

Switzerland An Urban Portrait

Urban Potential

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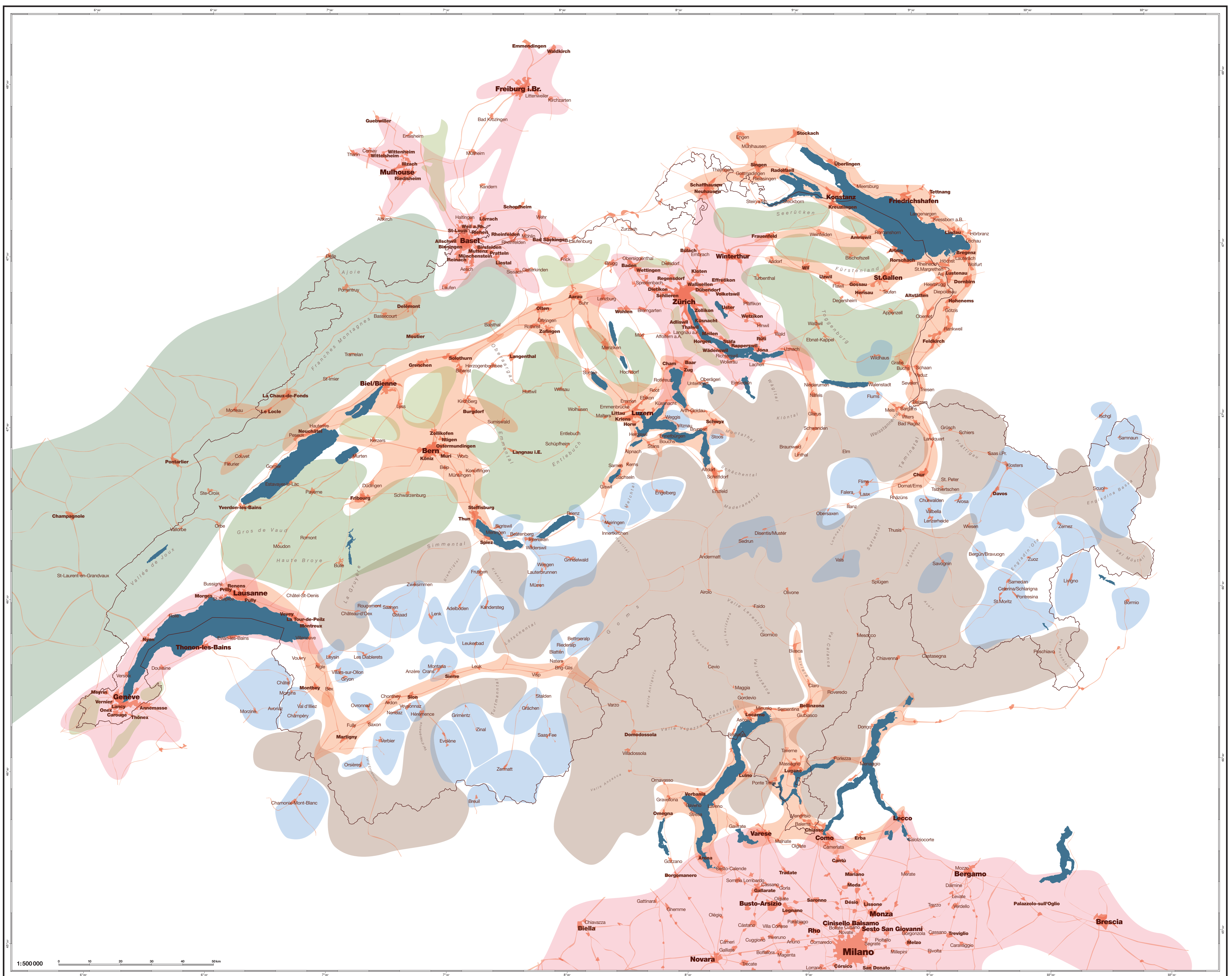
Switzerland

An Urban Portrait

Urban Potential

Switzerland's Urban Potential

-  Metropolitan regions
-  Networks of cities
-  Quiet zones
-  Alpine resorts
-  Alpine fallow lands



What has happened is unbelievable, indeed almost inconceivable. Since we began our urbanistic studies on Switzerland in 1999, institutions and companies that seemed sacrosanct as an expression of continuity have suddenly begun to move. Developments have occurred that contradict the conventional cliché of this country's proverbial slowness and resistance to changes of all kinds.

This process overrides the specifically Swiss form of resistance, the culture of refusal and prevention of density, of height, of mass, of concentration, of chance, and of nearly all the other characteristics that are desirable in a city, and which the Swiss also love with a passion – just not in their own backyard.

The result of our research is a new view of Switzerland that calls existing pictures into question and explores its urban potential by means of five typologies: the metropolitan regions, the urban networks, the quiet zones, the alpine fallow lands, and the resorts. It is a new urban topography that challenges Switzerland's traditional model of social solidarity.

Switzerland's Urban Potential: A Thesis Map

The thesis map with the five types of zones brings together the findings of the entire study of Switzerland in a concentrated form. At the same time, it is a project for its future urban development.

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