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[Practice: Taking the initiative to shape Swiss planning policy](#)
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A project by Architects Group Krokodil aims to shape Swiss planning policy.



Plan of Glatt in 2060

Three years ago a group of architects working for several Swiss practices met at a Zürich restaurant, Krokodil, to talk about the sorts of architectural issues their day jobs didn't cover. How, they asked, could they use their skills to tackle an issue of social or environmental importance, something that might only be addressed at a regional or national level? They decided to look at the problem of sprawl – a product of the Swiss fondness for the suburban single-family house – and Architects Group Krokodil was born.

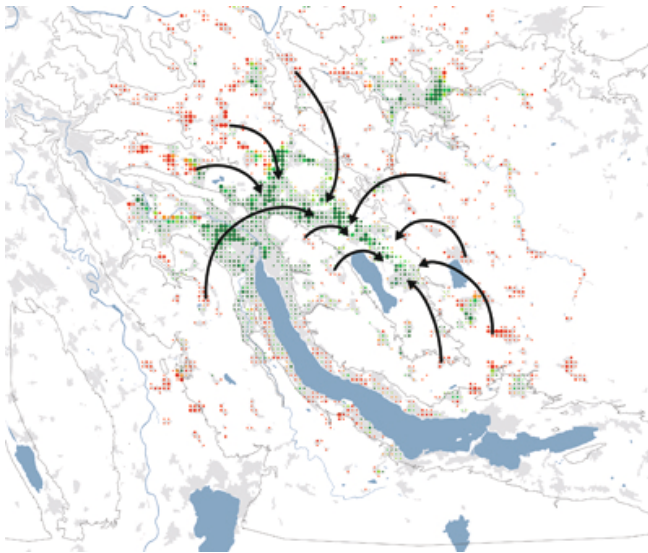
The group undertook detailed research into the interplay of land use, economics and demography, sharing the results at regular meetings. Observing that the whole Swiss population could live in the canton of Zürich at the density of Greater London, it proposed an alternative to sprawl: Glatt, an urban extension to Zürich incorporating several existing small communities in a coherent master plan.



Glatt today – ‘It looks like a city, but will it become a good city?’

Having defined the problem and formulated a solution, the next step was to feed that thinking into policy discussions. But how to attract the attention of those with influence? One tactic was a self-financed short film, fronted by a comedian touring the proposed development area as though the new city were already a reality. Another was to use academic connections to bring additional depth and perspective to the proposal. To that end, Glattal is to be the subject of ETH Zürich’s 2012 Summer Academy, open to both students and professionals (www.summeracademy2012.ch). In studios led by a distinguished international cast of architects, participants will develop proposals for four areas within Glatt.

As well as commercial, professional and academic partners, the summer school is supported by the Swiss Federal Office for Spatial Development. It may be that Glatt provides a model not only for dense urban development, but for how architects with initiative and imagination can contribute to discussions from which they are often excluded.



Transfer and concentration concept for the City of Glatt, based on analysis of the size and location of existing building zones, some of which are forecast to exceed demand by 2030, while others will fail to meet it.

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