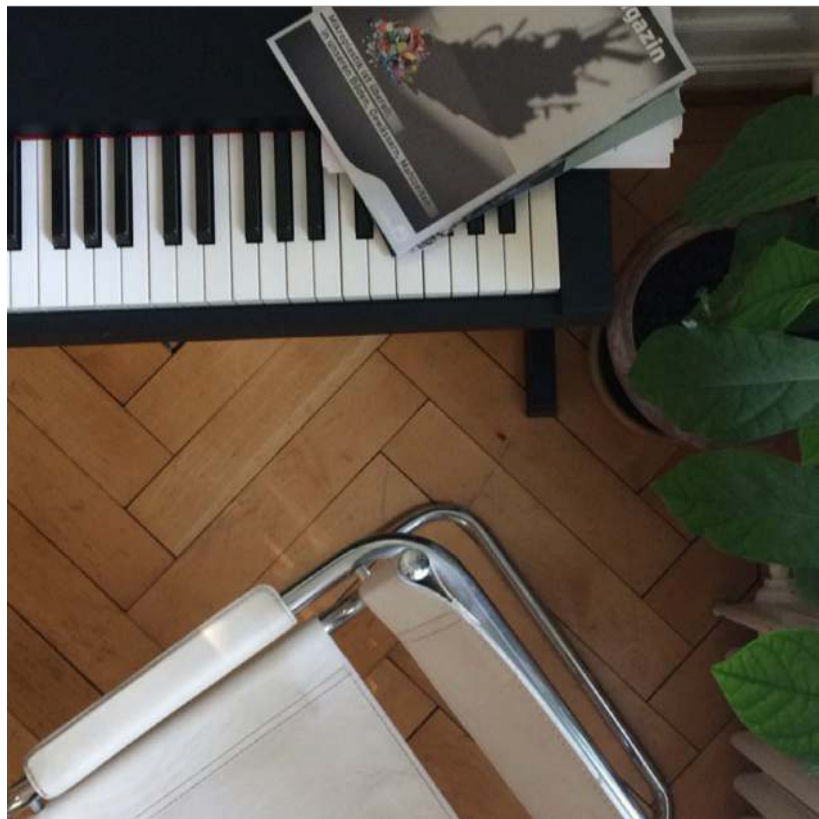


Ethnographies in Times of Corona Virus

Konrad Kramer

Me and My Room / You and Your Room



Me and My Room \ You and Your Room

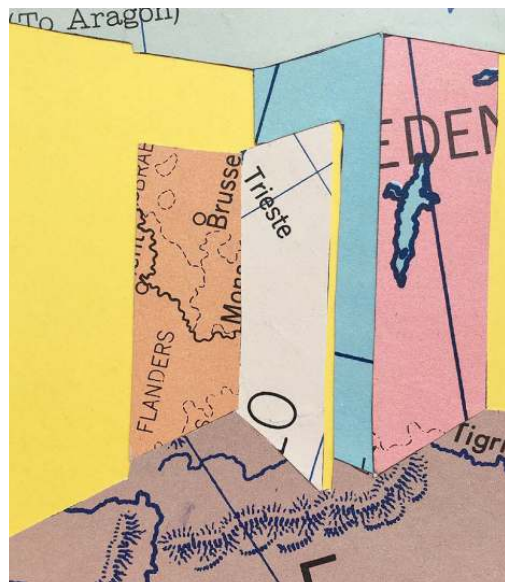
Documenting new perspectives in times of Corona

Seminar paper by Konrad

All photographs except the collage are taken by myself.

This work is about students and their homes during the corona confinement. Especially for us students, the places to work, sleep, relax have all collapsed into one place: the room in a shared flat. Some go to another home, to their girl- and boyfriends or to their parents, but most of us stay in their flat. Surely, we spend more time at one place and therefore the relation to this place changes and intensifies in one way or another.

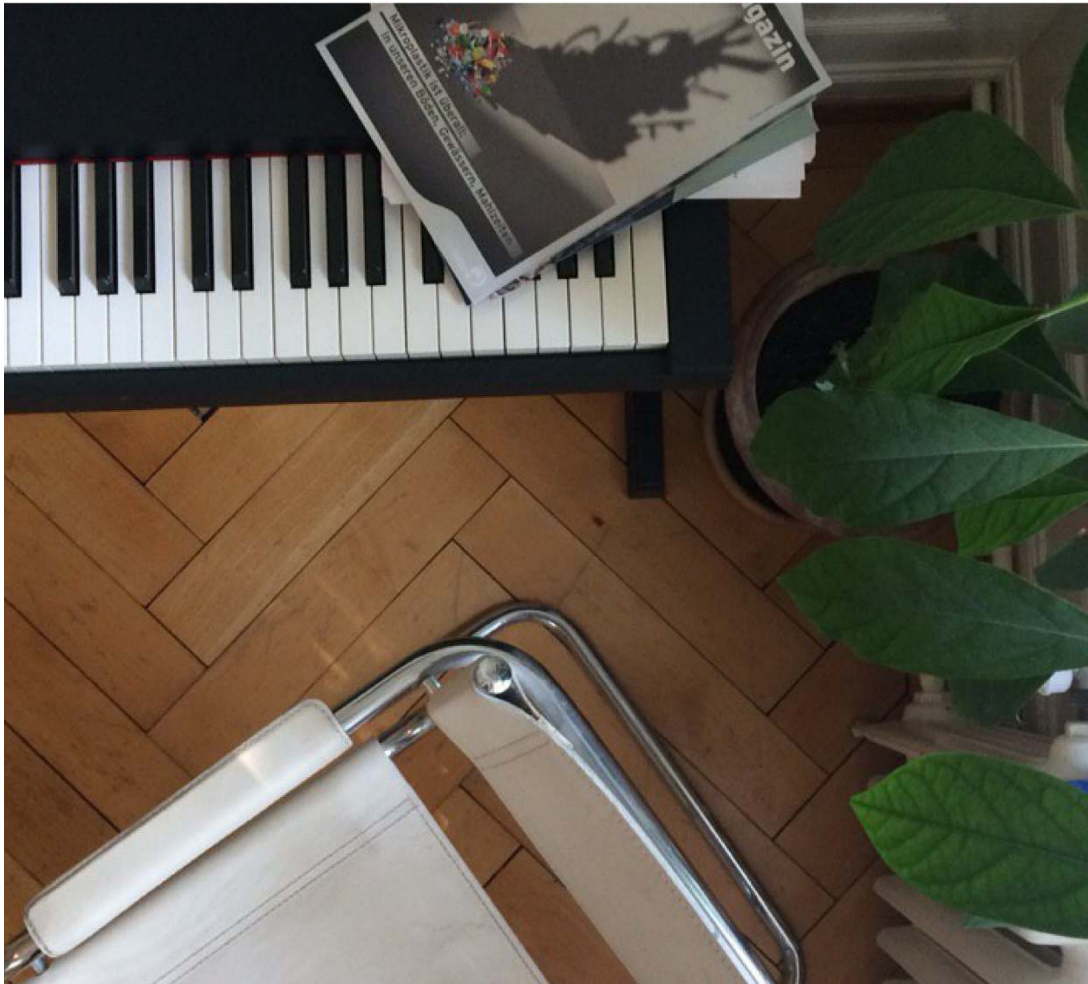
I wanted to express the grown presence / importance of my room. How can I share my feeling of enhanced or increased intimacy with my room? What can I show from my room, which is not too personal? How can I find new perspectives through the lens of my camera in order to reflect my new perspective towards my room? I tried to deal with these questions photographically in my very personal way.



Zsofia Schweger, Off the Map II #20, 2016.

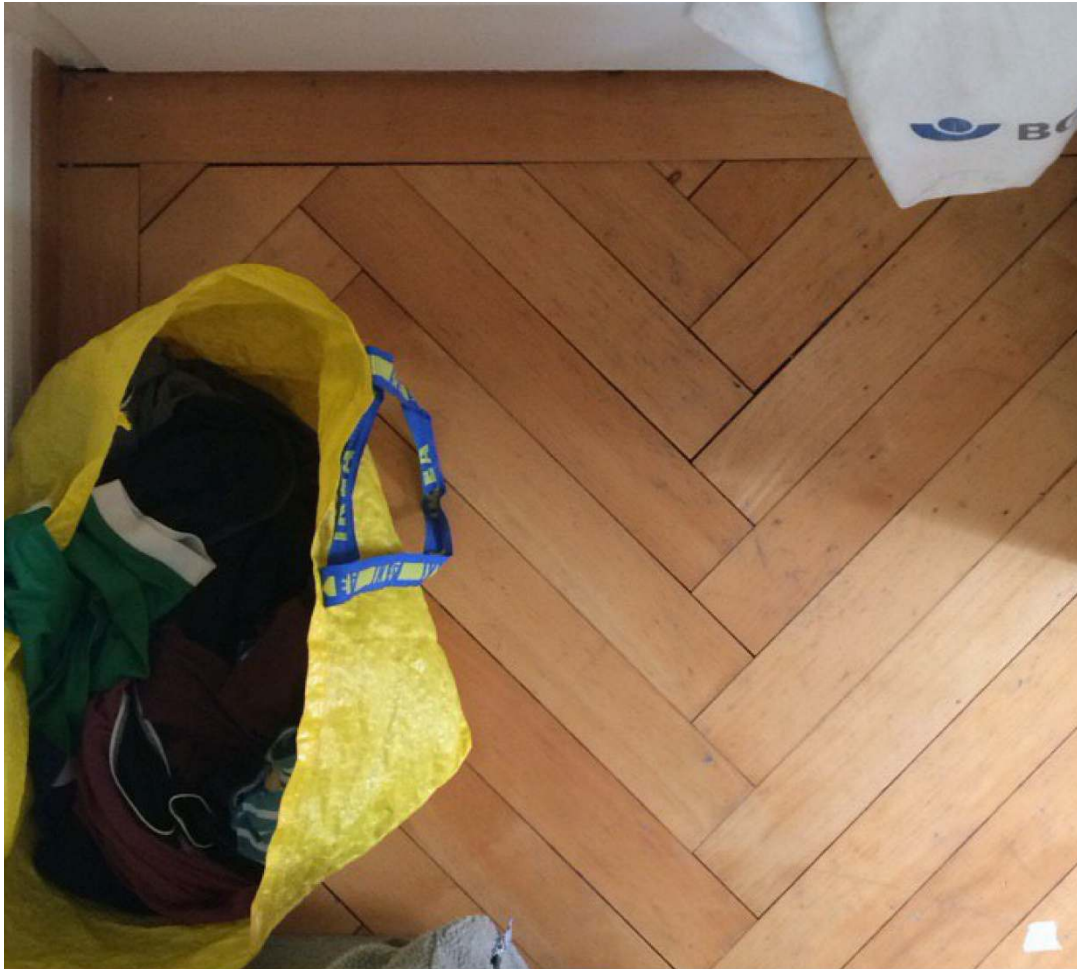
Inspired by the work of Zsofia Schweger 'Off the Map' which explores the concept of journey inside a room in collages, I created a map of my current centre of the world. The tiling together of the photos offered me yet another

perspective on my room. Showing my personal new perspective to others, I aim to explore their own story about their room during the confinement.



Aerial view inside my Room, April 22nd 2020, Zurich.

How does the relationship to your flatmates, to your furniture and to your plants change?



Aerial view inside my Room, April 22nd 2020, Zurich.

Do you feel trapped or do you like your smaller radius of life?



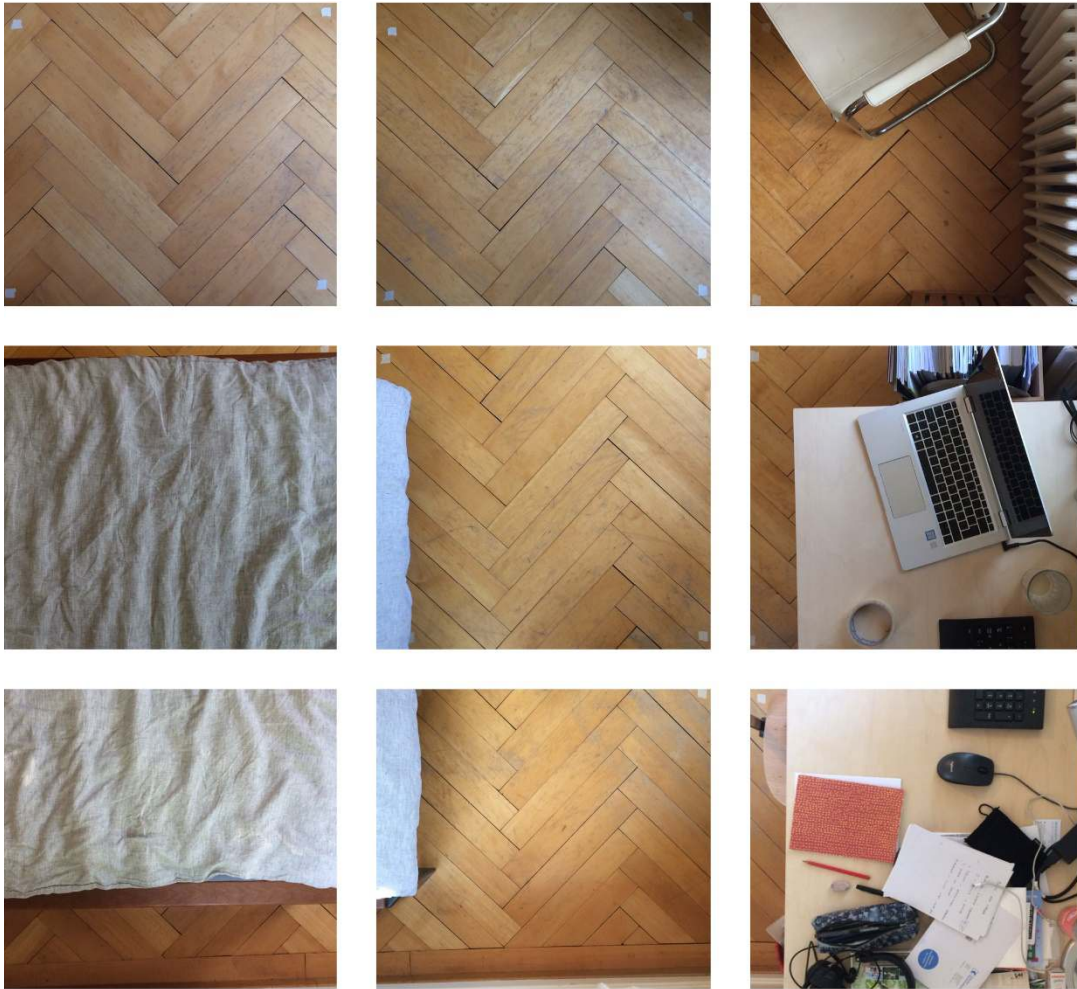
Aerial view inside my Room, April 22nd 2020, Zurich.

How do I present my room on zoom?



Aerial views inside my Room, April 22nd 2020, Zurich.

Have you discovered new perspectives, new corners within your room?

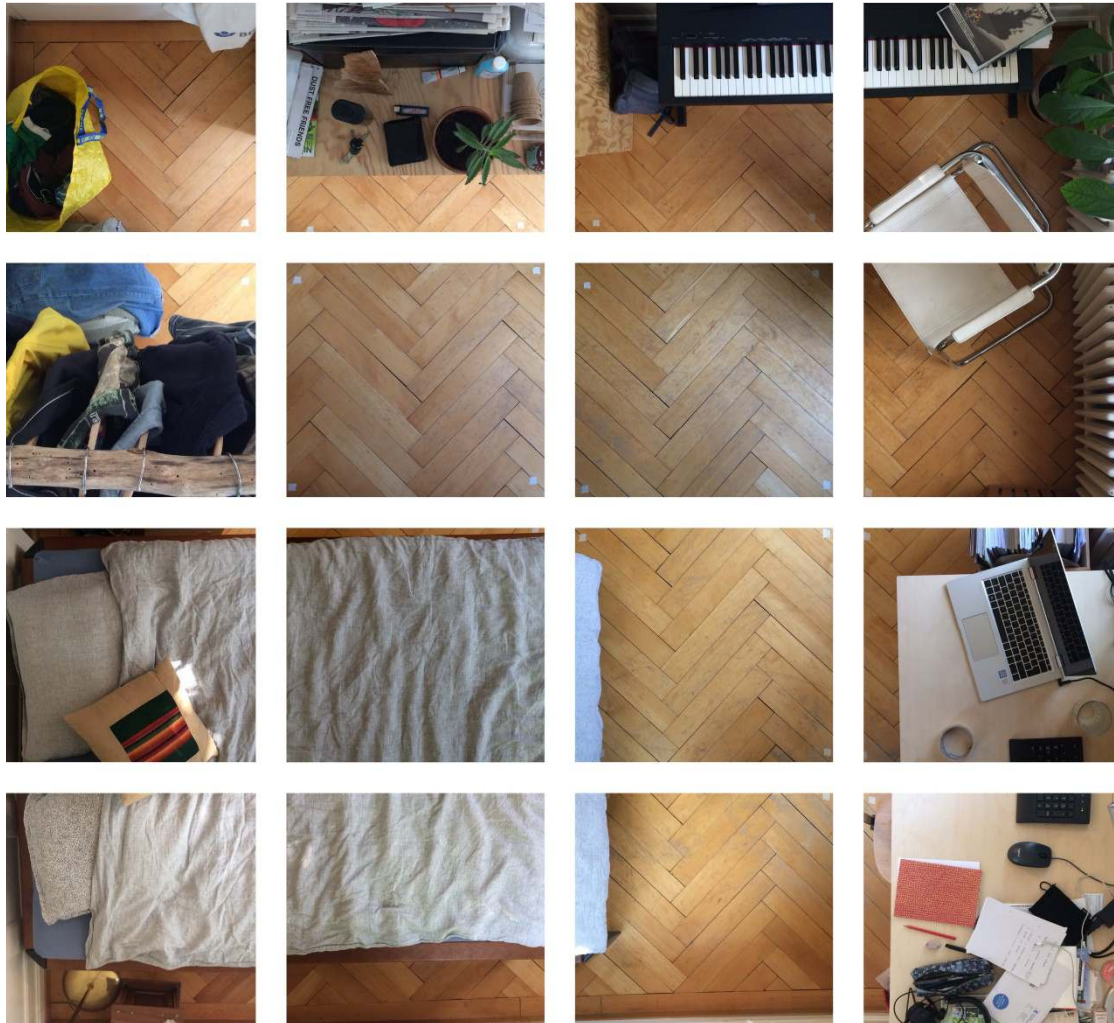


Aerial views inside my Room, April 22nd 2020, Zurich.

How does the lockdown change your relationship to your room, to your home?

Aerial views inside my Room, April 22nd 2020, Zurich.

\ Me and My Room



16 photos taken from the same height

16 photos for 16 square meters

16 aerial views, 1 map

1 map, 16 perspectives

Confronted with the limitations of domestic space

I finally arrived emotionally in my room

contemplating every corner, reordering my furniture,

I now see my room differently

Is it still a room?

Or already a world?

\ You and Your Room

I confronted my interview partners alternately with the images (single or as a map) and the questions raised above. As the photographs taken are my subjective answer to these questions, they are of rather illustrative purpose, but might inspire the interviewees to think of their rooms in the same

unconventional way and finding therefore other perspectives. Confronting some of my friends with my personal documentation and questions, I aimed to hear their own story about them and their homes during corona.

Leon is my flatmate and was interviewed in my room. Leon is quite preoccupied not to endanger our old neighbours, the Italian couple from downstairs.

Alissa is my girlfriend and was interviewed in her room in her flat. She moved in just before corona, so she got to know her flatmates during corona. As she felt more at home in the house of her parents outside Zürich, she spend only half of the time of the confinement in the flat in Zürich.

Silvan is also a participant of this seminar and was interviewed on zoom. He spent most of the quarantine time in the house of his parents, because he feels more home to this place than to his flat in Zürich.

How does the relationship to your flatmates, to your furniture, to your plants change?

„There’s a really big tree in front of my window. During the time I spent in my room, the appearance of the tree changed from only having buds to reddish purple blossom. I experienced this transition day after day.“ Silvan

„I perceive a lot more in what kind of environment I live. But it is also a unpleasant consciousness of what I touch outside and what I shouldn't touch inside - like keys and door-rails - before washing my hands.“ Leon

„The meaning of my bed has changed. During normal semesters, I got home and relaxed and sometimes only to sleep. And now the bed has also become a place to work because I don't want to sit on the chair all the time.“ S.

„Due to corona the notion of home is more important than expected after my move out of my parent's house. I'm not completely happy with my flatmates and the furnishing. I am preoccupied with how I could reorganise my furniture in a better way.“ Alissa

„For our living together, corona clearly intensified the presence of the others. Before corona, we always took a key with us. Now we communicate when we leave if we need to take a key, when we go get food we ask if we should bring something. We also realise who is the most keen on house keeping.“ L.

Have you discovered new perspectives, new corners within your room?

„For some reason, I experienced the meeting points / corners of wall and ceiling more intensely. I think one experiences the limitations of the room a lot more.“ S.

„ In my room I realised how the sun casts different shadows over the course of the day. I realized what kind of trees actually grow in front of my window. The window has a completely new meaning to me. I sat a lot in the sun behind the window reading or watching the street. In my armchair I discovered a new view towards neighbouring windows.“ L.

Do you feel trapped or do you like your smaller radius of life?

„In the house of my parents I appreciated a lot that I could use another room to work. My radius in the house of my parents increased. We used the living room a lot more and I really enjoy having a garden.“ A.

„I feel a bit trapped, because I always return to the same place quiet quickly. My world has become smaller and more radial around the centre which is our flat.“ L.

„I'm glad that I can change places between Zürich and the house of my parents. I need this alternation of spaces.“ A.

„I have no problem being in my room for a long time, but sometimes I feel the need to change the room inside my parent's house. For example I sleep in the room of my brother and work in my room when my brother is not there. I think I extend the radius onto the whole house to replace a bit the larger radius of before.“ S.