

# ARCHITECTURE

Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia  
PROJECT 2

INFO SESSION — 20 MAY 2014  
16.30–17.30h, ETH HIL E 72

## SEA REGION



ASSISTANT PROF — Milica Topalovic  
TEAM — Hans Hortig, Stefanie Krautzig  
PROGRAM — Design Research Studio,  
Fieldtrip and Integrated Discipline Planning

WHERE — Future Cities Lab, Singapore  
WHEN — 15 September - 19 December 2014  
PLACES — 10 Students  
APPLY BY — 26 June 2014

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# OF TERRITORY

The HS 2014 program offers an intensive design studio with an opportunity for students to focus on territorial design and research during the semester. The design work will draw from diverse sources coming from field research, architectural and urban analysis, theory and visual media. Special attention will be given to the study of precedent projects, from Ungers' Berlin Archipelago to OMA's Melun Sénart.

Design Research Studio  
SEA REGION

Prof Milica Topalovic, Hans Hortig, Stefanie Krautzig

The phenomenon of maritime borders in the region is historically new - in the formerly open sea of the Singapore Straits the national borders gradually took effect after Singapore's independence in 1965. The combined demands of industry, logistics, and trade have further contributed to

In maritime cultures, the sea is sometimes seen and imagined as the land: the source of livelihood, the space of everyday life and connections among people, activities and settlements, which gravitate toward it as the centre. Archipelagic life and structures, such as the Malay world along the Straits of Malacca and the Straits of Singapore, have evolved around the sea and relied on exchange over the water.

Once part of a sea region, unified through maritime culture and trade, disparities and differences today characterize the trilateral space of Singapore, Malaysian province of Johor and Indonesian Riau Archipelago. Though Singapore is an island city-state, it also represents the densely populated core and the economical focal point of the larger territory. Since the 1970s, Singapore's economy began to expand and incorporate productive hinterlands over the national boundary. As a result, two fast-growing industrial cities of over one million each, Johor Bahru and Batam, lie at Singapore's borders, in its shadow.

The trilateral space is today a de-facto emerging metropolitan region of around eight million inhabitants. Despite the shared maritime

the formalization of borders and fragmentation of the regional space. In the 1960s, the "container revolution" gave boost to the global shipping industry and led to the need for control of the growing cargo traffic, which changed the character of the Straits irreversibly. As a result, the sea as the space of everyday life and movement among Singapore, Johor, and Riau Archipelago is severely parceled. The three cities now develop in an independent manner; the coasts in the region are occupied by port terminals, industrial facilities, security installations and gated estates; the urban centres are withdrawn from the coast. The sea has become an urban frontier and the frontier of public interest and imagination.

The Sea Region wants to propose a vision of a unified maritime space, by designing connections among the three cities, and connections between the cities and the sea. To do this, the project will start by reframing the regional territory and placing the sea back in its centre. Through the design of new cross-border territories and territorial structures, the

project will give new contours to the region's identity.

Fieldtrip and Field Research  
JOHOR, SINGAPORE, BATAM

The studio will start with a five-day fieldtrip into the region. Moving by land and by sea among the three countries, we will experience the region's complexity and beauty. Interaction with collaborators on the three sides will offer multiple ways of looking at the region. The common fieldtrip will be followed by a week of highly concentrated individual field investigations.

#### PROCESS AND RESULT

After the two intense weeks of field research, students will work on design project in groups of two. All projects will compose the vision of the Sea Region - the studio results in one collective work. The work will be represented in the form of drawings, common book and physical models.

culture and history, and the high degree of economic synchronization among the three sides, the lack of common visions and regional steering still remain a reality.

The HS 14 Sea Region will propose territorial design strategies leading to stronger metropolitan connections in the currently divided territory. The Singapore Strait, one of the most intensely urbanized seas of the world, has always been the lifeline of the region. In the project, we aim to return the extraordinary sea of the Strait into the centre of public discourse and imagination about the future of the trilateral region.

Architecture of Territory investigates phenomena and processes of urban transformation of contemporary territories. It comprises a shift of interest from cities to broader territorial frames and to what was once considered as the non-urban realm or the city's "constitutive outside": the nature, the ocean, the rural, the wild. The HS 2014 project builds on the research of the hinterlands of contemporary cities since 2011, where Singapore and its multiple territorial imprints have served as the paradigmatic research case.

ARCHITECTURE OF TERRITORY (the Assistant Professorship of Architecture and Territorial Planning) is based at the Future Cities Laboratory in Singapore until 2015. During the HS 2014, we invite a small group of ETH students to join us for the Sea Region territorial design project, which presents the completion of our four-year trajectory in Southern Asia. Starting from FS 2016, we will offer research and design studios in Zurich.

THE FUTURE CITIES LABORATORY in Singapore is a vibrant research community and a laboratory of innovative research in architecture and urbanism. It is founded by the ETH Zurich and the Singapore National Research Foundation, as the first research program of the Singapore-ETH Centre. Its projects are directed towards the sustainable development of buildings, neighbourhoods and urban regions. The FCL works in close collaboration with Singapore's universities.

#### HS 2014

The semester has the status of a regular ETH semester, and offers the total of 18 credit points / The Design Studio with Integrated Discipline (Planning) 13+3 KP and the Fieldtrip (instead of Seminar Week) 2 KP. Students are free to join other courses at the ETH Zurich or the FCL in parallel.

#### LIVING IN SINGAPORE

The living costs in Singapore are considered slightly lower than in Zurich. Students will rent their own rooms and apartments in the city. We will provide advice and contacts to help you find accommodation. Our studio space is located at the FCL on the Create Campus, neighboring local and foreign universities.

#### SEMESTER COSTS

Please contact Frau Elisabetta Giordano for grants for flights to

Singapore, [giordano@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:giordano@arch.ethz.ch). The fieldtrip expenses are in the cost frame B. Outstanding research expenses will be reimbursed up to 300 SGD per group.

#### ELIGIBILITY

The semester is open to ETH DArch Bachelor students, who have passed their exams, and Master students.

#### HOW TO APPLY

Please apply before June 26th 2014, in order to obtain the visa for Singapore. Please send us your brief motivation statement and samples of work (max 5 jpg or pdf files). During the studio, students will work in groups of two, thus group applications are also welcome. We are looking for avid travellers and team workers, with strong motivation and independent position. Please apply to [hortig@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:hortig@arch.ethz.ch) and [krautzig@arch.ethz.ch](mailto:krautzig@arch.ethz.ch).