The model as a tool in the design process: precise analyses of a crucial instrument in architectural work
→ An anthology with intelligent contributions for architects, students and teachers

Why do we still need physical models to design and carry out architectural projects in the digital age, despite the possibilities of rendering and simulating buildings and connected spaces? Isle of Models sets out in search of answers to this question based on the central role of model making in the School of architecture at EPFL Lausanne.

From façade sections, spatial studies and structural models to studies of form, the contributing authors analyse the nature and relevance of the model in architectural design. The history of the model, its use in historical architectural production is also discussed in this framework.

The accompanying series of images illustrate the different forms and possibilities which the model can offer for and in the design process. Be it hypnotic precision in miniaturising reality, an echo of childhood games, or a promise for the future: the model is possessed of extraordinary suggestive power. As a tool or as a communication medium, it lends form to visual or spatial concepts and makes them palpable.

Whatever the role assigned to models, spatial studies, mockups, sculptures, etc. – given their importance in developing and creating a building it goes without saying that a significant share of all building history was erected upon their diminutive foundations.

Cyril Veillon, Nadja Maillard (eds.)
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Architecture and Scale

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