“Superstudio” is the new “didactic tool” for all II year Master students in Architecture (SAR). The scope of Superstudio is to plunge the last year master students into an intense confrontation among themes, scales, theoretical and design positions. Very important synergies are envisaged between the research and the didactic moment which will require the students participation in the elaboration of critical materials and understanding through design.

A research theme
The Horizontal Metropolis: a radical project
The form of the contemporary city has changed and it finds also in Switzerland its specific configuration - a Großstadt in formation - writes André Corboz in Vers la ville territoire in 1990. Today this city-territory, a “Horizontal Metropolis”, works as a spatial capital and as an agent of transformation, as a support and a place of potentiality. It is a layered territorial construction where agriculture and non-agriculture economic activities create an original mix. The HM is a natural capital as well as a spatial capital. This specific spatial condition has been the test case for the elaboration of original urban theories and is facing today new challenges, paradoxes and crises. It can also be, today, the support of an innovative urban and territorial project.

Superstudio will investigate the Horizontal Metropolis, its space, its tradition, formation and authors; its relevance today as an energetic, ecological and social design issue.

Teaching Methods: 1 part
During the developing of the research and design proposal, the student's work will cross several frames, meant to provide the necessary tools to effectively approach the contemporary urban condition as a design and research issue. Three main frames are proposed:

1 Measures (Mapping and Comparisons)
In this frame students will be asked to produce descriptive, comparative and critic maps at different scales. The aim of this mapping process is a productive and continuous comparison between the territory of the Swiss Großstadt and different samples of Horizontal Metropolis at the global scale. Each set of drawings will be aimed at triggering multiple design questions able to inform each student's specific research proposal.

2 Traditions
The interpretation and the project for a Horizontal Metropolis have come to the fore at different times throughout the history of city and territorial design. The images of Broadacre City are not the only reference. Starting from a close reading of a selected bibliography, a set of exercises and discussions will be proposed to the students, building new relationships between contemporary and past literary models. A series of seminars, conferences and interviews organized with the students help and involving a number of international scholars and designers will offer the opportunity of a direct confrontation on the themes of the Superstudio.

3 Contemporary Projects
Nowadays the Horizontal Metropolis is part of the contemporary urban research and design practice. In this frame students will be involved in identifying and collecting contemporary projects that have proven to effectively deal with the spaces and challenges of the Horizontal Metropolis. The collection will also involve a part of analysis, redrawing and overlay of the different proposals.

**Teaching Methods: II part**

**The final workshop**

Design as a research tool: The HM will be also investigated through the elaboration of concepts, visions, scenarios for the exemplary case of the Swiss territory. For the whole duration of the course, and crosswise the different frames, the students will use the design tools. The whole work will be organized in weekly meetings and in one final Workshop of two intense weeks at the conclusion of the semester. An exhibition of the materials produced will conclude the semester.

**Valorization of the outputs**

In connection with the wider research titled the HORIZONTAL METROPOLIS: a radical project developed by the Lab-U, the best result of the Superstudio (mapping, text and design anthology, design production) will be included in a publication series.