Is there anything out there?
The educational programme of ‘Borders & Territories’ (B&T) focusses on the role of architecture in relation to the socio-political developments within contemporary society. The B&T MSc 1 Studio will develop an ‘Extra-terrestrial Mining Institute’, and is understood as a laboratory for the investigation of complex territorial, spatial, ecological, technical, and architectural practices (both here and out there!).

By referring to the long-standing history of extraction practices as a mode of (trans-)forming the (sub-)surfaces of our planet, the studio investigates the role of architecture for future institutions on the planetary scale and organisations, which deal with the colonisation and extraction of outer space. Such new scales of cooperation involve various geographies, nations, private commercial bodies, legal frameworks, and (automated) infrastructures.

The studio investigates the specificity of architecture through precise acts of surveying, mapping, and model-making as integral part of both design process as well as extractive practices. During the first quarter, a series of exercises will familiarise the students with the approach of the B&T studio.

The students will design a campus for the Artemis Programme, a NASA led programme (2022-2025) whose eventual aim is to extract extra-terrestrial resources. Beyond being simply a control room, the campus and its institutes is a geo-political anomaly, which at the same time emerges from its unique programmatic and site conditions as well as from its problematic technical and ecological requirements.

For the 2022/2023 fall semester, a series of sites will be under consideration: US (Texas, Boca Chica), Japan (south of Kyushu), Kazakhstan (Baiikonur Cosmodrome), Norway (Svalbard Rocket Range).

The developed design will present a coherent, significant, elaborated, correct and innovative design for a medium sized building. B&T’s MSc_1 Design Studio is integrated with BES.