DERURALIZATION

This seminar explores an emergent condition of contemporary architecture & urbanization – that of the erasure of the traditional distinction between the urban and the rural. In the frenetic urbanization of the world today, the rural is no longer erased and absorbed into the urban, but is displaced and re-integrated into the urban as a new rural.

Deruralization describes a key condition of production of these new urban landscapes, i.e. the constitutive role of the rural in the production of the urban. This is not a problem, but an opportunity. This seminar argues that by understanding urbanization today not as the colonizing process of urban spread, but as the incomplete process of rural transformation, we can potentially re-imagine ‘urban’ living in new and unexpected ways.

This is a theory, reading seminar. We will explore deruralization as a concept to rethink related terms such as:
- the minimal dwelling, the street edge, handcraft and tectonics
- the informal sector, the kinetic city, migration and commuting
- slums, peri-urban development, urban villages, gated communities
- urban agriculture and food security
- inclusivity