DOMESTICITY is a concept that goes hand in hand with a clear notion of home: a private, affective and unwaged domain for the intimate development of ‘family life’. However, this notion is only a fiction. If we take a closer look at the history of domestic space, we will soon reveal a heterogeneous collection of geometric, material and political statements nested in highly specific socioeconomic circumstances.

This year, when Sweden’s housing market is in turmoil and the consequences of a global pandemic have made the boundaries between living and working collapse, Studio 11 will investigate, challenge and reimagine domestic space in an attempt to reframe architecture’s current agency. Our goal will be to define new forms of the domestic that question prevailing notions of domesticity and foster emancipatory ways of living.

Site of Investigation
Studio 11 will investigate the architecture of domestic space at three different scales: room, home, and territory. The first two will consider history as its primary locus, building on radical examples and critical lines of thought.

The latter will be contextualized in Sweden, one of the countries that most decidedly turned domesticity into a political project essential to state-wide economic production and the construction of national identity. In this regard, folkhemmet (lit. the people’s home), has prevailed since World War II as an elaborate political fiction that defines Sweden as a planned, egalitarian family. Certainly, the main operative strategy in this project was the control of the home and the architecture of domestic space.

By exploring alternative fictions of the room and the home in a Swedish territory of their choice, students in Studio 11 will collectively challenge domestic space as a symbol of the nation and will reframe the architecture of the nation itself.

Studio Agenda and Methodology
Studio 11 will investigate the architecture of domestic space through a series of architectural experiments that will put to the test the ways in which the subject, the household and the nation are articulated around specific notions of domesticity.

During the fall semester, three architectural experiments framed by the instructors will lead to an in-depth understanding of a research topic chosen by each student. In the spring, the students will design their own set of experiments in order to develop an incisive architectural proposal targeting the selected Swedish territory.

This structure underlies a twofold agenda. On the one hand, it will advance a collective inquiry on the architecture of Sweden’s domestic space. On the other, it will help each student to develop their own method of work, laying the foundations for a radical way of addressing architecture.

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