Institute of Urban and Landscape Studies (ISUP)

Postdoctoral Position, SNF funded project: Codes and conventions for future Zurich: A Propositional Planning Approach to Qualitative Densification

Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) is a young and lively university, a hub of opportunity that is open to the world, where students are offered a quality interdisciplinary education in which they can be fully engaged, and where our researchers can count on having the space to freely pursue their initiatives. Established in 1996, USI is in constant evolution, always taking on new challenges while remaining true to its three guiding principles: quality, openness and responsibility.

The Institute of Urban and Landscape Studies (ISUP) was established in 2018 with the objective of pursuing excellence in research on urban and landscape themes at the Academy of Architecture, Mendrisio, which is a faculty of the Università della Svizzera italiana, Switzerland (USI). The institute shares with the Academy of Architecture a humanistic and wide-ranging approach to research on urban and landscapes issues.

The Institute for the History and Theory of Architecture (gta) was founded in 1967 as part of the Department of Architecture (D-ARCH). Find out more about the Institute under www.gta.arch.ethz.ch. For general information on working and studying at ETH, please refer to: www.ethz.ch/en/the-eth-zurich/working-teaching-and-research/welcome-center.

At the Academy of Architecture in Mendrisio, a faculty of the Università della Svizzera italiana, the Institute of Urban and Landscape Studies, Prof. Jonathan Sergison (AAM) and the Chair for the History and Theory of Urban Design, ETH Zürich, Prof. Tom Avermaete (ETH Zürich) with Dr. Irina Davidovici (ETH Zurich), are searching for a:

Postdoc candidate at 80% from 1st October 2022 (three years)

Project Background
The Institute of Urban and Landscape Studies (ISUP) at the Academy of Architecture Mendrisio (AAM) offers a three-year postdoctoral position in the framework of the collaborative research project “Codes and conventions for future Zurich: A Propositional Planning Approach to Qualitative Densification”, funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation Council (SNSF). This research is a collaboration between Prof. Jonathan Sergison at ISUP, AAM and Prof. Tom Avermaete at the Chair for the History and Theory of Urban Design, ETH Zurich. The project combines historical (ETH) and design-led (AAM) research to explore urban strategies for housing the anticipated 25% population increase that Zurich faces in the next 20 years. A ‘retroactive analysis’ of the historical evolution of building codes, as well as of the specific urban types and morphologies they have generated, offers the basis for ‘propositional planning’ investigations. The project will result in a series of proposed designs and adjustments to current codes that could allow for the required processes of densification while maintaining urban quality.
The position
The postdoctoral position will be conducted at ISUP (Academy of Architecture Mendrisio). In the framework of the project, the postdoc will be in charge of public exhibitions and consultations in Zurich (Project C, Public Dialogues, see annex), as well as the overall synthesis and coordination of all research packages (Project D, Collective Synthesis, see annex). The post doc will coordinate the final exhibition and publications. Additionally they will maintain connections with the consultants from the Advisory Board and be responsible for the organization of the yearly progress workshops with the members of the Board. As curator of the public exhibitions and consultations, the postdoc will work particularly closely with Prof. Sergison and Prof. Avermaete and support the work of the two doctoral students. Expertise in public consultations will be a prerequisite for their appointment.

The candidate’s profile
We are looking for a postdoctoral candidate with background in architecture, the history and theory of architecture, or architect / landscape architect, with significant research experience. Prospective candidates should hold a diploma or a Master’s degree acquired at university level in architecture or related fields and a doctorate (PhD) in an area of research that has a tangible relationship to the issues addressed in this project. Outstanding design, research and writing skills are required, as well as drawing skills (ArchiCad, Illustrator). Professional command of German (spoken, read) and English (written and spoken) is mandatory.

Application file (to be sent in English):
- Application letter
- Curriculum vitae
- 2 pages (maximum) reaction/comment on postdoctoral project
- Writing sample (English)
- Drawing sample
- Contact details for two academic references (contacts only, please; no letters will be accepted)
- Please note that we exclusively accept applications submitted at the following email: candidatureISUP.FNS.me@usi.ch.

Deadline: February 28th, 2022, 23:59 CET

As an institution that values diversity, USI particularly encourages applications from women and from all individuals from underrepresented groups.

For further information please visit our project website (https://search.usi.ch/projects/2337/codes-and-conventions-for-future-zurich-a-propositional-planning-approach-to-qualitative-densification) or contact Jonathan Sergison (jonathan.sergison@usi.ch)

Lugano, February 8th, 2022