



Pezo von Ellrichshausen, 43007201034, pencil on paper, 9x12in, 2020

INSIDE OUT

FALL 2020, OPTION STUDIO, TU/TH, 8:00–1:00 EST
PEZO VON ELLRICHSHAUSEN & ANDREA SIMITCH

Before the massive plague would force us into individual exile, our perception of seclusion, isolation and solitude was that of a pleasant destination. Beyond religious motivations or military fears, the idea of a cloister (from Latin *claustrum*, “enclosure”) is that of a barrier, a wall, that not only demarcates an interior but that also establishes a definite separation from the overexposed ordinary world. Indeed, that protected inner domain, from a patio to a court, due to its very secret condition, becomes a mysterious and exotic, certainly fantastic and poetic, hidden place. One could read a courtyard house as a form of inflexion of nature, as a fold or a corner within a unique landscape, that intensifies the experience of it by a sequence of obstructions, frames, shades and textures. *Il faut cultiver notre jardin* (we must cultivate our garden) is the inevitable conclusion by Candide (Voltaire, 1759); without nurturing, our mind would be concerned with mere prosaic distractions. The garden as such, is both literal and metaphoric. Thus, the project’s “naïve intention” lies in its shared introspection: it is a double house (developed in paired authorship) for a cultivated horticulturist with temporary “productive guests”, at the rather abstract frontier of a US National Park. Architecture, as the mediation device it is, should be understood in its specificity; conditioned, tempered and eroded by natural forces. The horizontal extension of this generous dwelling will be depicted through a single large format oblique drawing and a small format book, with hand made drawings, models and paintings. Analog and digital means, almost without moral distinction, will overlap with our live and on-line current territories.

Mauricio Pezo and Sofia von Ellrichshausen, Associate Professors of the Practice and founding partners of Pezo von Ellrichshausen, will be in their farm at the Andes mountains, with regular meetings on-line every Tuesday and Thursday. Professor Andrea Simitch will be based in Ithaca and is committed to an in-person studio collaboration.