

Tallinn Architecture Biennale site program 2026



Luc Delanaye, 132nd Ordinary Meeting of the Conference, OPEC headquarters, Vienna, Austria, 15 September, 2004. © Luc Delanaye

**international student workshop
04 - 08 September 2026**

HOW MUCH EXCHANGE

How much Ex.Change?

Side program of TAB 2026

The Estonian capital is shaped by exchange. Trade routes, material cultures, political systems, and architectural knowledge have continuously transformed its spatial identity. Under the theme of „How Much?“ the Tallinn Architecture Biennale 2026 (TAB 2026) turns attention to the relationship between constraint, cost, and spatial production that has remained suppressed in much of architectural discourse, to unlock new ways of understanding the meaning of value, affordability, and responsibility in architecture.

How Much Ex.Change?

As part of the side programme, the workshop addresses the intangible processes of communication and negotiation that underpin the built environment through the lens of economic value. Architecture is approached not simply as the production of buildings, but as a complex network of exchanges between architects, clients, institutions, regulatory frameworks, and the construction industry. These interactions shape what is gained, lost, transformed, or made possible long before a project reaches the construction site.

From discussion to construction

Structured as a five-day workshop, participants will engage with guests representing different perspectives of architectural production to explore the everyday realities in Estonia and across Europe. Through lectures and discussions, the workshop examines the gap between architectural ambitions and the economic and regulatory constraints that shape professional practice.

Collaboratively, participants will develop design proposals that translate abstract questions of intangible work into spatial strategies. The project culminates in an outdoor scaffolding installation. Conceived as a billboard, a platform for dialogue, and a walkable sequence of questions and responses, the installation explores the conversations, negotiations, and exchanges that shape architecture and seeks to make these visible to a wider public.



Practical Information

Workshop Overview

„How much Ex.Change?“ will take place from 4–8 September 2026 in Tallinn, Estonia. The opening week of the Tallinn Architecture Biennale begins on 9 September and continues until 13 September 2026. Participants are warmly encouraged to stay beyond the workshop to take part in the wider Biennale programme.

Application

The workshop is aimed at students of architecture and related disciplines with an interest in the built environment. Applications are welcome from students at all stages of study.

If you are interested in participating, please send an email including a short motivation letter until 1st August 2026 to:

info@collectiv.exchange

Selected participants will be notified shortly after the application deadline.

Travel and Accommodation

Travel arrangements and, where necessary, visa applications are the responsibility of the participants. Environmentally responsible modes of travel are encouraged.

Accommodation for participants travelling to Tallinn will be provided in a hostel in the city centre. We encourage all participants to stay together, as the shared accommodation creates opportunities for informal exchange, discussion, and social interaction beyond the workshop programme.

Participation

The workshop fee for international applicants is 170 EUR. Those based in Estonia who arrange their own accommodation may join the workshop at a reduced fee of 45 EUR. All participants will receive a workshop booklet containing background material, schedules, and selected readings accompanying the lectures and discussions.

For more information about the workshop and the TAB 2026, please visit:

www.collectiv.exchange

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From exchange to intervention

Day 1

The first day is dedicated to understanding the conditions of architectural production. Through a series of talks and discussions, participants are introduced to the diverse actors. Architectural practitioners provide insight into contemporary office structures, values, ideologies and constraints that form their work, as well as communication processes behind it. Specialist planners discuss interdisciplinary collaboration, project-based work, and the coordination of multiple parallel commissions, while representatives from the city administration offer insights into institutional mechanisms through which projects are initiated, financed, and realized. Building on these discussions, participants identify common concerns and establish a shared language through which questions of labour, value, and architectural agency can be addressed.

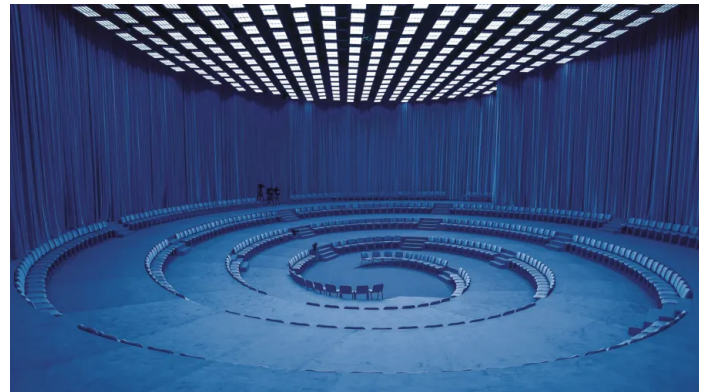
Day 2

The second day shifts the focus from discourse to spatial experimentation. Students will receive theoretical input on how ideas, concepts, and narratives can be translated into spatial form through an installation design.

Building on these theoretical inputs, participants collectively develop a temporary installation. Conceived as a billboard, dialogue platform, or spatial intervention, the installation examines the value, transparency, and accessibility of conversations within architectural production. How can these often invisible processes be communicated through a single word, symbol, image, or spatial gesture?



Wang Qingsong, Work, Work, Work, 2012 © Wang Qingsong



The runway for Balenciaga's Spring/Summer 2020 show at Paris Fashion Week was modeled on a plenary hall. The blue color scheme was reminiscent of the flag of the European Union. © La Mode en Images



Film Still of „The Belly of an Architect“, 1987

From intervention to installation

Day 3

On the third day, participants become familiar with the site and its material conditions. The installation will be developed on the plot of the Estonian Academy of Arts at Kotzebue 2, a space that is activated by students and public events throughout the year. An existing scaffolding structure serves as the framework for the project, providing a practical starting point and a compelling reference to construction processes and the often invisible systems that support architectural production. Participants explore initial design ideas and the site's possibilities while experimenting with materials and tools that can be applied onto the structure.

Day 4 and 5

On days four and five, participants develop and construct the installation. Collective authorship, negotiation, and decision-making become central as individual proposals are discussed, combined, and translated into a shared spatial intervention.

The workshop concludes with a presentation of the installation, followed by an informal discussion and gathering. The completed installation will be presented as part of the opening programme of the Tallinn Architecture Biennale from 9–13 September 2026, inviting visitors to engage with the questions and ideas developed throughout the workshop.



Orthophoto of the plot Kotzebue 2, EKA, Tallinn



Marie Schumann, Unfolding Space
© Photo by Samuele Cherubini



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Tutors

Led by collectiv.exchange (Thomas Cristea, Julia Janiel, Amos Mauri, and Hannah Meisel), the workshop approaches the Tallinn Architecture Biennale 2026 from an international perspective. Coming from different European countries and having relocated to Switzerland for work, we found ourselves increasingly engaged in discussions about the often-hidden forms of communication that shape our profession. These exchanges ultimately led us to establish collectiv.exchange in 2026.

Thomas Cristea, * Paris (FR)

Graduated with his master's degree in 2021 from EPF Lausanne (CH) after his bachelor's studies at the AAM, Mendrisio (CH). Since 2017 he has collaborated with various offices in Zurich and Lausanne, whilst running an independent practice since 2024.

Julia Janiel, * Berlin (DE)

Graduated with her master's degree in 2023 from TU Berlin (DE) following her bachelor's studies at the Bauhaus University, Weimar (DE) and an exchange year at the EPFL, Lausanne (CH). Since 2018, she has collaborated in several architecture offices in Weimar (DE), Berlin (DE) and Zürich (CH).

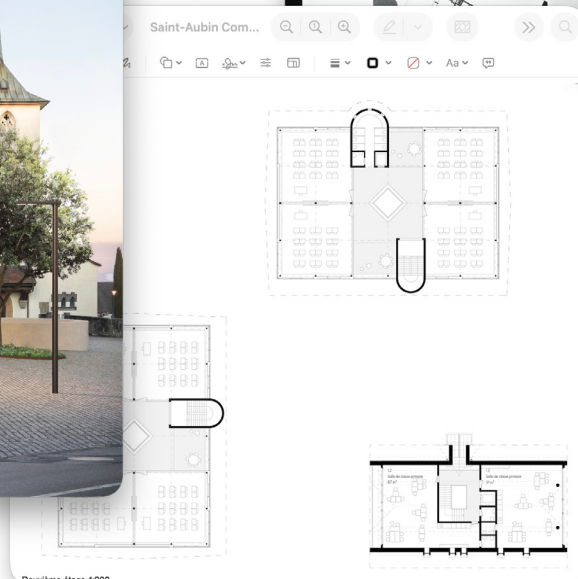
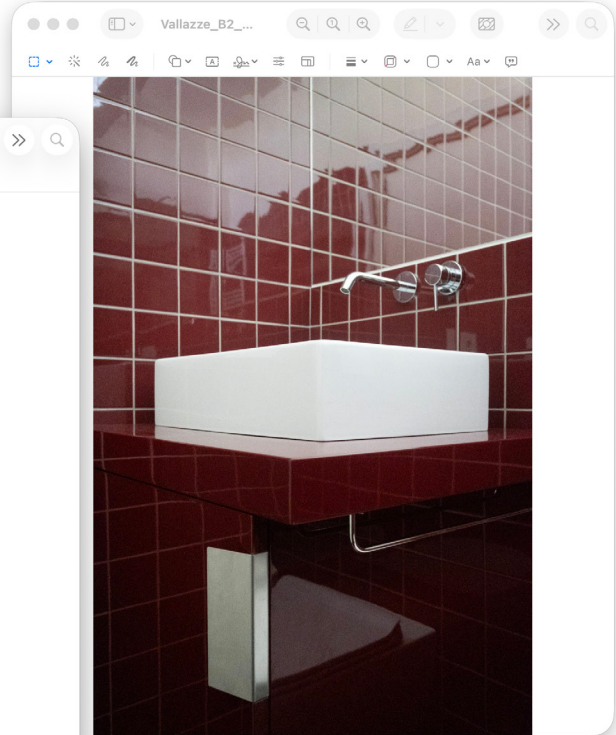
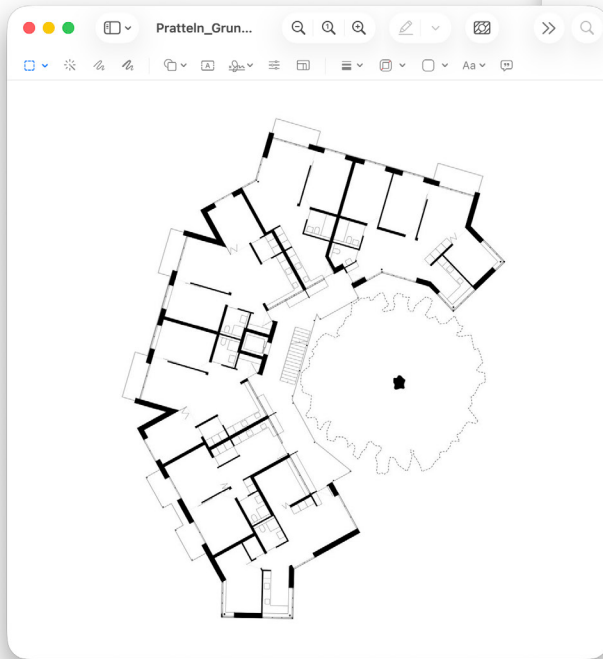
Amos Mauri, * Lecco (IT)

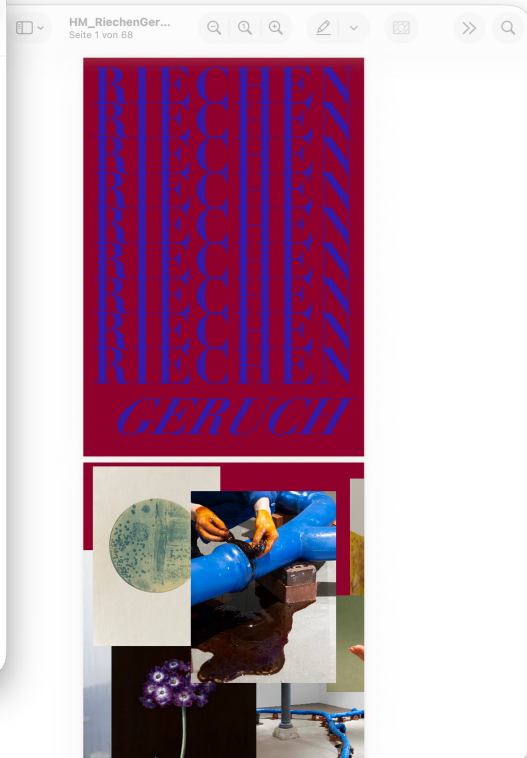
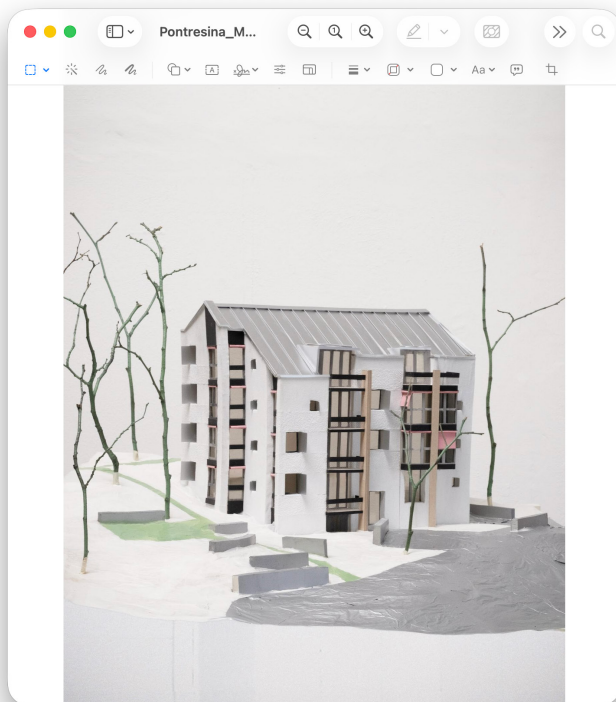
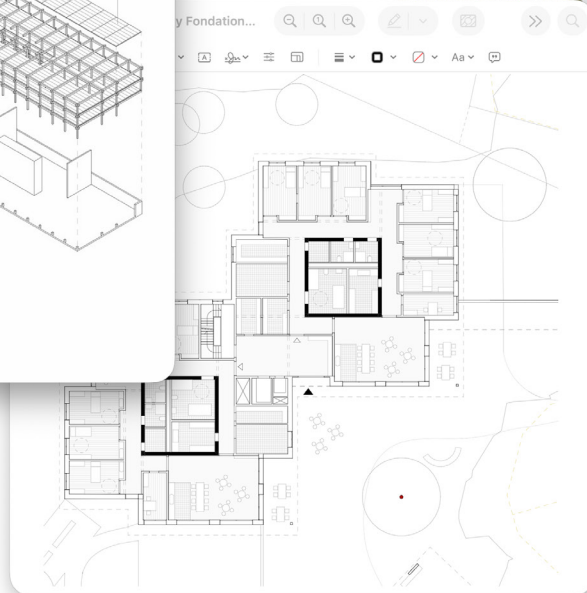
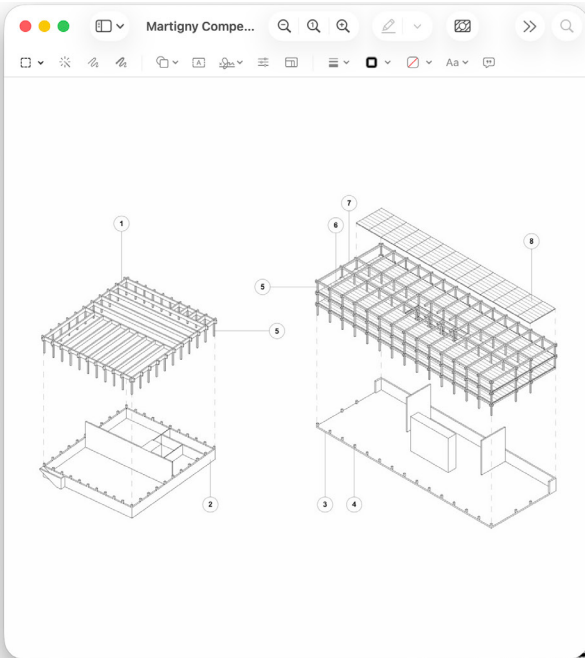
Graduated with his master's degree in 2020 from AAM, Mendrisio (CH). Since 2015, he has collaborated in several architecture practices in Santiago (CHL) and Zürich (CH). In 2024 he founded together with Hannah Meisel the architectural practice Meisel Mauri Arch. Currently he is teaching at the FHNW, Basel (CH).

Hannah Meisel, * Berlin (DE)

Graduated with her master's degree in 2024 from ETH Zürich (CH) after her bachelor's studies at the Bauhaus University, Weimar (DE). Since 2018, she has collaborated in several architecture offices in Berlin (DE) and Zürich (CH). In 2024 she founded together with Amos Mauri the architectural practice Meisel Mauri Arch.

Selected Works





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