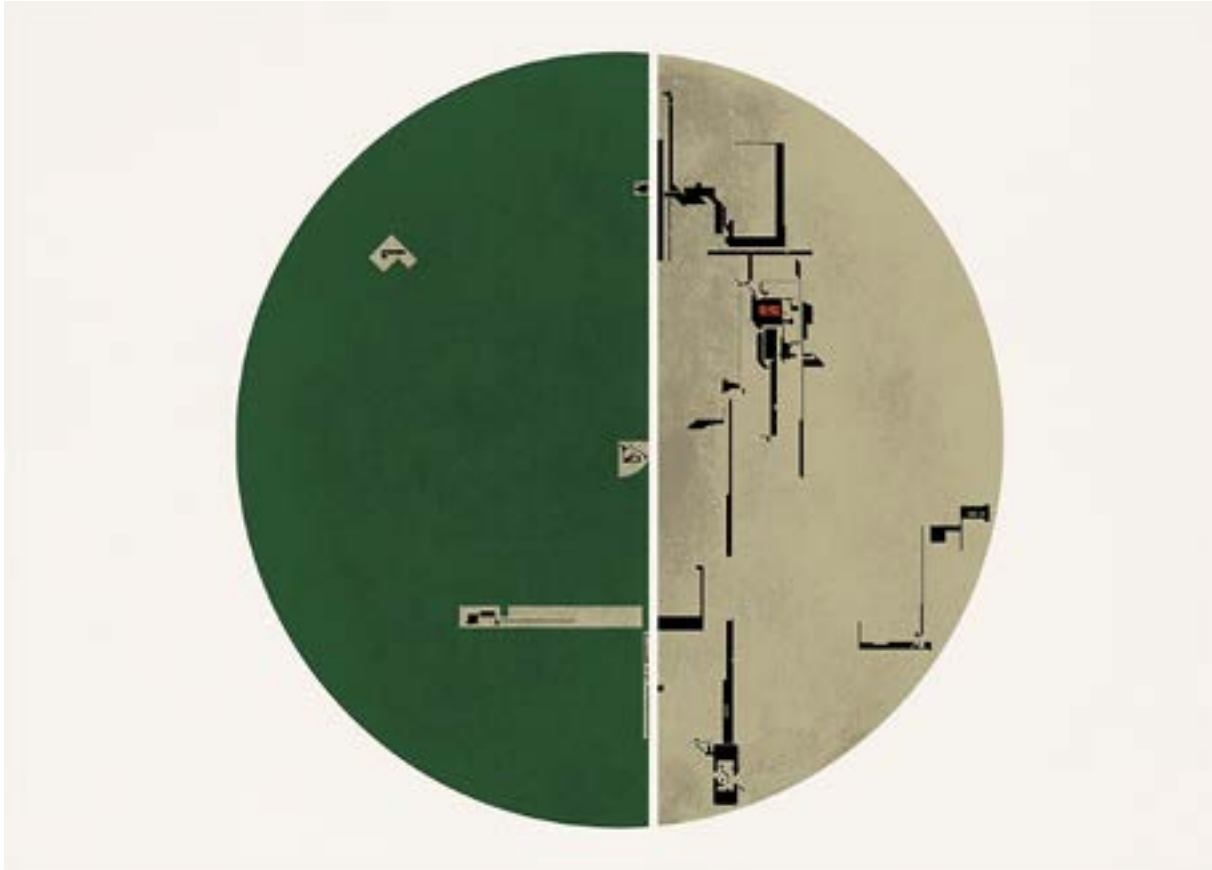


Borders & Territories

MSc 1 - Border Agencies. The Design of an Institute



Autumn semester 2024

Bahram Shirdel, *Country of Spectators, The Circle*

Tutors

Negar Sanaan Bensi

Filip Geerts

Mika de Haas

Code	AR1BO010
Credits	10 ECTS
Location	NL/BE border
Excursion	Yes/Inside NL
Costs	n.a.

The educational program of 'Borders & Territories' (B&T) focuses on the territory as a problematic and complex field of operation, with its borders as the spatial tools for differentiation. The B&T MSc 1 studio is understood as a laboratory for the investigation of territorial, spatial, ecological, technical and architectural agencies in which participants will develop a 'Border-Zone Institute'.

As a result of the Unification of Europe, places where once the periphery was located, have become central. Before the formation of the EU, most of the European border regions had been treated as the backyards of their respective countries. The NL/BE border zone is an interesting example of this, where the accumulation of historical military sites, refugee camps, extraction, and industrial complexes overlap with the natural reserves, such as Natura 2000 (as an EU-initiated program).

By studying the fragments of the western NL/BE border zone, this B&T studio will

investigate the transformation of these territories under initiated EU programs, such as Interreg Europe.

The students will design a series of Border-Zone Institutes (the Border Agencies) to initiate a proper spatial and material study of the border areas and create knowledge and awareness of the differentiation in utilizations, appropriation, and perceptions of the territory itself. Starting from a generic given program for an institute, the students will then adjust the program based on the particularities of the investigated site condition.

The studio privileges the 'section' as a drawn speculation that intends to relate the human scale to the ground and territorial dimension at large.

The developed design will present a coherent, significant, elaborated, correct and innovative design for a medium-sized building.