

# COMMON WATER – THE ALPS

## MIGRATING LANDSCAPES

## ROLLING STONES

Contributions by VOGT  
Landscape Architects and  
the Chair of Günther Vogt at  
ETH Zurich

With focus on three elements, water (Common Water – The Alps) stone (Rolling Stones) and vegetation (Migrating Landscapes) the contributions by VOGT Landscape Architects and the Chair of Günther Vogt at ETH Zurich raise the issue of accelerated transformation processes of today's landscapes as a result of the changing environmental conditions and addresses the question, what these changes mean for the coexistence of societies.

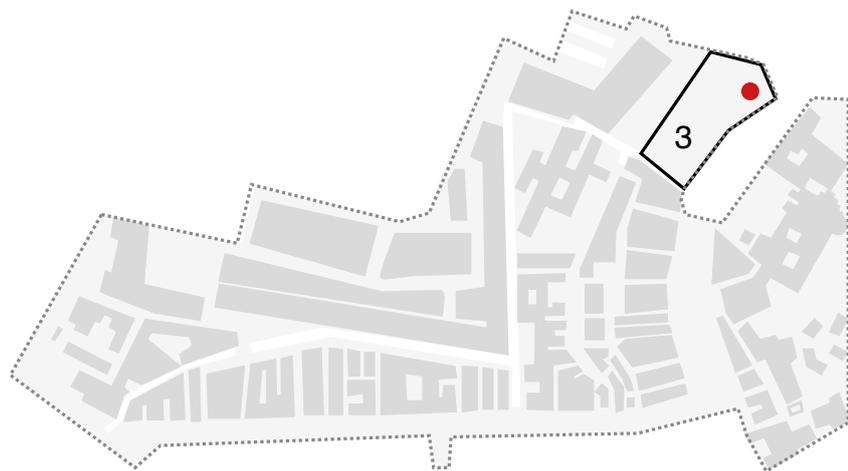
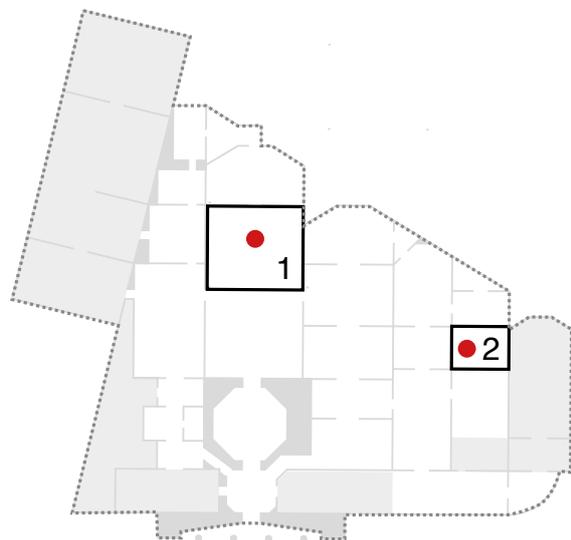


Video:

La Biennale di Venezia, Biennale Architettura 2021, [Sneak Peek: Vogt Landscape Architects](#), Günther Vogt, Still, 2021.

[Preorder the Publication “Moving Borders – Changing Alpine Landscapes”](#) that documents the contributions at the Biennale and complements them with scientific essays, artistic works, and comprehensive photographs and maps taken during field trips to the Alps. To be published by Lars Müller Publishers in October 2021.

# LOCATION OF THE THREE CONTRIBUTIONS



Giardini: Central Pavilion

Arsenale: Giardino delle Vergini

1 Rolling Stones

2 Common Water – The Alps

3 Migrating Landscapes

# COMMON WATER – THE ALPS

Chair of Günther Vogt, Department of Architecture (D-ARCH), ETH Zurich (Switzerland)

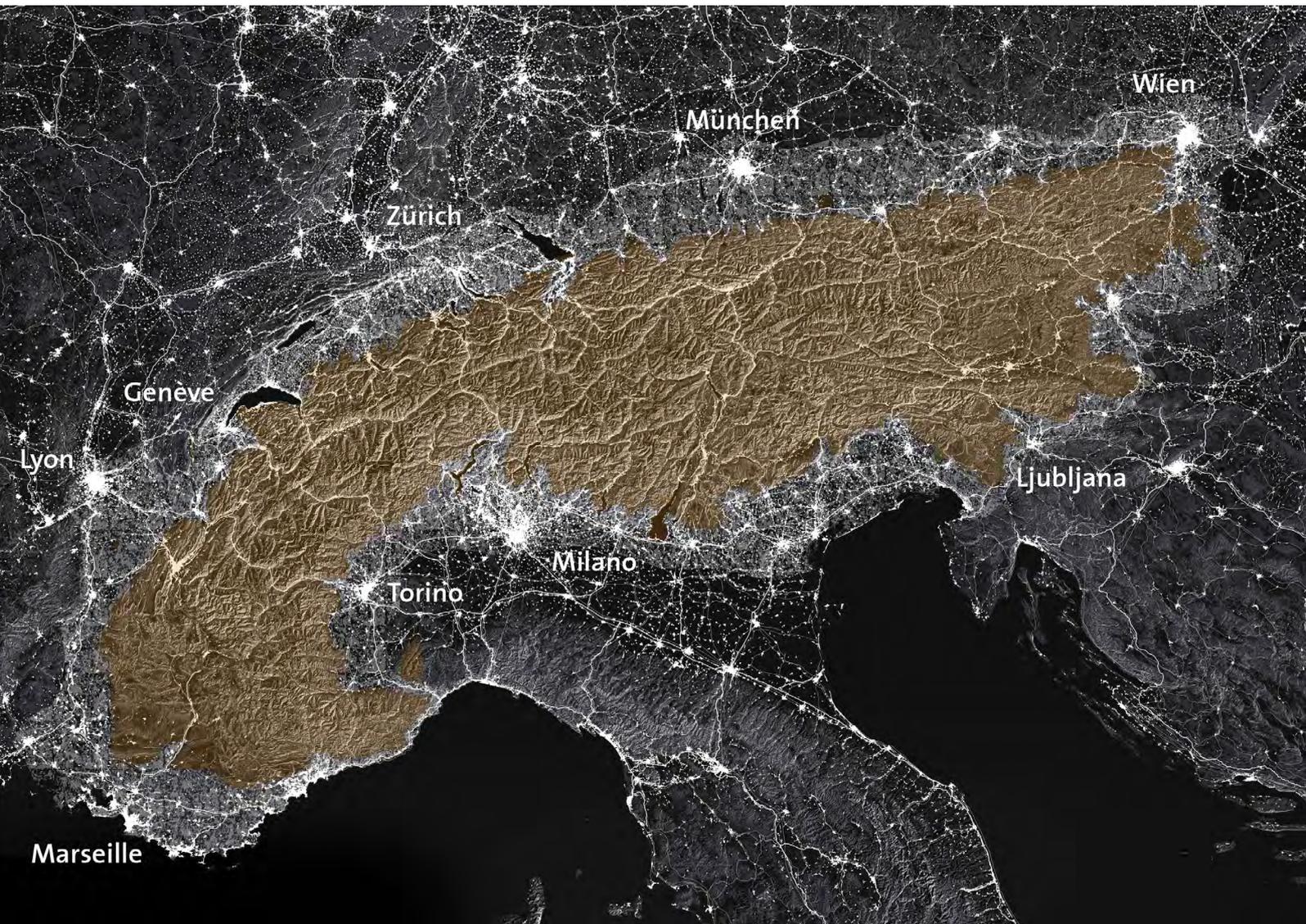


Image:  
Chair of Günther Vogt, ETH Zurich, The Alps as Ecological Island in the Middle of the European Continent, Projection, 2019.

The Alps are not a static assemblage but a dynamic and sensitive living space. Geological and geomorphological processes formed their characteristic topography over millions of years and in so doing established the fundamental conditions for the development of Alpine culture. This is characterised by the continuous creation of livable conditions, directly engaging with local conditions which in turn develop specific forms of community to secure a sustainable way of handling natural resources.

At the same time, the Alps are not a sealed off space, but have always been integrated into the economic and social developments of the European continent, albeit usually delayed and in a milder form. With industrialisation came the distinction between intensively and extensively used landscapes. Climate change fuels these developments further.

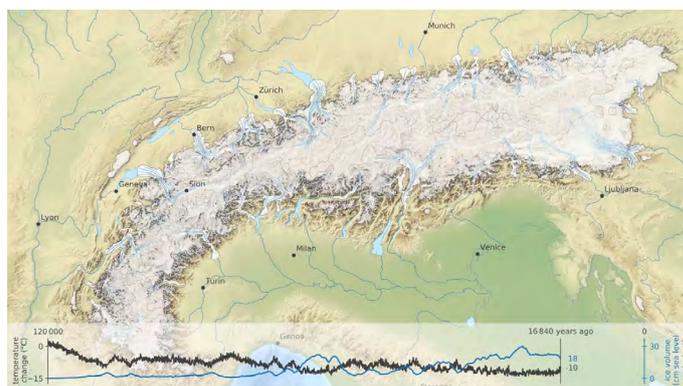
When considering water as a central resource of the Alpine landscape, the consequences of the rising temperature become clear to see. The rapidly progressing melting of the glaciers and the declining significance of the snow entail amongst other things a “liquefaction of the water balance”; i.e. the storage function of snow and ice becomes less important, so that the hydrological conditions are more strongly influenced by precipitation. The result is that the Alps can no longer completely fulfil their function as Europe’s water tower, particularly in summer. They will however continue to be of outstanding importance in the Central European water supply. The adjacent lowlands of the Alps also become drier in summer.

In order to explore the possibilities of how to deal with water in the Alps from now on, a broad discourse is necessary. This contribution

to the exhibition puts forward a proposal for a new reading of the Alpine landscape as an “ecological island” at the centre of the continent, integrating various disciplines such as art, natural sciences, engineering and landscape architecture. Seen in a European frame of reference, totally new features arise: a resource space for (immaculate quality) water and energy; a hotspot of biodiversity; a tourist destination with pleasant climatic conditions; a cultural space free from the stress of dense populations, and a unique landscape.

The installation of new relationships between inner-Alpine and outer-Alpine Europe is founded on the principles of collaboration. As in the case of the early agricultural communities in the Alpine region, the exchange will have to be based on a jointly negotiated and sustainable use. In this way a responsible and care-

ful way of dealing with the resource of the Alpine landscape is possible, refraining from traditional images and ideas but rather creating new images and meanings.



Video:

Chair of Günther Vogt, ETH Zurich, [Common Water – The Alps](#), Still, 2019.

Principal's name:

Günther Vogt (Liechtenstein, b. 1957), ETH Zurich (1855), Amalia Bonsack (Switzerland, b. 1991), ETH Zurich, Thomas Kissling (Switzerland, b. 1980), ETH Zurich, Andreas Klein (Germany, b. 1987), ETH Zurich, Max Leiß (Germany, b. 1982), ETH Zurich, Roland Charles Shaw (United Kingdom, b. 1984), ETH Zurich, Edoardo Signori (Switzerland, b. 1996), ETH Zurich

Collaborations:

Julian Charrière (Switzerland, b. 1987), Studio Julian Charrière Berlin (Germany), Alessandro Tellini (Switzerland, b. 1984), Raplab D-Arch, ETH Zurich (Switzerland), Prof. em. Dr. Rolf Weingartner, (Switzerland, b. 1954), University of Bern and ecosfera gmbh (Switzerland)

# MIGRATING LANDSCAPES

VOGT Landscape Architects,  
Zurich (Switzerland)

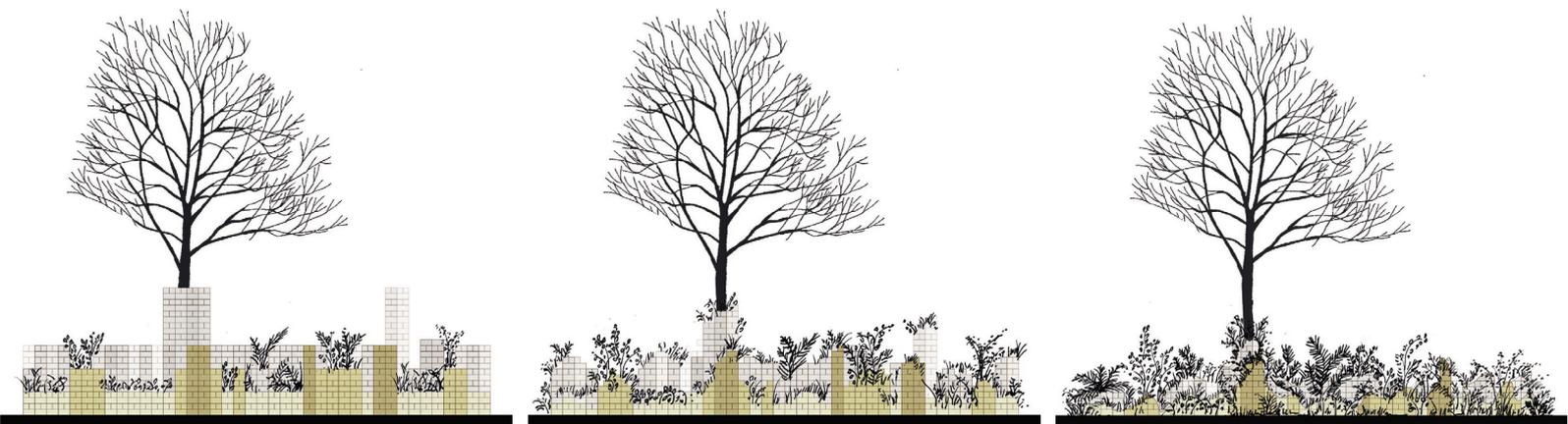


Image:  
Vogt Landscape Architects, Case Studio,  
Planting Scheme Development, Scheme, 2019.

The mega-structure found inside the garden works as a model of the city on which it stands – a topography made of architecture. The hard-pressed bricks that make up this urban landscape are made of soil derived from different regions across Europe, offering a sort of architectural material mapping of a region whose flora, like that of the world, is constantly changing. As the vegetation grows between the cracks of this city model, architecture is transformed into landscape.

This landform extends under the shadows of five trees, representing one of the most important vegetation and landscape elements of public space across the continent: *Platanus x acerifolia*. Placed at the centre of the installation, this magnificent deciduous tree signifies the beginning of the garden under Napoleonic rule as well as the introduction of non-native flora into the

city's green spaces.

The installation not only maps the territory through a deconstruction of its architecture, but also acts as a timeline of the changes in vegetation undergone by the city of Venice. These are made visible in the form of a faded planting scheme of non-native flora introduced to the city. The project presents a synthetic history of ecological change and manipulation of land.

The urban landscape gives way to a rugged topography accommodating the seeds of change, giving way to a new type of landscape that re-imagines the implicit relationship between landscape and architecture.

Principal's name:

Günther Vogt (Lichtenstein, b. 1957) of Vogt Landscape Architects (Zurich, London, Berlin, Paris, est. 2000), Violeta Burckhardt (USA, b. 1987) of Vogt Landscape Architects (Zurich, London, Berlin, Paris, est. 2000) and Simon Kroll (Germany, b.1984) of Vogt Landscape Architects (Zurich, London, Berlin, Paris, est. 2000).

# ROLLING STONES

VOGT Landscape Architects,  
Zurich (Switzerland)



Image:  
Vogt Landscape Architects, Case Studio, at  
Generelli SA, Photography, 2020.

The non-human realm entails a large array of elements which tend to be classified as inert, but there are a number of these that are intrinsically associated to landscape and the natural world – a domain characterized by abundance and most importantly life. Yet landscapes are a collection of both biotic and abiotic elements, which through human perception transform it into a cultural object. If this is true, then the agency that we could ever give to rocks, in this case, can be animated through popular culture and the almost imperceptible movement carried out by boulders through millions of years and recurring ice ages, visible through a song.

„Rolling Stones“ does not recognize the agency of these rocks through their value as entities, but rather acknowledges them through association, metaphor and their ability to come to life, not just through movement,

and their undoubted capacity to shape the land and our conceptions of landscape, but through language – through words.

Principal's name:

Günther Vogt (Lichtenstein, b. 1957) of Vogt Landscape Architects (Zurich, London, Berlin, Paris, est. 2000), Violeta Burckhardt (USA, b. 1987) of Vogt Landscape Architects (Zurich, London, Berlin, Paris, est. 2000) and Simon Kroll (Germany, b.1984) of Vogt Landscape Architects (Zurich, London, Berlin, Paris, est. 2000).