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SCHOOL OF COLLECTIVELY BUILDING E.U

Speculative Designs: Rethink Austria Flooding



SPECULATIVE DESIGNS - RETHINK AUSTRIA FLOODING

SDRAF

EDITOR

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SDRAF

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The Speculative Designs - Rethink Austria Flooding (SDRAF) Book celebrates visionary projects that redefine flooding in Austria. All the projects are from the Climate Responsive Architecture Course. Many brilliant ideas remain unseen buried in drawings and research. This book gives them a voice, honouring students. It's a tribute to innovation, collective collaboration, and the shared hope for a better present and future.

Notes from the Editor

Santosh Kumar Ketham

The Projects

1. Stabilising Slopes, Styria

Helena Fernsebner

A sustainable solution to recurring landslides in St. Johann im Saggautal. This project uses retaining walls, biomats, deep-rooted plants, and mycorrhizal fungi to stabilise slopes and protect vineyards. An interception trench captures debris and channels water for reuse, blending ecological and agricultural resilience with natural slope management.

2. Landeck Waterscape, Tyrol

Hanna Weese

This design addresses flood risk at Landeck's river confluence by combining terraced riverbeds, water-absorbing trees, emergency infrastructure, and public spaces. It reimagines flood-prone terrain as a functional, adaptive landscape that supports both climate resilience and biodiversity while enhancing the daily lives of residents through integrated nature and design.

3. Pending Rain, Vienna

Julia Rupprecht

This project tackles flash flooding by turning rooftops, facades, and courtyards into rainwater storage systems. Reverse umbrellas and controlled-release devices manage overflow before it reaches the streets. Focusing on the Wienfluss catchment, it offers a simple, decentralised solution to reduce strain on Vienna's urban drainage infrastructure.

4. Living Retention Landscape, Jenbach

Seyyed Mohammads Musavi

In Jenbach, underused flood zones are transformed into terraced parks that serve as public spaces during dry periods and retention basins during storms. The design uses native vegetation and permeable surfaces to combine flood resilience with recreation, biodiversity, and long-term community value in a multifunctional public landscape.

5. Let It Flow, Let It Grow, Carinthia

Jasmin Wirth, Leonie Vogl

Designed for agricultural land at the Gurk and Drau confluence, this project introduces a permeable canal to divert excess floodwater. Supported by smaller drainage channels and resilient planting, it reduces flood risk while improving farmland health, embracing natural water dynamics for ecological and agricultural sustainability.

6. SoakSphere, Vorarlberg

Lara Christina Poerschmann

Flood-prone Meiningen features crater-shaped urban spaces that double as parks and retention basins. Built with absorbent materials and vegetation, they store rainwater visibly during storms and serve as social or cultural areas otherwise. This poetic design merges water management with public engagement and climate-conscious city planning.

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(SOCB) School Of Collectively Building in Vienna, Austria.

As the world faces a critical climate crisis, the need for collective action has never been more urgent. Together, we must act, react, and reflect to forge a sustainable path forward. “Collectively” means uniting our efforts, whether in researching, teaching, designing, discussing, or developing ideas that shape both the present and future.

Our vision and mission are centered on educating, empowering, and building collectively, guided by the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

We accomplish this by providing education to international students, professionals, and communities through a diverse array of training programs, courses, seminars, and conferences. These cover a wide range of topics, including design, architecture, urbanism, landscape, materials, environmental studies, and policy-making.

Our platform serves as a global hub for the exchange of ground-breaking ideas, bringing together brilliant minds from various disciplines. We invite designers, architects, engineers, planners, and specialists to share their expertise, fostering an environment where innovative ideas can flourish. Our collaborative efforts extend to partnerships with institutions, schools, universities, companies, NGOs, and other organizations.

Through our educational courses, research, seminars, workshops and conferences, further research and course work will be exhibited to people and published in books, journals, proceedings and academic articles. We aim to bridge the gaps between students, institutions, companies, and communities, creating a unified front against the climate crisis.



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