

HYPER

WERK

HOW CAN WE LIVE TOGETHER?

This question stands behind the projects and discourses at the Institute HyperWerk. The *we* is inclusive and comprises human as well as non-human actors in the living environment. How can we – humans, animals, plants, fungi, bacteria, and machines – live together on this earth? How can we understand and document the interconnections among all these actors? How can those acquire a voice to whom no one is listening? How do digital transformations influence their related analog worlds? Whether in debates about justice, regarding issues in sustainability, participation, food, digitalization, migration, or care work: »living together« seems not to be so easy. This is precisely why HyperWerk sees this as the primary challenge for the present and the future.

Like a seismograph, HyperWerk registers faint and early signals of change. As a space of possibility for new forms of design education the institute is concerned with teaching and learning about processes.

HyperWerk opens an environment for students who want to develop the ability to co-design social transformation processes and exert active influence on their contemporaries.

Studying at HyperWerk means becoming a part of a flexible system – being a part of a process and being intensively concerned with processual design and transformation. Design is practical, 1:1, trans-disciplinary and theoretically underpinned, without necessarily being directly related to a product or to a profession.

STUDY

The year at HyperWerk begins in September and is divided into six modules which map the cycle of an idealized design process. Within one module, numerous workshops are offered to be attended by students of all three years. In order to convey the wide variety of current relevant knowledge, we invite experts, artists, designers, and practitioners to be guest teachers and conduct workshops. Our topics range from cultural anthropology, micro-architecture, urban development over gender studies, mediation, Virtual Reality and FabLabs to robotics and Transhumanism.

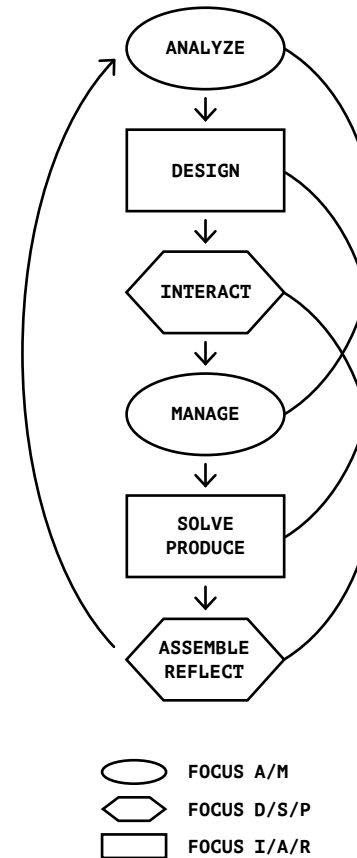
In order to be able to react to significant themes as well as to the respective interests of those who are currently studying at HyperWerk, students in their second year and teachers, in an intensive research-and-debate phase, develop a relevant annual topic. Then the entire HyperWerk orientates itself towards this annual topic and thus facilitates a course of study which evolves continuously.

While the modules and workshops offer thematic focuses inspired by the annual topic, students work in parallel on their individual and collective projects. These projects are supported and consolidated in one of three focuses to choose from. The corresponding focus weeks take place at

the end of the modules and serve to reflect what has been learned, present and discuss it in the plenary session. They establish the continuity of learning and provide the constant study structure. They facilitate concentrated long-term work and exchange of knowledge among the students. At HyperWerk, all students are learning with each other and from each other.

In personal talks with their mentors, students decide how many and which workshops they attend in the respective module. They document their work in the modules. These module documentations are the basis for the mentoring talks. The vision of a learning process promoting the interests and needs of the individual can be put into practice through this personal mentoring program. By agreement with their mentors, students are encouraged to engage in study pieces facilitating self-organized acquisition of specific knowledge and skills. The regular dialogue between mentor and mentee defines the most important interface between students and teachers and creates a culture of exchange, trust, and commitment. Thus, students are offered closely accompanied reflection as well as constructive-critical examination of their fields of interest, curricula, and of their individual learning progress.

THE MODULES AND FOCUSES AT HYPERWERK



INFRASTRUCTURE

At HyperWerk students find advice as well as the infrastructure necessary to realize their ideas and projects. For first mock-ups and prototypes to be built and tested the institute has a workshop, a large storage, a

specialized library, and a communal studio where 24/7 work is possible. Nothing stands in anybody's way to get into spontaneous experimentation and free flow.

In our workshop, various light yet fixed machines and many handheld devices for wood- and for metalwork, 3D printers and PCB printers, a compact CNC mill, potent computers, measuring instruments, robots, and a lot of accessories are waiting to be discovered. Students wanting to immerse into the world of film and sound can use an audio studio and video editing stations. Leftovers from and traces of diverse materials indicate the communal studying and tinkering processes at HyperWerk.

The HyperWerk storage with cameras for photography and video, projectors, computers, monitors, lighting and sound equipment, cables, jacks, adaptors, and many very special things provides access to rare and also to state-of-the-art technology. For larger projects, further facilities can be used on the campus of the Academy of Art and Design. These include a big metal workshop, wood workshop, plastic and paint shop, sculptor shop, book-binding, and screen printing. Rapid prototyping is possible with laser cutters, 3D printers, and milling machines. Apart from all this, there are professional audio and video studios and a well-stocked media center.

STUDENTS

HyperWerkers need to be able to endure freedom – the freedom to find your own way, and the freedom to collaborate in a community. As a HyperWerker you are committed, and you take great personal responsibility. Your self-organization and your initiative are an active part of your study. You are open to share your ups and downs with others and report on your experiences. You are not afraid of free spaces open to creation, and you want to concern yourself intensively with design, society, technology, crafts, prototyping, theory, and research.

As a HyperWerker you search for precise and subtle answers to your questions through observation, documentation, and research. You learn to design exemplary solutions, speculative models, radical proposals, and alternative possibilities in a dynamically changing world. You acquire organization strategies and learn documentation, presentation, as well as visualization techniques – from text and illustration to photography and film. In this way you build competences to act which are directly linked to your interests and talents.

After your HyperWerk study you know your intrinsic motivation, are capable of thorough analysis, you can contextualize and reflect critically, and you are a team player.

The three-year Bachelor course of study enables you to take up professional positions in design efforts regarding social transformation processes. With your degree you take initiatives, start up an association or a company, work in an agency, a cultural or educational institution, in counseling – or you continue to pursue an academic career in the field of design.

APPLICATION

What do you need to submit? If you have an approved equivalent to the Swiss Matura certificate and one year of work experience, or if you have acquired one of the Swiss examinations entitling you to enter a university of applied sciences you may fill out the application form and apply straightaway. If you do not have any of the above-mentioned degrees, your aptitude for study can be assessed in a personal talk with us.

If you have further questions about HyperWerk you are welcome to contact us: info.hyperwerk.hgk@fhnw.ch

How can you apply?

Step 1: Fill out the FHNW HGK application form until 15 February 2020. Registration is only possible online: www.fhnw.ch/en/degree-programmes/art-and-design/bachelor-of-arts/admission_and_application_bachelor

Step 2: After we received the confirmation of your application from the HGK we ask you to accomplish a small task, and you send it back to us. We do not require a portfolio – we require your motivation.

Step 3: On 24, 25 and 26 April 2020 we hold our entry assessment. If we are convinced of your motivation, we will invite you to join us over this weekend to find out whether we are suited to you and vice versa.



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