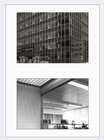
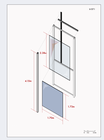
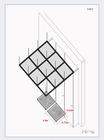
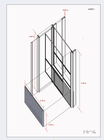
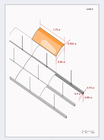


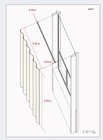


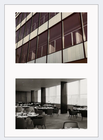


TIMELINE OF BUILDING COMPONENTS STORED AND EXPLOITED IN BAU 610



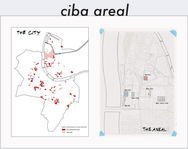




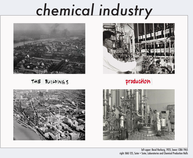


the neighbourhood

ciba areal

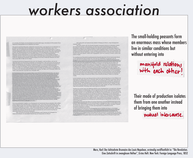


chemical industry



gentrification

workers association



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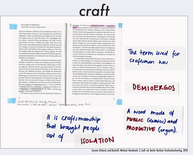
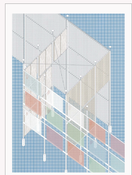
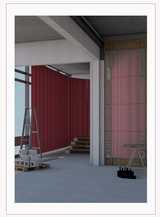


labour force

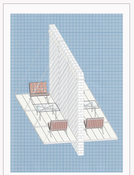


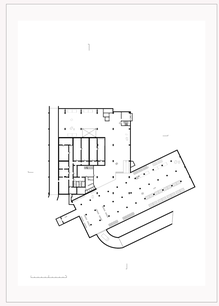


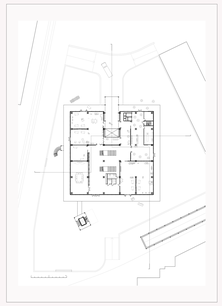
RE-USE CIBA

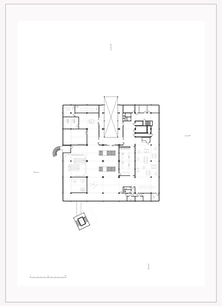
rethink the term

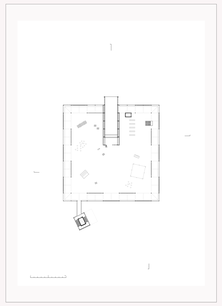
RE-USE AND THE QUESTION OF IDENTITY

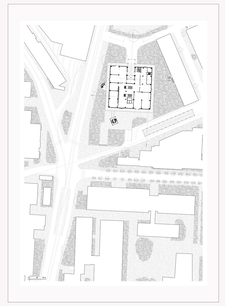


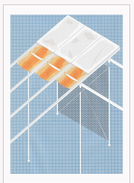


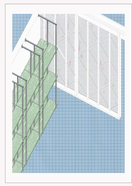


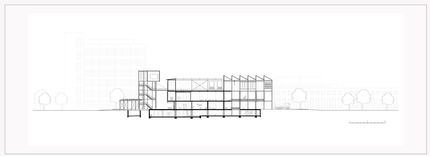


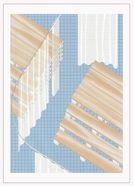












RE-USE AND IDENTITY

The task of re-using Ciba triggered two main questions in me: Firstly, what meaning the term re-use could signify and comport and secondly, what constitutes the identity of a place.

The buildings selected in the scope of the diploma task are declared as a source of identity by the city of Basel. But are these buildings, which were located behind locked walls for decades, really a source of identity? Or is it not the fence, the wall of all the facades that were visible to the residents, rather than the structures which support these surfaces? The conversion of buildings makes sense because the valuable structures are preserved.
But is this enough? Who decides which buildings are worth preserving? Who defines the value of buildings?

PROPOSITION OF A PROCESS

The concept of circular economy possesses a high potential regarding the problems and questions of the CIBA-areal. It is about thinking the economy in circular processes, i.e. charging, leasing, reusing, repairing, reconditioning, and finally recycling products and materials.
The amount of waste should be reduced to a minimum and the life cycles of products extended.
Since the construction sector accounts in Switzerland per day and construction waste's share of four-fifths of the total Swiss waste proves how vital circular thinking is in future architecture. By caring about existing environments, built structures, their historical context and materials at hand we open up a stimulating potential for architecture and city residents. Instead of erasing a city's memory by tabula rasa demolitions we should intend more permanence.

THE COMPONENT CATALOGUE

As a first step a component catalogue of the buildings needs to be established. The component catalogue is a list of construction components of the built environment. It is similar to a passport for each documented building. Each component can be divided into its single elements and the materials used for these elements.

By designing the component catalogue, we can give the materials used in the Ciba Buildings an identity and therefore seeing them as a resource. However, in addition to recycling the material value, the value of the work needed to produce the component must also be considered. A building component can be looked at as an accumulation of materials, working processes, assembling operations and production design steps.

The Public Productive Circular Hub

Master Project of Flurina Leuchter

Professor A.Caruso
ETH Zurich - FS 2020

IT IS JUST ABOUT RE-USING, IT IS ABOUT KEEPING WHAT IT TAKES.
Thomas Hirschhorn

BAU 610

The goal of the intervention is to turn the Bau610, the former canteen of CIBA, with minimal interventions in an accessible productive space. The main task of the building is the circulation, i.e. the access for city residents and the movement of the building components.

The building components of dismantled structures are delivered to the intermediate storage of Bau610 and from the process the end and the basement are connected by a crane in the north and a stair tower with a goods lift facing south.
The inventory, deconstruction and the transfer of components depends mainly on the size of the dismantled structures and their respective amount of removable furniture, building components and material.

THE NEW STRUCTURE AS A DISPLAY

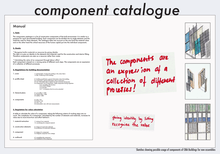
The process of dismantling and conversion leads to the necessary program needed for its realisation. The basement is used as the storage space for heavy components and materials. The ground floor hosts a metal and wood workshop, meet in a cafeteria. The first floor is partially in use for the canteen and preserves space for innovative start-ups as well. The roof is used for weatherproof material storage and the construction machinery needed for the work. The roof is also used as a recreational area with cross beams. They transfer the forces into the columns, which are reinforced by additive practice.

The new structures are „dressed" by the non-changing components stored in the building and display the material accumulation and continuous process.

CONCLUSION

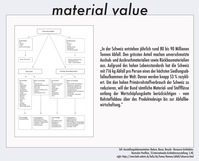
From a historical perspective it is known that the design strategy of reusing building elements was a common practice throughout the Middle Ages and earlier. The term gesta summarises the intention to transfer objects from their original context into a new one. The dislocation of components leads to a new "sort-in-each-other", "behind-each-other" or juxtapositions of all sorts.
The Public Hub isn't a finished designed building but a proposal for a way of thinking about architecture and the built environment. Instead of production and consumption-oriented architecture we should advocate circular processes in the architecture and the building industry.
"In conclude with a quote of Thomas Hirschhorn, an contemporary artist that greatly inspired this design process : "It is not about re-using it, it is about working with what is there".

component catalogue

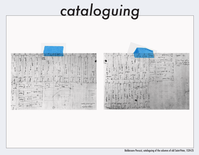


shift of value

material value



cataloguing



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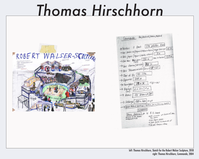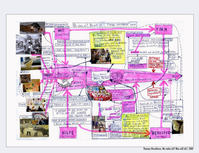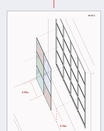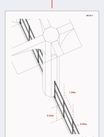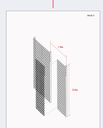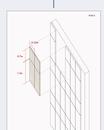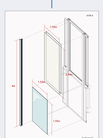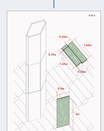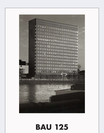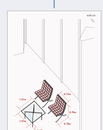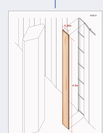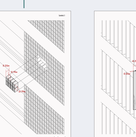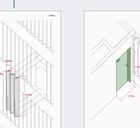
Thomas Hirschhorn