-space”, a new concept of public space that has been exhibited worldwide. Atelier Bow-Wow will contribute to the project at the Swiss Pavilion at the 14th Architecture Exhibition – la Biennale di Venezia.

Frédéric Kaplan (born 1974, France) is a computing scientist and inventor. He holds the Chair of Digital Humanities at École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL). He conducts research projects combining archive digitization, information modelling and museographic design and is currently working on the “Venice Time Machine”, an international project in collaboration with the Ca’ Foscari University in Venice, aiming to model the evolution and history of Venice over a 1000-year period.

Hubert Klumpner (born 1965, Austria) is an architect and urban designer. Together with Alfredo Brillembourg he heads the Urban Think-Tank in Venezuela and holds the chair for Architecture and Urban Design at ETH Zurich. He is a member of the German Chamber of Architects and serves as urbanism consultant for the International Program for Social and Cultural Development in Latin America (OAE and UNESCO).

Georg Kohler (born 1945, Switzerland) is a philosopher and Professor Emeritus for Political Philosophy at the University of Zurich. His research centers around “Notions of the Political” and “What is a liberal State?”. Among his most recent publications as author and co-editor are “Bürgertugend und Willensnation. Über den Gemeinsinn und über die Schweiz” (Civic virtue and the Nation of Consensus – On the Sense of Community and on Switzerland) and “Expansion der Moderne” (Expansion of Modernity), both 2010. He is regularly interviewed in the Swiss media on contemporary history.

Daniela Kuka (born 1983, Germany) is a communication scientist and game designer currently working as research fellow and lecturer at the Department for Communication in Social and Economic Contexts at the Berlin University of the Arts. She is co-founder of “preΔlab”, a laboratory for game-based methods. Together with Klaus Gasteier, she invented “preenaction games”, a method for experimental future
research. Her projects revolve around possible futures and alternative realities, speculative storytelling, persuasive communication and behavior design.

Mark Leonard
(born 1974, Great Britain) is an essayist, analyst and speaker on global issues. He founded and co-directs the European Council on Foreign Relations, an independent, pan-European think-tank that researches and promotes informed debate on the development of coherent and effective European values-based foreign policy. He writes a bi-weekly column on European and Global issues for Reuters.com and is credited with launching the term “Cool Britannia” in the 1990s.

Marcel Meili
(born 1953, Switzerland) is an architect and urban planner. He is co-founder of the architectural firm Meili Peter Architekten and professor at ETH Zurich, where – together with Jacques Herzog, Pierre de Meuron, Roger Diener and Christian Schmid – he founded and runs ETH Studio Basel: Contemporary City Institute. Marcel Meili is author of numerous essays and several books.

Roger Monnerat

Norihito Nakatani
(born 1965, Japan) is an architectural historian noted for a variety of unique activities including studying the writings of early-modern-era carpentry, the continuity of land characteristics and their influence on the present day and, more recently, researching villages that have existed for a thousand years. He is author of several books and professor at the Department of Architecture of the Waseda University, Tokyo.

Hidetoshi Ohno
(born 1949, Japan) is an architect and professor at the Department of Socio-Cultural Environmental Studies, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, University of Tokyo. He published “fibercity Tokyo 2050” in 2006, and “designing for shrinkage – fibercity 2050 Tokyo” in 2009, aiming at a paradigm shift of urban planning and architectural design away from modernist thinking. He received the prize of the AIJ (Architectural Institute of Japan) in 2011.
Yasuaki Onoda (born 1963, Japan) is an architectural programmer and professor at the Department of Architecture and Building Science at Tohoku University, Sendai. He collaborated with Toyo Ito on the Sendai Mediatheque building and is co-founder of ArchiAid, an organization founded after Japan's 2011 Tohoku earthquake that aims to help revive the battered coastal region combining the fields of architecture, civil engineering, and urban planning.

Denise Pumain (born 1946, France), a geographer, holds a professorship at University Paris I and serves as director of the European research network S4, Spatial Simulation for Social Sciences. Her research activities are in the fields of urban and theoretical geography. She has contributed mainly to the development of comparative analysis of large sets of cities and to transfer models from self-organization theories to geography using non-linear dynamic modelling.

Markus Schaefer (born 1969, Switzerland) is an architect and co-founder of Hosoya Schaefer Architects. He has a Masters of Architecture from Harvard University Graduate School of Design as well as a Masters of Science in Neurobiology from the University of Zurich. He worked for OMA in Rotterdam, the final two years as a director of AMO. He co-founded CityTrackerX AG and was a professor at the Academy of Fine Arts, Vienna, Austria.

Kim Stanley Robinson (born 1952, USA) is a science fiction writer living in Davis, CA. He is the author of the “Mars Trilogy” (1993–97), a series of novels narrating the future settlement of humans on Mars. The planet’s distinct landscape serves as an utopian canvas on which the author sketches out alternative blueprints for society that evolve in competition while the terraforming of the planet proceeds inexorably. His major themes include ecological sustainability, economic and social justice and scientists as citizens.

Edward Soja (born 1940, USA) is a critical geographer, urban planner and distinguished Professor Emeritus of Urban Planning at UCLA. For the past 20 years, he has published on the urban restructuring of Los Angeles among other topics. He researches class, race, gender, sexuality and their intersection within the spatiality of social life as well as with the new cultural politics of difference and identity, combining these strands into a geohistory of cities spanning the past 12,000 years. He currently works on the great urban shift from a metropolitan to a regional model of urbanization.
Didier Sornette  
(born 1957, France) is Professor of Entrepreneurial Risks at ETH Zurich, of Finance at the Swiss Finance Institute, and associate member of the departments of Physics and Earth Sciences. With a background in the physical sciences and a distinguished career in academia and industry, he now directs the Financial Crisis Observatory to test the hypothesis that financial bubbles can be diagnosed in real-time and their termination can be predicted ex-ante. He is the author of 500+ research papers and seven books.

Hans Widmer ("P.M.")  
(born 1947, Switzerland) is an author, philologist and activist. His literary work includes novels and dramatic texts as well as books and articles on urbanistic, ecological and political topics ("bolo'bolo", 1983; "Subcoma", 2000; "Neustart Schweiz", 2009; "The Power of Neighbourhood and the Commons", 2014). He is co-founder of several housing cooperatives and member of the board of Neustart Schweiz.

Thomas Wagner  
(born 1943, Switzerland) is a politician and consultant. He is former Zurich Mayor and Honorary Citizen of the Chinese cities Kunming and Dalian. He was a member of the City Government of Zurich for twenty-four years. As Mayor of Zurich, he initiated the relationship between Zurich and Kunming (Yunnan) as sister-cities. In 2002 he opened a consulting firm for facilitating bilateral relations between Switzerland and China in business, culture and tourism.

Ariane Widmer  
(born 1959, Switzerland) is an architect and urban planner. As head of the design department of the Swiss National Exhibition Expo.02, she was responsible for managing a high-quality, complex project. Since 2003 she is CEO of the SDOL Bureau for the implementation of urban development strategies for West Lausanne. She received the Wakkerpreis 2011 for achievements in this rapidly growing region.
Image credits

Cover
Cover of the Federal Constitution of the Swiss Confederation of 1848, Courtesy of Swiss Federal Archives, Berne (CH-SFA#K7#1000/1419#2*)

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“Für den Wohnungsbau! Gegen Mietzinserhöhung! Wohnbauvorlage, Ja”, Campaign poster for a national vote about private housing on January 29, 1950, (Result: Yes 46,3 %, No 53,7 %)

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“Zweitwohnungsinitiative”, Campaign poster for the national vote “Schluss mit uferlosem Bau von Zweitwohnungen!” to curb the construction of secondary residences on March 11, 2012, Courtesy of Fondation Franz Weber, (Result: Yes 50,6 %, No 49,4 %)

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“Kulturlandinitiative”, Campaign poster for a cantonal vote regarding the preservation of agricultural and ecologically valuable space in the Canton of Zurich on June 17, 2012, Art.Ischock, Zurich, 2012 © Courtesy of Grüne Kanton Zürich, (Result: Yes 54,5 %, No 45,5 %)
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Imprint

Publisher
Swiss Arts Council Pro Helvetia, Hirschengraben 22, CH-8024 Zurich, prohelvetia.ch

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Printing
Schwabe, Muttenz

Edition
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Laufen Bathrooms AG is delighted to be the partner of the Salon Suisse in the third year. As a brand standing for a symbiosis of design, quality and functionality, we have been supporting the events at the Palazzo Trevisan since the beginning with the intention to participate in and encourage an international dialogue in the fields of architecture and design.

Alberto Magrans, Senior Managing Director
Laufen Bathrooms AG
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