

Announcement of study project

Urban design studio “Spinnerei, Ettlingen”

in collaboration with the Institute of City and Landscape Planning

Supervisors: Prof. Mário Franca and Harro Jongen (harro.jongen@kit.edu)



The Spinnerei area in Ettlingen represents a historically significant yet evolving urban space that is now at the center of a major urban transformation initiative. As a former industrial hub, the site has played a key role in the economic development of Ettlingen and the broader Baden-Württemberg region. The area is situated at the interface of the natural reserve area of the Upper Alb Valley and the urban core of Ettlingen. The steep valley slopes create a challenge for the water management of Ettlingen, which has been solved by canalizing the Alb.

Today, as industrial activity in the area declines, there is an opportunity to reimagine the Spinnerei district as a water-sensitive, productive neighborhood, integrating sustainable urban design principles to create a new model for living and working. Water has to be central in this transformation. This is where you will assist the students from the Faculty of Architecture. You will simulate the flow through the Alb and the canals leading to the old mill sites for the current situation. More interesting are the simulations for the design scenarios, which you can help to develop given the hydrological circumstances.

The guiding question for the studio is:

How can we reimagine the Spinnerei area as a productive and vibrant urban neighborhood—one that opens a new era for work and living in Ettlingen—while simultaneously making it more water-sensitive, harnessing its unique hydrological and landscape characteristics for a sustainable future?