

**Habitat
H**

**Research
R**

**Center
C**

**18:00 - 19:30
03.11.2025, 24.11.2025,
09.12.2025, 13.01.2026
EPFL Archizoom
20.01.2026
ZHAW Winterthur
+ Online**

**NRP 81 Session series
Baukultur: A European Genealogy**

**Sarah Wigglesworth
Jean-Marc Besse, Michael Jakob
Jean-Louis Violeau, Paolo Scrivano
Angelika Schnell, Irina Davidovici
Paul Landauer**



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The concept of *Baukultur* has firmly taken its place in the European debate on architecture, cities and landscapes (Davos Declaration, 2018). It has become a well-established research topic in Switzerland (National Research Programme “Baukultur” NRP 81, 2025–2030), despite the fact that its roots have yet to be thoroughly debated. Due to its topicality, the term is widely accepted and taken for granted, without questioning the significance of the preceding experiences it encompasses.

From November 2025 to January 2026, the Steering Committee of the National Research Programme “Baukultur” (NRP 81) including Paola Viganò (President and Professor at EPFL), Pierre Caye (members of the Committee and research director at the CNRS) and Andri Gerber (members of the Committee and Professor at ZHAW) organises a series of sessions, to outline the European genealogy of a culture of the built environment. This cycle of public events, to be attended in person or online, is jointly set in collaboration with the Habitat Research Center (HRC) of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne (EPFL) and the Zurich University of Applied Sciences in Winterthur (ZHAW).

Rather than searching for the origins of Baukultur, these sessions invite guest speakers, NRP 81 project teams, researchers, and students to explore the numerous ramifications that contribute to understanding its construction and emergence. From a Foucauldian perspective, the sequence of these complementary sessions aims to retrace the successive or parallel paths that led to the recognition of Baukultur's shared principles and values.

	SESSION 1 (EPFL)
03.11.2025	The European roots of Baukultur: An Introduction Sarah Wigglesworth, London
	SESSION 2 (EPFL)
24.11.2025	Cultural landscapes, landscape culture and the roots of Baukultur Jean-Marc Besse, Paris Michael Jakob, Geneva
	SESSION 3 (EPFL)
09.12.2025	Baukultur and the critique of Modernity #1 Jean-Louis Violeau, Nantes Paolo Scrivano, Milan
	SESSION 4 (EPFL)
13.01.2026	Baukultur and the critique of Modernity #2 Angelika Schnell, Vienne Irina Davidovici, Zurich
	SESSION 5 (ZHAW)
20.01.2026	Umbaukultur: the roots Paul Landauer, Paris