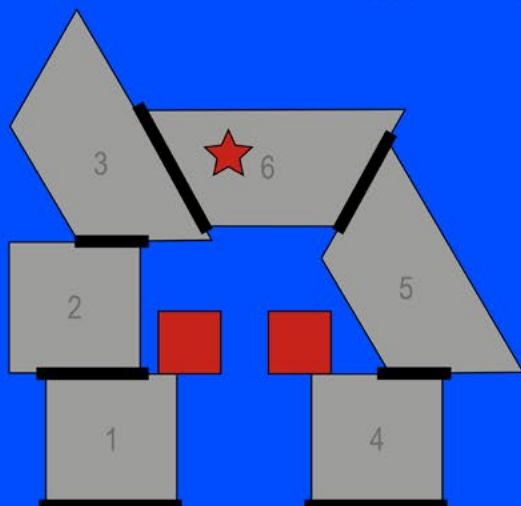
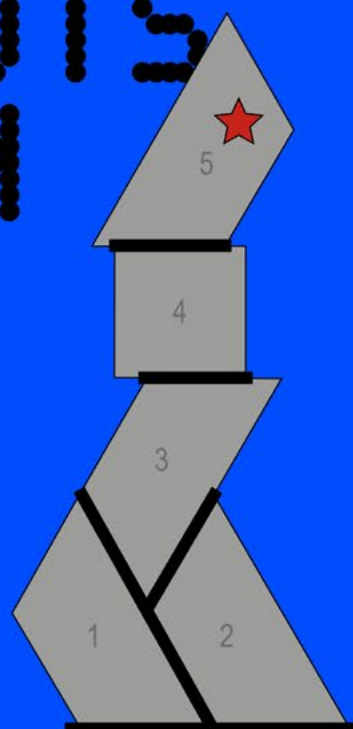


DO ROBOTS DREAM



Task 1

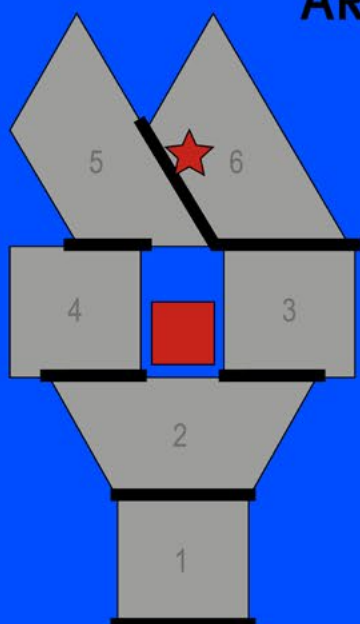


Task 2

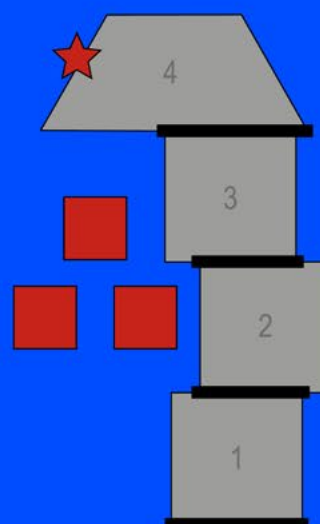
Vers une meilleure
collaboration entre les humains
et les robots en architecture

EXPOSITION
DU 09.09 AU 05.12.2026
ARCHIZOOM, EPFL

Une exposition réalisée
avec le laboratoire CRCL - Lab
for Creative Computation



Task 3



Task 4

OF CONSTRUCTION SITES?





The Glass Vault, CREATE Laboratory Princeton – now CRCL, Lab for Creative Computation, EPFL, 2020. Photo: Mathias Bernhard



Re:config, Human-robot adaptive workflows for disassembly, repair, and construction, CRCL, Lab for Creative Computation, EPFL, 2026

What if robots didn't replace us, but worked alongside us? Robots are capable of assembling, analysing, experimenting and learning from their mistakes. Could they take on construction work without replacing human labour? Research carried out by the CRCL – Lab for Creative Computation at EPFL explores a collaboration between humans and machines that departs from the traditional promise of automation. It opens the way to more inclusive building sites and non-standardised, more environmentally friendly architecture that goes beyond the mere logic of replacement and productivity.

Introduction

Robots can no longer be imagined as separate from our daily lives - whether in factories, on our streets, or in our homes. Their presence elicits a wide spectrum of reactions: they promise relief from dangerous, physically demanding, and monotonous labor, while simultaneously raising concerns about job displacement and the erosion of human control. Whether deemed intelligent or not, robots are far from merely auxiliary machines; they provoke, enable, sustain, and at the same time complicate the fabric of human experience.

Assembly area, Workers assemble walls for houses in a warehouse of Kaiser Community Homes, Los Angeles, 1946. Photo: Dick Whittington Studios



In construction, these tensions become especially visible. Robots have long been expected to relieve workers from hazardous and physically strenuous tasks, while offering the industry faster and more cost-effective building processes. Yet today, construction largely remains a manual practice. While high-tech machinery is occasionally showcased in flagship projects, the majority of work on building sites continues to rely on human labor to carry out demanding, unhealthy, and often dangerous tasks - while simultaneously leaving an irreversible environmental impact on the planet.

This exhibition explores the potential roles of robots and machines in architecture and construction, ranging from simple systems performing repetitive motions to more complex scenarios in which humans and robots collaborate in fluid and mutually supportive ways. It reflects on



Cover me softly, CRCL, Lab for Creative Computation, EPFL, 2024.
Photo: David Dumitrescu

the history of automation in construction, examines why advanced robotic technologies have yet to be widely adopted on site, and questions how recent developments in robotics, artificial intelligence, and digitalization are reshaping the environmental impact of the industry and the experience of human workers.

Ultimately we ask: Can robotics enable more sustainable approaches to construction? And can robotic processes evolve into genuinely collaborative practices that enhance the experience of construction work?



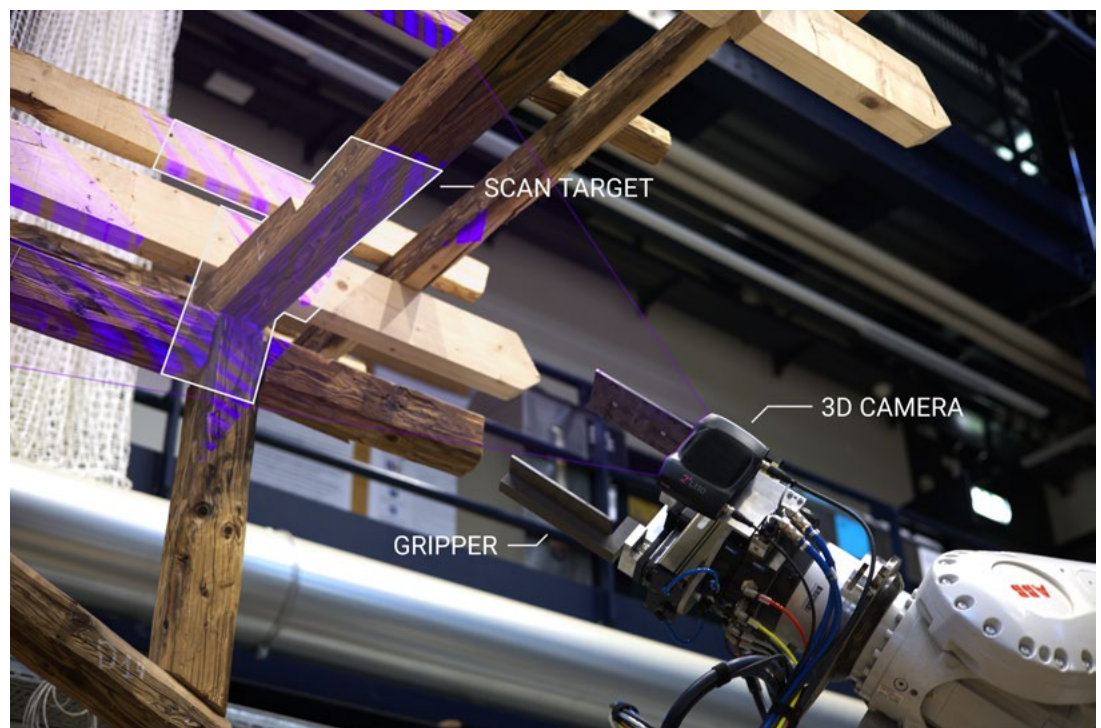


The exhibition

Through a range of projects, the exhibition examines key challenges and opportunities at the intersection of automation, labor, and sustainability.

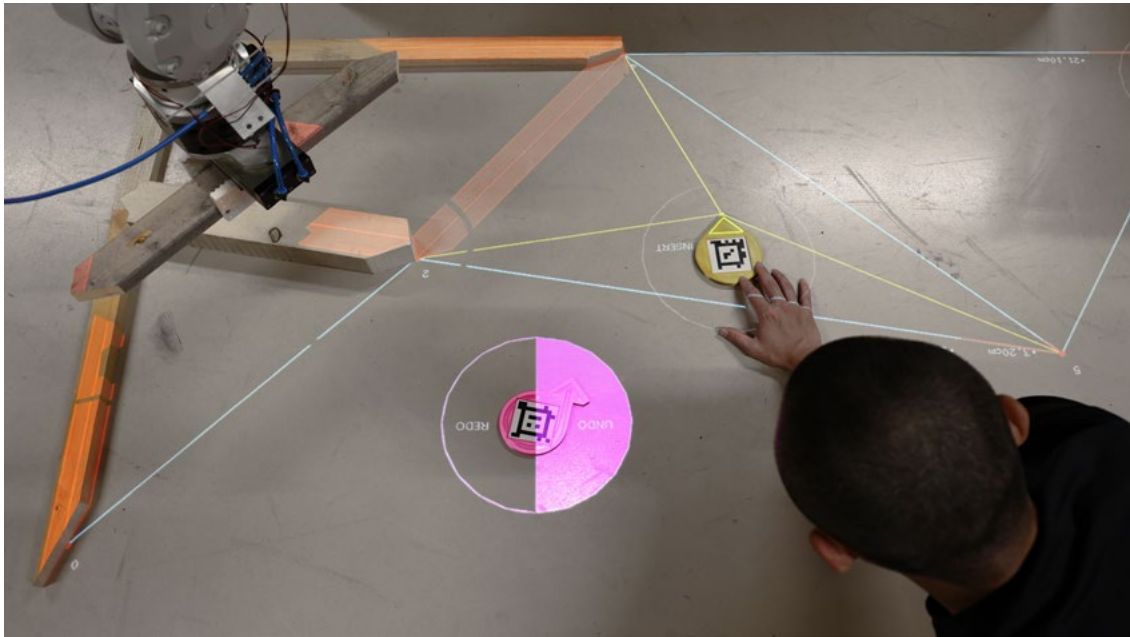
These works are presented through a combination of live robotic demonstrations, built prototypes, and mediated formats, including film and documentation. Robots autonomously constructing arches, interactive systems assembling structures from reclaimed and discarded wood, and collaborative workflows in which humans and machines jointly build structural walls - the presented works span from practical applications to speculative scenarios, offering a vision of future building practices and evolving environmental and labor dynamics.

Re:config, Human-robot adaptive workflows for disassembly, repair, and construction, CRCL, Lab for Creative Computation, EPFL, 2026



At its core, the exhibition addresses a central contradiction: machines are often conceived as replacements for human labor, yet construction remains deeply dependent on human skills, needs, and agency. Questioning this tension is essential to imagining more meaningful and human-centered approaches to automation. Moving toward a future where robots are seamlessly integrated into the complex and uncertain ecosystem of construction requires not only technical innovation, but also social and historical reflection.

Rather than envisioning robots as substitutes for humans, this exhibition proposes alternative scenarios in which machines support, respond to, and empower human workers - enhancing their capacities rather than diminishing them.



Truss from Trash: A Human-Robot Framework for Adaptive Timber Assembly on the Construction Floor, Lab for Creative Computation, EPFL, 2025

The projects presented are based on research conducted at EPFL by the CRCL Lab. They investigate both the technical challenges—such as perception, planning, and adaptability—and the human dimensions of construction work, including interaction, experience, and adoption. Together, they outline a vision of construction in which machines are developed and deployed through a genuinely human-centered perspective, moving away from the dream of automation and towards a practice based on collaboration.

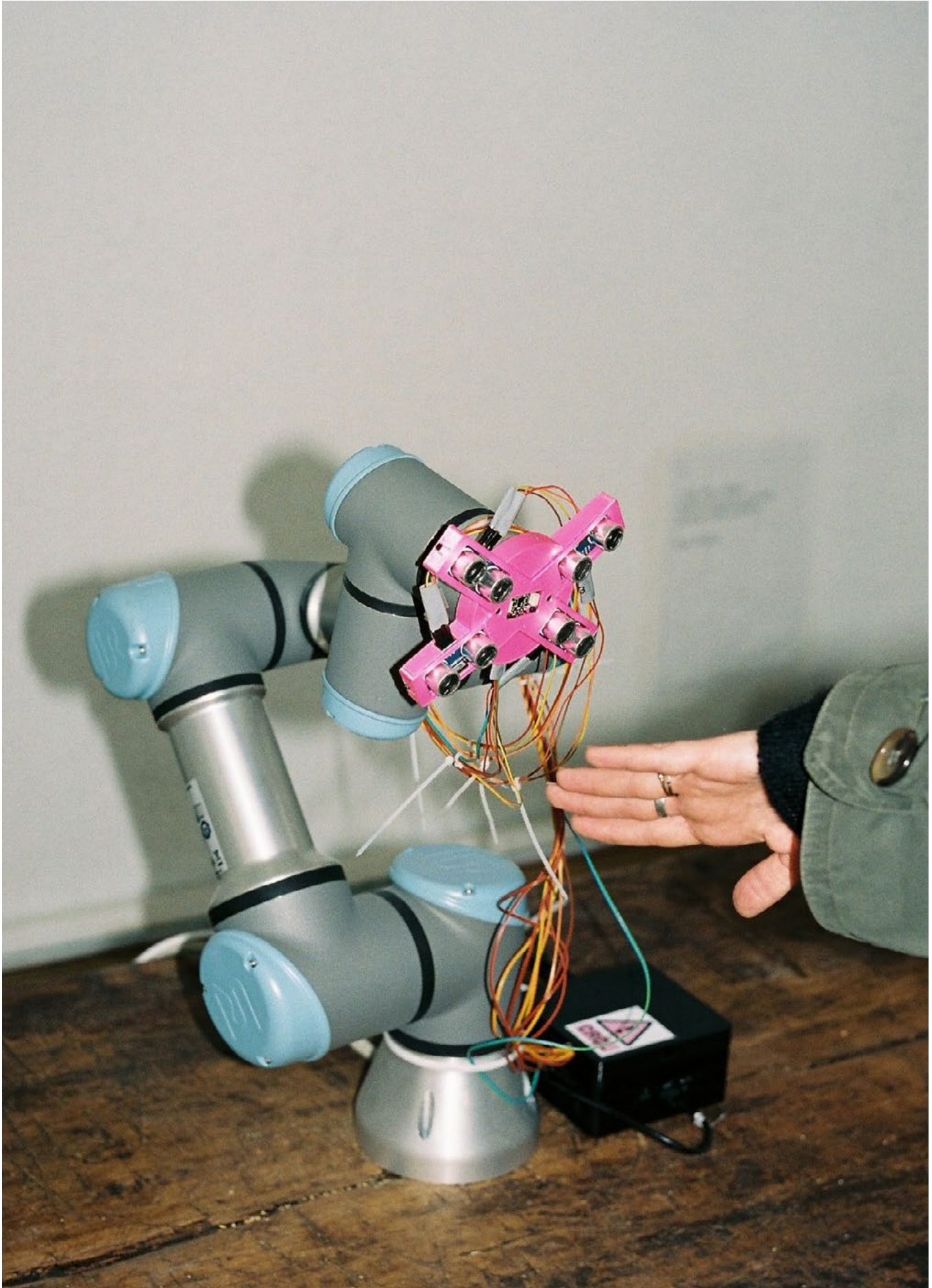


Robotic drilling of large concrete rubble, SXL, Structural Exploration Lab and CRCL, Lab for Creative Computation, EPFL, 2023
Photo: Maxence Grangeot









Program of events

Tuesday 8 September • OPENING

- 6.15pm** Introduction by Cyril Veillon
6.30pm Discussion between Stefana Parascho & Aude Billard
Moderated by Pier Vittorio Aureli
7.30pm Doors open and welcome drinks

Saturday 26 September • NIGHT OF THE MUSEUMS

- 2pm-** Exhibition open
midnight Guided tours at 3pm, 6pm and 9pm, in French
2pm-21pm *Contrat social 4.0*, an interactive robotic installation
by the artist Madeline Gannon

Tuesday 13 October • FESTIVAL LES CULTURELLES AT EPFL

- 5.30pm** Guided tour of the exhibition, in French
7pm Opening concert for the *NO/NC (Normally Open, Normally Closed)*
installation, created by the artists AATB – Practice for Non-
Industrial Robotics
8am- **14-24 October**
8pm Continuous interactive robotic installation

Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 November • SCIENTASTIC

- 10am-5pm** Exhibition open
Contrat social 4.0, an interactive robotic installation
by the artist Madeline Gannon
11am/4pm Guided tour of the exhibition, in French

Tuesday 24 November • GUIDED TOUR & OPENING

- 5.30pm** By Stefana Parascho, in English
6.30pm Opening of the exhibition *The Extraction of Value* with
Paolo Tombesi

Robots in operation during guided tours

Guided tours are upon [registration](#)

Guided tours can be organised on request for groups

Opening

Stefana Parascho x Aude Billard

Stefana Parascho is a researcher, architect, and educator whose work lies at the intersection of architecture, robotics and computational design. She is currently an Assistant Professor at EPFL where she founded the Lab for Creative Computation (CRCL). Through her research, she has explored multi-agent design and fabrication methods, and their potential for architecture. Her current work focuses on human-robot collaborative processes and the relationship between digital tools and the built environment. The work proposes adaptive construction processes in which humans and machines communicate, interact, and jointly build full-scale structures, while addressing the current prevailing challenges of the construction field. Applications include scaffold-free construction of spanning structures, reconfiguration of existing buildings and autonomous robotic construction with found materials. Her goal is to strengthen the interdisciplinary nature of the field by increasing accessibility of digital tools and connecting robotics research with societal aspects.

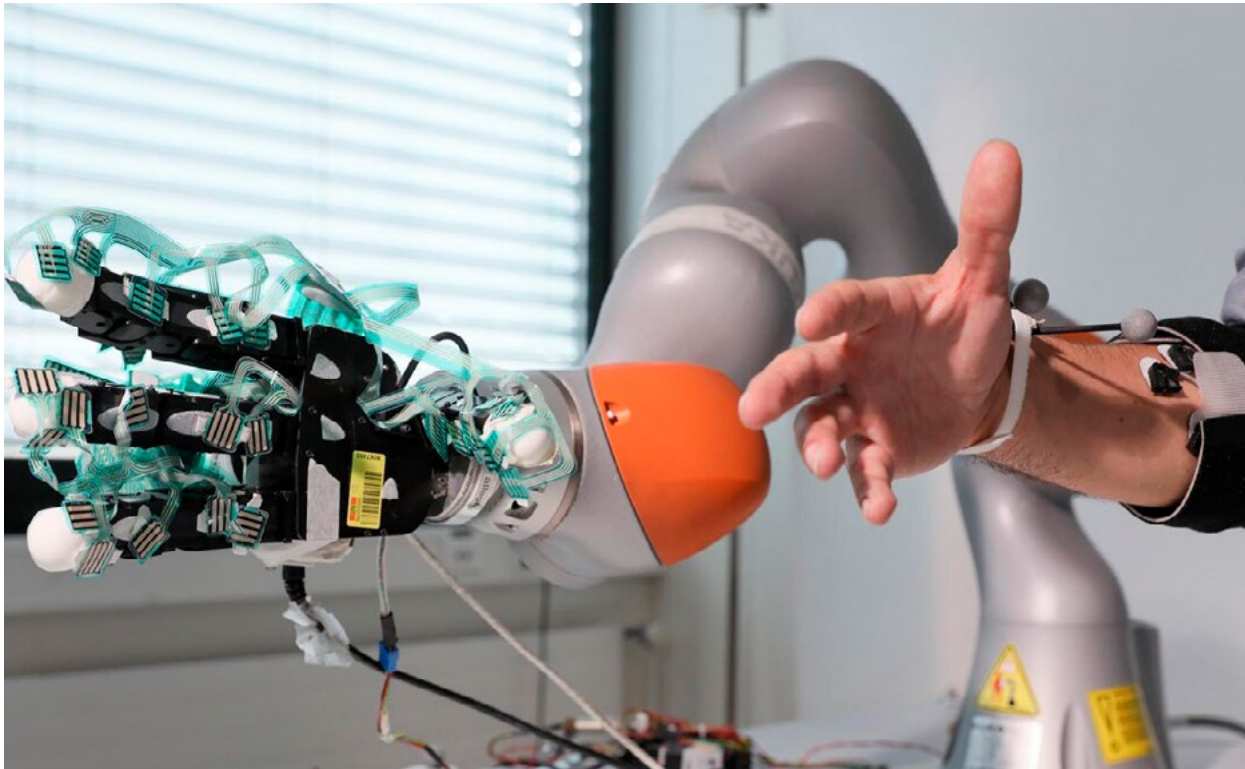
Before joining EPFL, Stefana was an Assistant Professor at Princeton University, where she led the CREATE Lab Princeton. She completed her doctorate in 2019 at ETH Zurich and received her Diploma in Architectural Engineering from the University of Stuttgart.



Stefana Parascho, Director of CRCL,
Laboratory for Creative Computation at EPFL



Aude Billard, Director of LASA, Laboratory
of Algorithms and Learning Systems at EPFL.
Photo: Alain Herzog, EPFL



Demonstration of the hand's ability to mimic human gestures, research led by Aude Billard, Director of LASA, EPFL. Photo: Alain Herzog, EPFL

Aude Billard is full professor and head of the LASA laboratory at EPFL. She is a pioneer in the fields of machine learning and human-robot interactions. Aude Billard acts as the President-elect of the IEEE Robotics and Automation Society (RAS), after serving in several roles in the administrative and executive committees of IEEE RAS.

Aude Billard holds a B.Sc and M.Sc. in Physics from EPFL and a Ph.D. in Artificial Intelligence from the University of Edinburgh. Aude Billard is an IEEE Fellow and the recipient of the Intel Corporation Teaching award, the IEEE RAS Distinguished Award, and IEEE-RAS Best Reviewer Award, the Swiss National Science Foundation career award and the Outstanding Young Person in Science and Innovation from the Swiss Chamber of Commerce.

Night of the Museums x Scientastic *Contrat Social 4.0*, Madeline Gannon

The robots that build our world do exactly what they are told, when they are told, where they are told. But that relationship is ending: physical AI is giving our machines the intelligence to explore our world for themselves. What should they do with their newfound curiosity?

This installation explores a new social contract with autonomous, intelligent systems (4.0) – one built on convincing, not controlling, machines. As you approach, the machine may choose to interact with you, or it may be too busy having fun on its own. It gets to decide. This work asks what it means to share a world with technology whose trust we may need to earn first.



Manus, interactive installation, Madeline Gannon, Tianjin, China, 2018



Madeline Gannon

Madeline Gannon is a multidisciplinary designer blending techniques in art, design, computer science, and robotics to forge new futures for human-robot relations. Also known as “The Robot Whisperer”, Gannon specializes in convincing robots to do things they were never intended to do: from transforming giant industrial robots into living, breathing mechanical creatures, to taming hordes of autonomous machines to behave like a pack of animals.

Gannon believes that technology is a cultural medium, and tunes her work to engage communities across science and society. Her works have been exhibited at international cultural institutions, published at academic conferences, and profiled at global media outlets, such as the BBC, the Guardian, the Financial Time, the Science Channel, WIRED, FastCompany, Dezeen, and The Verge.

Festival Les Culturelles at EPFL

NO/NC (Normally Open, Normally Closed),

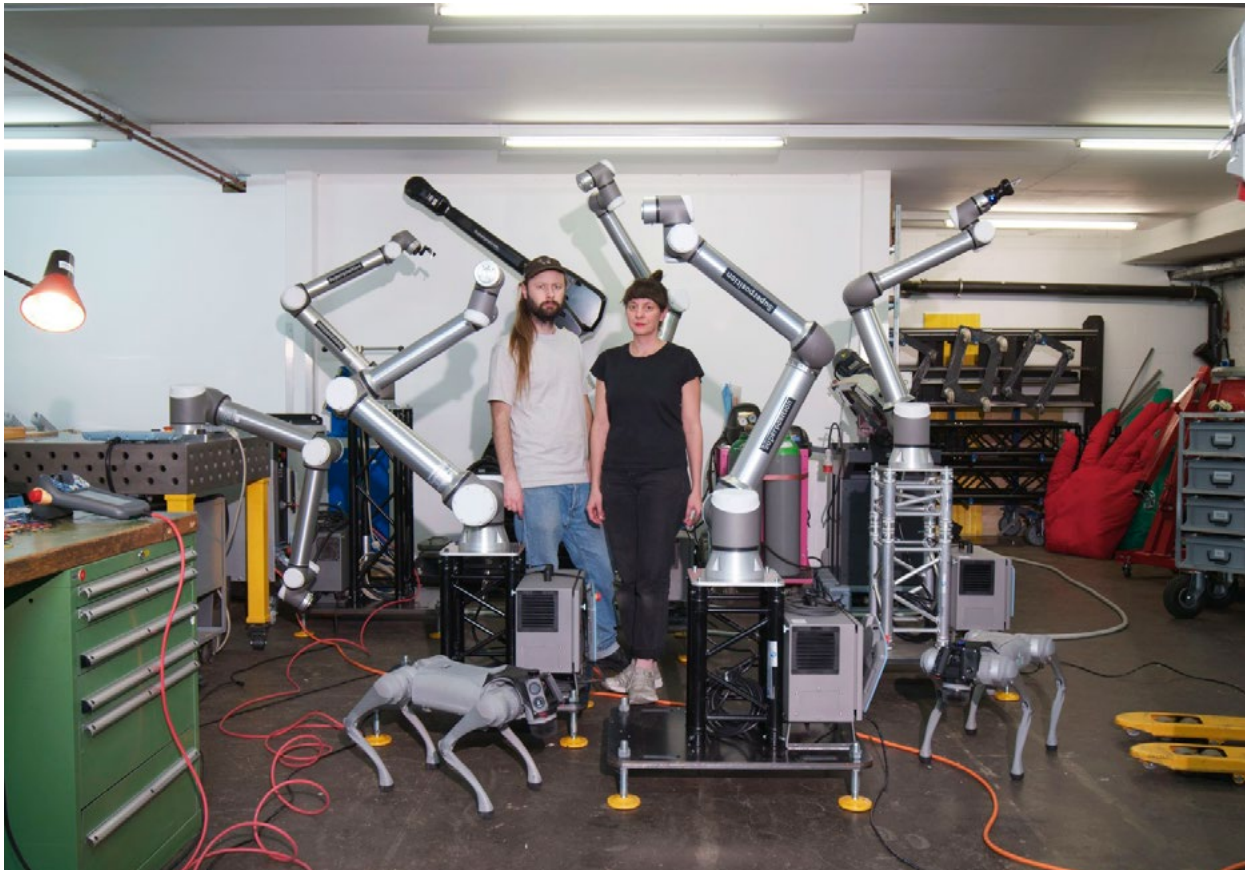
AATB — Practice for Non-Industrial Robotics

The one who controls and decides who and where to build walls, decides and dictates how we form a cohesive society, one cemented by fictitious walls, but it also fractures and dissolves undesired ones. The wall is a gatekeeper, itself neutral, and interface between 2 opposites, like a magnet, itself unable to exist without its polar opposites.

Cracks, faults, dislocations and fractures in walls, leaks, are then the permeable possibilities that make these walls faillible.

Walls are becoming a blur, their form, shape and making almost unrecognizable. They still divide, but are almost phantomatic, they are constantly changing, moving. It's almost like walls today have a mind of their own, their own agency, their own logic and survival instinct.

NO/NC is a new work by AATB that proposes a swarm of inflatable stockades, autonomously moving in space to form temporary structures, barricades, blocking visitors from passing through and navigating space freely. They constantly shift and reconfigure, unpredictably, forcing constant warriness and attention. As the viewer stands still, it might get trapped. The only way out is to never stop moving.



AATB – Practice for Non-Industrial Robotics, Andrea Anner and Thibault Brevet

AATB – Andrea Anner and Thibault Brevet – is an artist duo investigating human-machine interactions through robotics and industrial automation beyond factory settings. Their practice integrates software programming, electronics, mechanical engineering, and precision machining to critically explore how robotics enters everyday life.

Their work has been exhibited at ZKM (Karlsruhe), V&A Dundee, Ars Electronica (Linz), Chengdu Biennale, New Museum (New York), Venice Architecture Biennale, Zollverein (Essen), Unfold X (Seoul), APS Museum (Shanghai), HEK (Basel), Istanbul Design Biennial, Milan Design Week, and Museum für Gestaltung (Zürich). They have held residencies at CERN and Atelier Luma (Arles) and received the Swiss Design Award in 2021. AATB has taught at most Swiss art and design universities (ZHDK, ECAL, HEAD, FHNW, HKB, SUPSI) and internationally.

Credits

An exhibition produced in collaboration with the CRCL Lab for Creative Computation, led by Stefana Parascho

Within the CRCL Team:

Exhibition development
Dalila Romero Zenker

Within the Archizoom Team:

Direction
Cyril Veillon

Curation and communication
Solène Hoffmann

Curation, scenographic design and production
Dimitri Kasparian

Administration
Beatrice Raball

Graphic Design
Sophie Wietlisbach

Press Kit

The exhibition visuals can be downloaded via [this link](#)

Contact

Solène Hoffmann, communication coordinator
solene.hoffmann@epfl.ch | archizoom@epfl.ch

Informations pratiques

Open Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 5pm
Late opening on Tuesdays until 8pm
Saturday 26 September, 2pm-midnight
Saturday 7 & Sunday 8 November, 10am-5pm
Saturday 5 December, 2-6pm
Closed on Sundays

Free entry

Archizoom EPFL
SG Building, Place Ada Lovelace
1015 - Lausanne

Contact

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Archizoom offers a unique exploration of contemporary architecture. Centred on research and innovation, this programme of exhibitions and lectures confronts theory and public experience to forge together a sensitive and critical view of our built environment.

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Re:config, Human-robot adaptive workflows for disassembly, repair, and construction, ORCL, Lab for Creative Computation, EPFL, 2025