When looking at building in steel, icons such as the Maison de Verre, the Eames House or the Hôtel Tassel still, implicitly, accompany us today. But as real models they appear to have lost their relevance a long time ago: nowadays increasingly stringent requirements in the areas of fire protection, building physics and energy consumption seem to frustrate the architect’s dream of domestic environments built of steel. Today in Switzerland steel construction is, by and large, confined to commercial and industrial buildings.

In our summer workshop, a publication that will follow from it and a symposium on the current state of things, we want to devote our energies to re-domesticizing steel building and to profit from international experience in this area. We want to explore and discuss current questions about designing and building in steel through making visits to specific buildings and holding round table discussions with their authors, committed guests and critics, civil engineers, expert planners and specialists from steel construction practice, international teams of students, as well as lecturers and assistants from our institute. Our focus is on examining to what extent and under which circumstances dreams about steel can be newly dreamt, designed and made reality today.

We suggest there could be a path away from the purist models of modernism and towards intelligent hybrids, which, however, we want to position far away from the “handyman solutions” that are currently standard in the area of industrial and commercial building.

International Summer Workshop Institute for Constructive Design
ZHAW Departement A, Halle 180 Tössfeldstrasse 11, Winterthur

Programme
Visits to recent housing projects in Zurich
Round table discussion with architects and experts of houses by architect de vylder vinck taillieu, Atelier Bow-Wow, Christian Kerez, Jonathan Wood Architects, Jürg Graser, Made In and Martin Bühler presented by Astrid Staufer, Daniel Meyer and Martin Tschanz
Workshop Studio „Learning from Horta, Chareau and Eames“ with Marc Loellig, Alain Rosarins, Beat Waaber

Lectures and films
Guests
architect de vylder vinck taillieu, Martin Bühler, Frank Escher, Patrik Frei, Made In, Patrick Heiz/Made in Switzerland, Megumi Komura, Doris Kostial, Marcel Maili, Prof. Dr. Martin Mensinger, Prof. Dr. Joseph Schwartz, Chris Snow

Universities Involved
Birmingham City University
UPC ETSAB Barcelona
University of Antwerp
University of Minho /Guimarães
ZHAW

ECTS points
Students receive 3 ECTS points for attending the Summer Workshop.

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Support
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