

# «Less bad» is not good enough



Independent Study  
Summer Semester 2026

Current sustainability models do not take planetary boundaries into account and often imply that we have to give something up. In contrast, new models emphasise that we should do more of what is better. A mental shift is urgently needed to enable better decisions. Given the changes needed in our societies, we need both exemplary individual projects and more comprehensive development approaches that integrate issues such as infrastructure, mobility, resources, energy, health, nutrition, ecological balance and climate positivity to achieve greater leverage. Tracking productive, inclusive and regenerative approaches: Best practice projects are essential for communicating such strategies convincingly to nonexperts, communities and decision-makers. During this Independent Study, students will identify, collect, analyse and describe relevant European and global projects and processes at various urban and rural scales. Depending on the desired workload, the scope of the research will be determined individually with the tutor before the start of the course. This Independent Study is part of the 'Building Capacity' research focus of the Urban Design and Spatial Development Unit.

Tutor: Fabian Hörmann, Individual Elective, 2/3/4 ECTS, 4/6/8 LE (+ 57 / 85.5 / 114 h private study time), no minimal enrolment, individual appointments will be set with the tutor, start, final submission and presentation can be individually defined with the tutor. Recommended reading will be made available at the beginning of the course.  
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