

SS 21

Bachelor's degree programme in Architecture
Master's degree programme in Architecture

Advanced Studio **LANDSCAPE (EN)**

Studio Tutors: **LINDSAY BLAIR HOWE AND ANNA HERINGER**

BUILDING BANGLADESCH: FROM FARMHOUSE TO REFUGEE ISLAND?



Left: Homemade Houses in Rudrapur by Studio Anna Heringer
Right: Bhasan Char Rohingya Refugee Camp

How many houses can we build for 4,000 CHF in Rudrapur, Bangladesh? In a standard international development project, utilizing conventional building materials, maybe one. But if we were to break with industrialized materials, building processes, and financial systems? Could we create ten houses with that same money, instead of just one?

In this studio, we are fundamentally (re)considering how to build, from architecture to the urban scale, from theory to practice. Four thematic areas that will structure the studio over the course of the semester: Material, Circular Economy, Urbanization, and Development Cooperation. Our approach is multi-scalar, ranging from the basic farmhouse unit in Rudrapur to the world's largest refugee camp: the Rohingya and newly planned Bhasan Char settlements.

There are three design tasks throughout the semester. The first design engages with the design of a farmhouse in Rudrapur. We will consider what building materials and resources we need to build this house; what processes are involved in its construction; and how it can be financed. One of the central questions is who can be involved in the design process, and what resources can be shared. In the second design, we will design a building that is central to village life in places like Rudrapur: a temple. After understanding the typologies of house and temple, our third design will consider if and how an “upscaling” of the approach to the refugee camp would be possible.

The material clay is an essential element of the studio. Through the technique of “claystorming,” we will experience how intuitive designing with the material can be conducted across design scales. During the seminar week, we will take the material into our own hands and explore the processes of building in Rudrapur, participating in techniques and ongoing construction projects. If the trip to Bangladesh is not possible, we will tackle similar issues together in Vorarlberg.