

A) WE MUST TRY TO CONSTRUCT SITUATIONS, THAT IS TO SAY, COLLECTIVE AMBIANCES, ENSEMBLES OF IMPRESSIONS DETERMINING THE QUALITY OF A MOMENT

B) NE TRAVAILLEZ JAMAIS!

The Swiss chalet was originally a working house for peasants in the Alps: a wooden structure on a stone plinth. 18th century tourists, attracted by the romantic Swiss landscape, saw this vernacular building type for the first time. The growing fascination with the typology led to the creation of a style: the Swiss chalet. Visitors like the British architect Peter Frederick Robinson, exported their vision of the chalet outside Switzerland developing the style with great creative freedom, deviating from the original pragmatic wooden structure. The chalets evolved into highly ornamental, prefabricated structures produced in series similar to catalogue villas. Very soon this idealised image of the chalet was brought back to Switzerland and constructed all over the Alps, mainly to fulfill tourists' demands.

The Swiss chalet style was celebrated nationally during the 1896 Swiss National Exhibition in Geneva, from which scenes strikingly evoke a famous painting by Caillebotte in which the Haussmannian city would be replaced by an alpine village. It is quite hilarious to think that the style, which the Swiss Confederation explicitly intended to define as its 'national' architecture, was the brand new version of the chalet, recently produced by the development of tourism. Soon the use of the chalet was redefined and idealised to become a holiday residence, a romantic retreat and secondary home for the bourgeoisie – the opposite of its intended function. Today, as the chalet has become a common property of middle class citizens, the distinction between its use for work and for leisure has become increasingly ambiguous, however, the architecture of the chalet as a holiday residence has remained largely unaltered for the past 200 years.

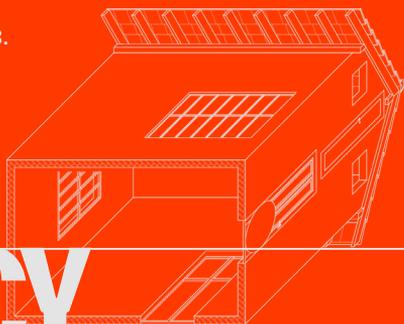
Our project, the Permanent Weekend House is an extension to a bourgeois style chalet. The original chalet, built in 1910, sits on a long and narrow plot, in a beautiful garden outside Geneva. One of these idyllic prefabricated wooden structures; with its facade decorations, placed in a bubble of peacefulness away from the city's frantic centre. Yet, over the last century, Geneva has slowly merged with the suburban periphery – a terrain marked by these weekend houses predominantly built throughout the 20th century. A major train track in the South, air traffic from the nearby airport, the cantonal oil reserve at the end of the street, industry, large sports fields, and of course a huge shopping mall have all together replaced the romantic landscape. Now absorbed by the city, the chalet has not only changed function but also context. Nevertheless the romanticism of the place still remains, as if emanating from the small wooden construction; a relic of the Alps.

Borrowing from a situationist approach and Guy Debord's statement that 'we must try to construct situations, that is to say, collective ambiances, ensembles of impressions determining the quality of a moment,'^A our project for the Permanent Weekend House is driven by the essence of



the situation that the existing small structure currently finds itself in. In opposition to the original chalet, the Permanent Weekend House inhabits the nature of the garden – the remaining fraction of the grand Swiss landscape. A thin, long structure, extruding the main existing living room through the greenery, a single and long space incorporating different functions of living and working in the core of the garden.

Whereas the original weekend house typology was promoting long, sunny afternoons in the garden in front of the chalet, the Permanent Weekend House allows one to live in the garden and work in the city at the same time during the entire year. It merges the well-being of the traditional Swiss chalet style with contemporary communication possibilities into a rational and repetitive construction, which is, once again, an interpretation of the chalet: a wooden prefabricated structure on a concrete plinth. First a typology for work, then for leisure activities, the Permanent Weekend House allows weekends and working days to co-exist. 'Ne travaillez jamais!'^B wrote Guy Debord on a wall of Rue de la Seine in Paris in 1953.



JUICY ROASTED CHICKEN RECIPE:

01. Splash the chicken with olive oil and cover it with fresh rosemary, thyme, paprika, chopped onions, garlic, salt and pepper.
02. Massage the chicken and its condiments with love.
03. Place it in the fridge and let it marinate for a few hours.
04. Carefully push a tomato into the chicken together with some fresh herbs.
05. Place the chicken on the oven tray together with a bunch of chopped vegetables and potatoes.
06. Cook for 15 minutes at 250°C.
07. Splash with white wine.
08. Turn the oven to 200°C and cook for around one hour.
09. Baste the chicken regularly with its own juice to keep it wet.
10. Carve it with love: Take off the wings, carefully cut between the legs and the breast. Cut through the joint and pull the legs off.
11. When you get down to the fussy bits, just use your fingers to pull all the meat off.
12. Dispose on a platter and serve with a nice glass of wine.



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