

ASA Internship Journal
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pool Architekten
2022/2023



First Week

Sunday/Monday 18/19.09.2022

It is 02:15 am, I just arrived to my flat with my new flatmate whom it turned out I knew for 10 years. We traveled by car from Poland to Zurich and took us around 14h to get there in a huge rain, constantly following us for almost an entirety of the trip. The only moments for a clear road were either tunnels or a close proximity to the Swiss soil. In the morning after sleeping very little I had to go to the administrative building and sign up. It was a very quick, painless experience. Didn't know that bureaucracy can be working so smoothly. I also got some strange token for radiation pills in case of the atomic power plant failure or nuclear war. What a start of the new day in the new country and new office. I thought it must be a good sign and a strange but interesting start for so long awaited internship. When arrived to the office I had a tour around all floors, met partners and other coworkers. After "Gipfeli break" which is always occurring at 10 am on Mondays I was introduced to my team leader who filled me in what we are going to do together in Urban Design department and Competition team. The rest of that day I spent familiarizing myself with a Vectorworks, German UI and the office way of working.

Tuesday - Wednesday 20/21.09.2022

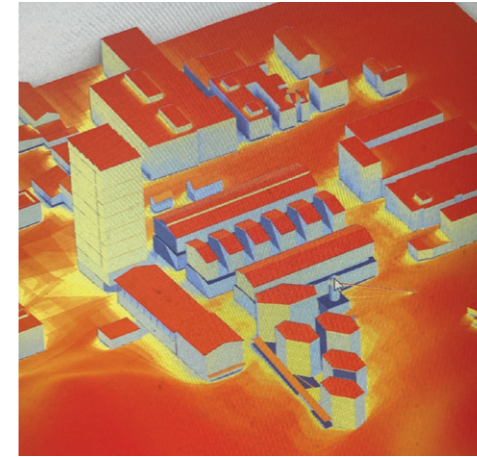
I started the day working for Hombrechtikon project, both in Cad software stitching up the plans for the existing buildings and stacking them on top of each other as well as simplifying them. The other part of the work was physical model for the same project which is going to be one of our main assignments and we had to figure out what are our possibilities, strengths and weaknesses for the area. Build a probable Variants and play with them. At the same time I was also helping with our office side, humanitarian project called "Windows for Ukraine", where we donated and loaded a full container of windows from our building after having them changed.

Thursday 22.09.2022

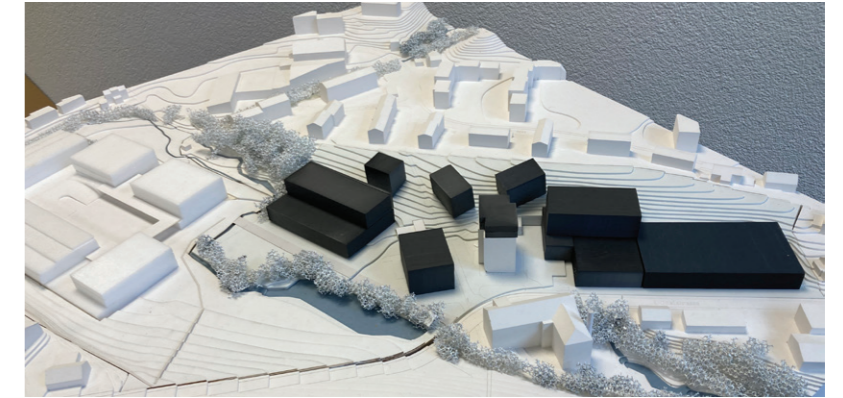
It was a very intriguing week full of things to do as well, but today was special. We went for a trip as part of the Competition team to Bill/Benne to sightsee, walk-around and explore multiple projects for commercial and cooperative housing, schools as well as other places in a very picturesque and only officially bilingual city. We were using bikes to travel between points of interests. The first stop was a family cafe where we were given a full coverage about history of the city and the region from ancient to modern times, later we went to the sight were pool Architekten, my host office has a site for the new university campus waiting for the approval from one of the sides to continue the dig site (they got it in early march 2023). Later, we rode to the center of the city to see an adaptation of modernism building into a mix use function, with church integrated with a commercial ground floor, 2 stories of offices and housing on upper levels. Next we rode to the lake where we had a break, and right after we saw a cooperative housing from both outside and inside and the local architects living there and responsible for its design gave us a tour. The last part was a school which was located in the middle of agricultural fields on the outskirts of this lovely city. We were also given a tour inside by the architect in charge of that project and it was interesting to see and to understand all of the design choices, especially that the building was very well oriented for children with different needs.

Friday - Saturday 23/24.09.2022

Back to work, back to Hombrechtikon full of energy and awaiting new challenges. On Saturday I went with my flatmate to sightsee Zurich.



Solar Analysis and first work on the physical model variations



Windows for Ukraine



Bill/Benne field trip

September to October 2022

September 2022

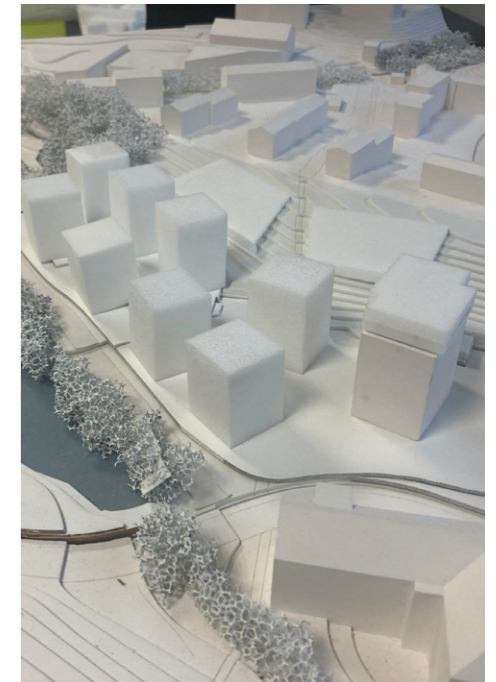
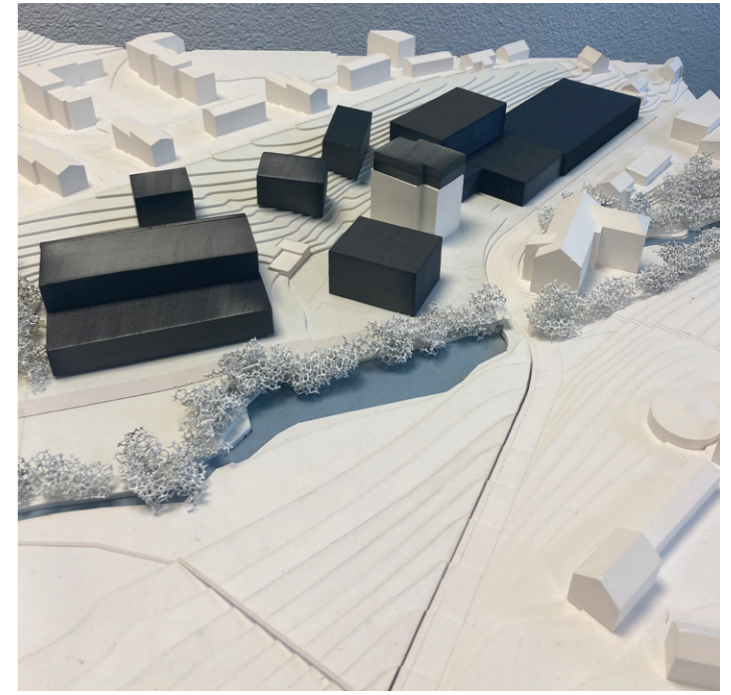
After first week I was feeling that I am barely able regenerate. Working on a very fast pace, trying to give 100% of what you can do at the same time trying to find a way to speed up, optimize the work was very tiring. During the second week I was able to propose something extra. I did some solar and PV analysis for the competition project in Ashwill, helping other team. At the same time we had to start working on our second project which is a huge area around Wetzikon train station while maintaining progress on the first one. Wetzikon is a project which model was exceeding 1,8m length and 1,4m width. Our main assignment was to create a strategy for the redevelopment with new bus stations on both sides of the main station, redesign the parking spaces, establish new functions as well pedestrian connections and parks. Last and not least was to improve the existing state of affair. The first submission we had a semi public hearing in the beginning of October. To prepare for that we had to create 5 Variants which later we reduced to 4. I had to do models for all 4, draw a situation map, as well as do a photo shoot in our photo studio and later retouch all images and do same alterations showing what is existing and what is new. In the meantime I started to work on possible developments for the first project. We had to achieve a high-tech industrial park with affordable housing on top, or on the slope of the valley or whenever we would be able to fit them. It was a long process which I was going to finish in January 2023.

October 2022

First week of October started very stressful. We had very little of time to finish everything for the hearing of Wetzikon initial proposals and a less then a week later we had first big meeting with Hombrechtikon clients. This is how it is gonna look like till the end of the year. Working in a constant rush, but happy with what we are doing. On Wednesday 5th of October I had to grab a car from the local mobility car sharing center, pack it with everything we did and had and deliver it to the Wetzikon city council and prepare room for presentation. We had 4 Variants and one small alteration in models (1,6m long), a main model, maps of analysis, boards with our propositions and a small leaflet sum ups for each project to have people better and quicker familiarized with. I had to ask a fellow intern to help me load it and unload it at the sight because of the weight and size. We drove together there and prepared everything. It was very stressful and fulfilling for me to prepare the room the way I thought is the most logical at the same time putting the emphasize on projects we would like to be selected for further development. Next day we had presentation and all of the pressure and anticipation vanished leaving a big tiredness. After that we packed a car again and drove to our office, where we unloaded everything and continued working on our first project, where we also had 5 variations and we needed them to be built, drawn situation plans and show some initial sketches. The whole week and the weekend we working to deliver that, at the same time discussing a lot what can we change for the next submission in 3 weeks as well as how can we approach it quicker and smarter. For that project presentation I had to build the physical models from the styrofoam, laser cut the base boards for us and clients to move the variants easily without loosing time on constant rebuilding, as well as did some situation maps drawings in Vectorworks. After we prepared everything and spent a lot of hours during previous week, whole weekend and Monday we packed a car again and drove to Hombrechtikon, where I could witness a negotiation and clever conversation steering from our office partner side in order to already determine some useful concepts and show clients that the one they liked the most is not ideal for this site. On our way back I was talking with a partner about cinematography and photography, sharing our favorite directors and movies.



Hombrechtikon: Variations



Wetzikon: October public presentation



November to December 2022

November 2022

November was looking similarly to October, however the amount of work and intensified. With Hombrechtikon we started to have a very complex problems with terrain and calculation one of the most important factors in Zurich Kanton which is Mass Above the Ground, called BMZ. In order to start proposing more relevant Variants we have to achieve a factor of BMZ equal or higher than 3.0. In order to achieve that in this specific type of terrain we had to explore numerous options from short and high industrial buildings with multiple tenants and multistory delivery options, to very long, behemoth size buildings long for 200m and tall to 6-7m. All in all after so many tests and also many checks if our 3d terrain which I did in September is good, we decided to propose an approach with complex roof structure allowing us to fill more function under roof and create a mezzanine or even in some cases a double mezzanine. Another thing which allowed us to fill and manipulate the BMZ factor was a shed roof.

During free weekends I was able to go hiking with my flatmate visiting beautiful Swiss mountains in Schwyz Kanton and visited our neighborhood hill Uetliberg.

December 2022

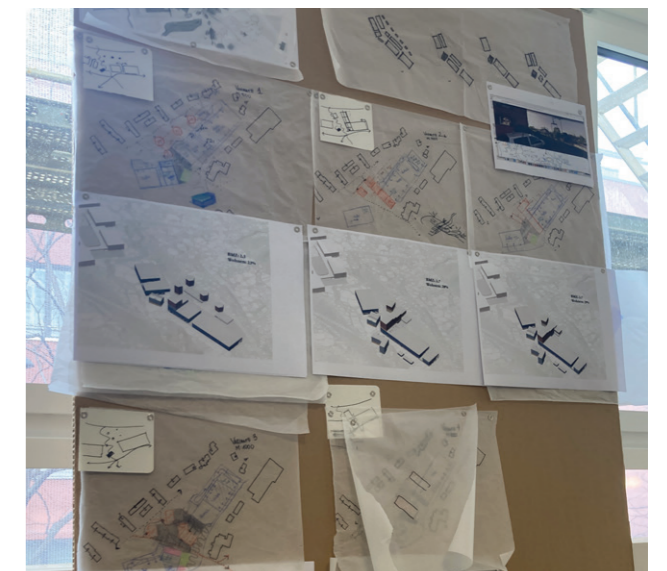
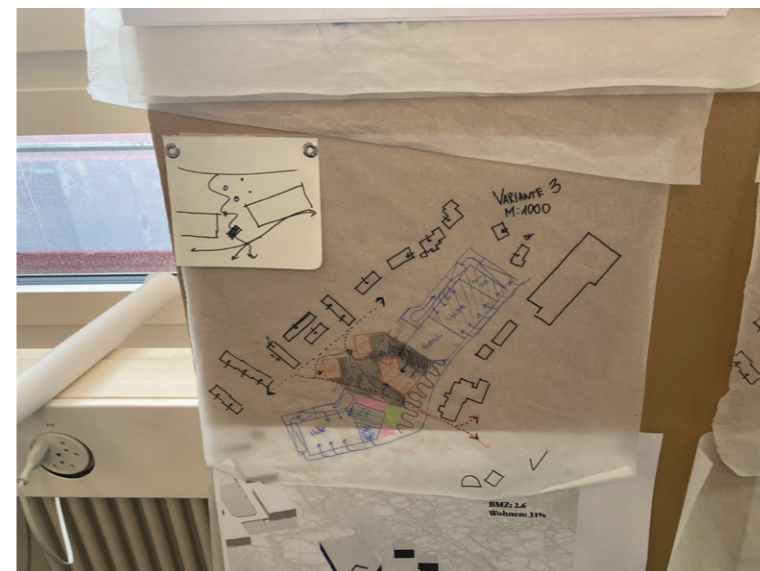
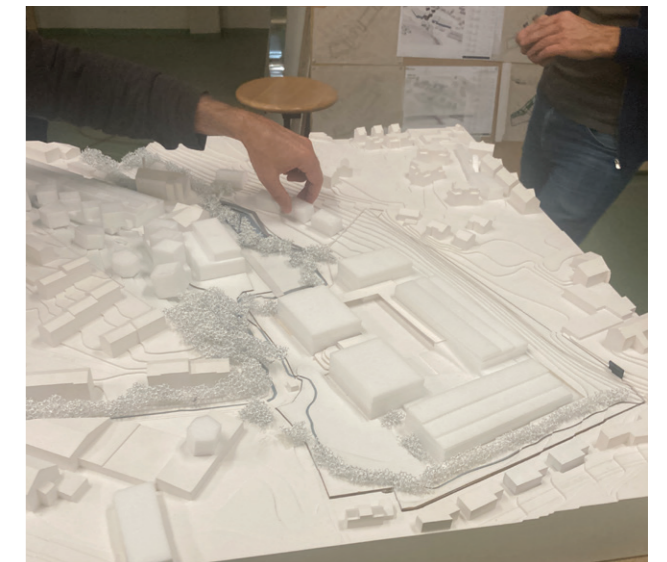
December was one of the hardest and shortest months in the office, however it and end of November was one of the most stressful and filled with tremendous amount of work. Our team in the middle of November has lost one team member due to other projects and from that moment we had to do everything just two of us. It was real roller-coaster. We had a final submissions of those two major projects a week before my holidays, and we were working almost everyday day and night, on Saturdays and Sundays, which in the end gave me 3 free weeks to compensate for Christmas. At the same time being the first person in the office history breaking a rule of having too much time used for compensation which later led to change in "the house" rules. For submissions we were doing tons of physical models, trying to finalize our ideas and having them digitalized, drawing sections, figuring out 3d model for buildings, creating a special 3d model for BMZ and a function calculations, as well as the calculation for the ground extracted during probable construction in order to choose the least invasive options. That was just one project for the second one, we had to rebuild everything, we ended up with new options in our half way to the submission. It ended up with me rebuilding every new building for this year final submission, new situation maps. Due to time limitation and us having just 6 days with weekend counted in, we had to come up with a decision no to do a photo-studio pictures instead we used a 3d model renders, which I was preparing from the middle of November in the meantime when I was done with other tasks. In one day before submission when all the renders of 5 different options were done I had to draw on top and Photoshop for all 5 variants 6 different information views from: bus stops and transportation axonometry, to building functions, green areas and parks, pedestrian connections ending up with a condensed and cleaned summary image. Next day we had the public hearing in the city of Wetzikon as well as with the main client the SBB (Swiss Federal Railways). I have not imagined to see so many people interested in what we were doing so far. It was an amazing experience to have an actual possibility to talk not only with clients but also with people living there or with other teams such as landscape architects or traffic planners. During that presentation I came up with multiple ideas, which I am going to share later. All came to me after seeing that we used a sticky notes for people to write down what they thoughts on multiple aspects, as well as using the train station for the first time on my way back.



Wetzikon: Working on options after public hearing



Hombrechtikon: Working on the model and visual testing of Variants and sketches of probable solutions



January to March 2023

January 2023

At the end of December I was also helping with multiple other projects such as bench and post box design or helping out with competitions to create a script for self forming pillar. In Christmas I had a quite long break which was 3 weeks long. I came back to the office on 9th of January. We started already with a very fast pace due to upcoming submissions in the beginning of February with the Hombrechtikon project for private clients and quite a handful of meetings before almost final submission for the current phase for the Wetzikon train station area. For Hombrechtikon we ended up with 2 Variants and during finalizing the ideas and making hundreds of sketches and checking all the factors if we are good to go, I was able to move to drawing couple of typologies for the housing. After that I was building up a final physical model, drawing visualizations, creating a layout for the calculations as well as drawing roof plans, sections, situation plans, schematic layouts which were construction walls and staircases as well as underground parking layout with specific amount of car slots. After that I was also in contact with landscape architecture office in Basel, with which were cooperating, to finalize our masterplans.

February 2023

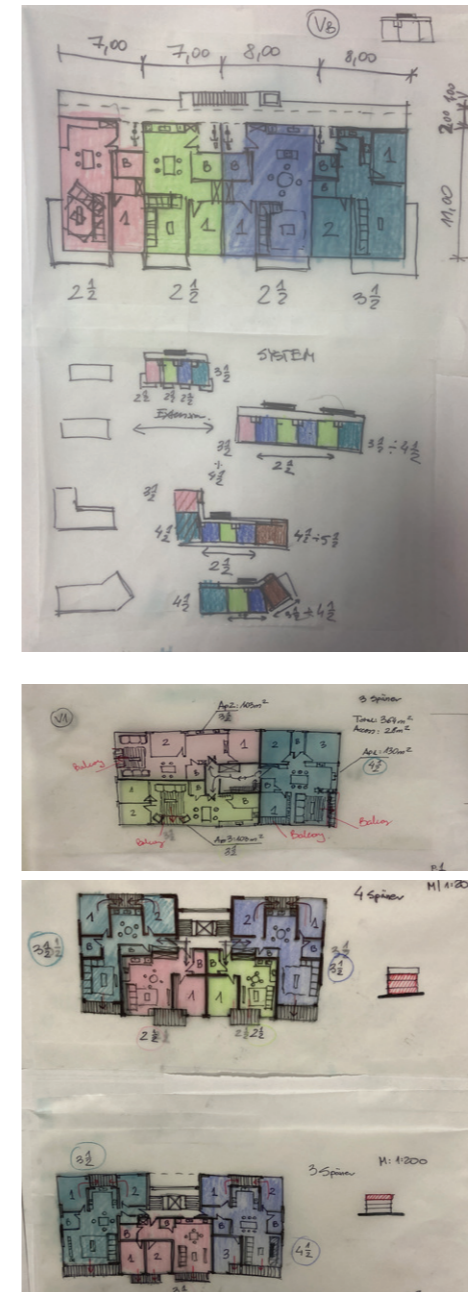
In the first week we have a final submission and big presentation in front of the clients, municipality, people who were handling also communication with local newspapers and us planning teams. It was very interesting to see how our hard work turned out and how the clients were finally on the same page as we were. All in all we don't know yet if the project will become a competition or it will be a direct commission for pool Architekten. After that I had to take 3 days off to rest a little bit and regenerate. I visited my best friend in Winterthur, also not so far away from Zurich. After a small break I started working on our last project finally being able to utilize a time to test and being able to implement some of ideas I had at the end of last year. First of all I was able to start drawing very detailed sections with a representation of what is happening from the plan perspective as an extension of them as well as laser cut and create a prototypes for new inserts with very sublime and special handlebars to take the elements out of the model. After that I prepared laser cut files for all of the base boards as well as checked if we can cut cars, buses and bikes in scale 1:500. I was able to experiment and find a specific scale for tokens for bikes stops, underground parking as well as to try finding proper bus stops representation, at the same time finding a way to bridge multiple planning teams working in so many areas. February was also a month of most farewells of my new friends which was a very sad moment, but expected.

March 2023

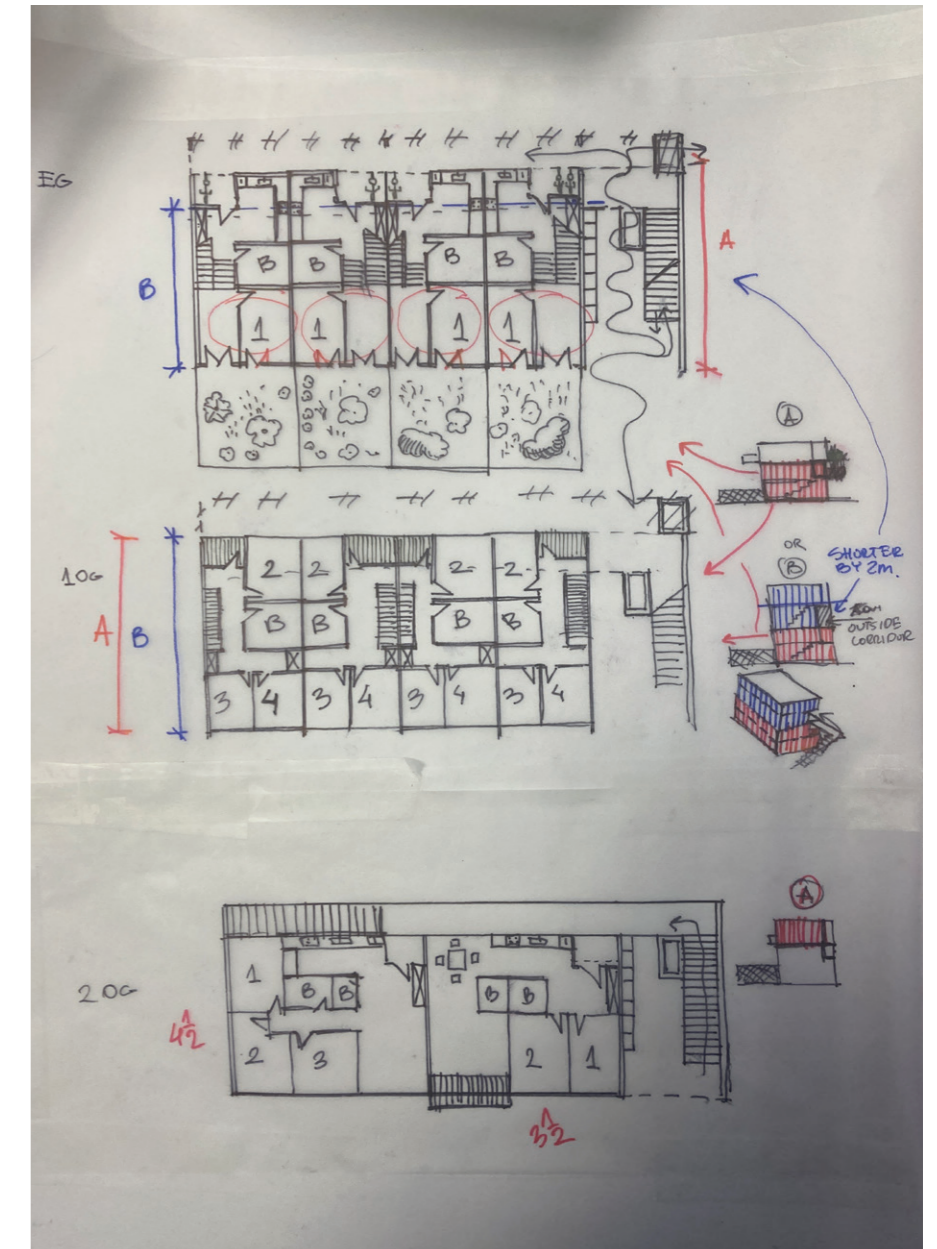
In March I was executing and finalizing what was not done yet as well as I was giving an inside to the projects for the new intern who would be replacing me in pool Architekten. For my last two weeks we were working closely together. We submitted everything on 16th of March and on the weekend with two of my close friends we went for a trip to St. Gallen and ended my internship going to the cinema in one of the nicest cinemas I have seen so far called Kinok. We saw After Sun, a very moving movie which was perfect for a Farewell and a feeling of leaving my one and half/two "baby" projects.

Farewell

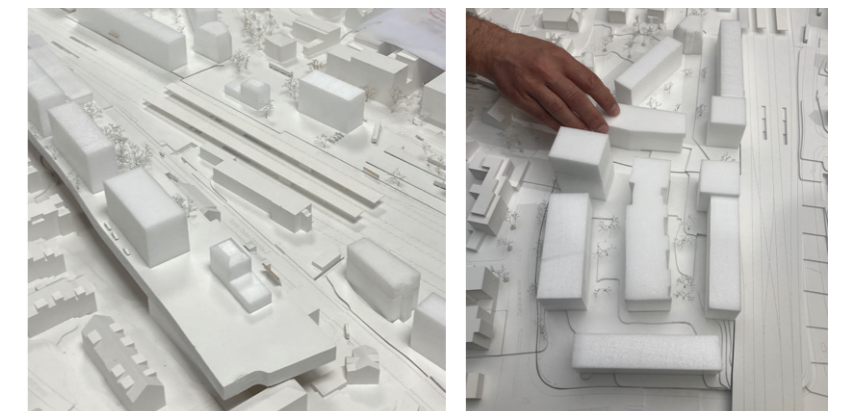
Last week was very emotional. Saying goodbye to so many nice people working there as well realizing that the iternship has just ended.



Hombrechtikon: In search for typologies



Wetzikon: Prototyping and working on final submission





poolies winter intern team