About HOUSE 2

HOUSE 2: COUNTER CITY is a 240-square-metre public installation beside the Toni-Areal in Zurich, designed and built in wood by first year architecture students from the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL).

In view of growing cities around the globe and the respective opportunities and questions regarding the quality of life in our urban societies, HOUSE 2 offers an approach to spatial appropriation by many in a collaborative and dialogical process.

Behind the project stands ALICE, a laboratory in architectural design at EPFL focusing on space. HOUSE 2 was designed by 200 students studying in the ALICE Y1 first year architecture atelier. The installation was entirely prefabricated by the students at the EPFL and transported across Switzerland to its present location beside the Toni Areal. Here, it was unloaded and re-assembled to become a forum for activity and civic engagement.

ALICE, in close collaboration with the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK), have jointly programmed a series of events for summer 2017 to take place in the context of HOUSE 2, between May 31st and June 10th. These include guided tours, theatre and music performances, a sound installation, symposia, student critiques and exhibitions and an open-air cinema. Through these installations and gatherings, the questions of density and habitation will be addressed in a spatial construct offering a place for exchange, debate and discussion.

This venture has been made possible through the funding and support of the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Zurich University of the Arts, and a group of generous industry sponsors.

About ALICE

ALICE (Atelier de la conception de l'espace) is a laboratory in architectural design at EPFL-ENAC. Its members lead a series of research and research-by-design projects that establish links between education, social space, design thinking, architectural tools and public space. The lab engages in developing and building full-scale, installation-size artefacts, as well as inventing new types of ephemeral structures for social and cultural events. Under the direction of Dieter Dietz and Daniel Zamarbide, the ALICE team consists of a group of young architects and researchers, scientists and doctoral candidates from Europe and abroad.

More information about HOUSE 2 - COUNTER CITY can be found at alice.epfl.ch aliciablogs.epfl.ch countercity.ch