



PRESS RELEASE

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## MakeCity 2018 – The Festival For Architecture And Urban Alternatives: The Second Chapter

### BERLIN REMIXING | Stadt neu gemischt

**Berlin will set the stage for the second international Festival for Architecture and Urban Alternatives in 2018. The 17 day programme takes place throughout the city from 14<sup>th</sup> June – 1<sup>st</sup> July. Over 120 exhibitions, workshops, Make City Open curated tours and Studio Talks are being developed together with numerous partners and co-designers.**

MakeCity's international programme is devised in and out of the current climate in Berlin. The framework of this contemporary city and the rapid changes underway here on every level – governmental, civic, spatial and architectural – sets the stage for a resolutely trans-sectoral and trans-disciplinary approach.

**Berlin Remixing** is both an ideal and a goal – to build bridges in the urban discourse between often starkly polarised positions. To encourage critical debate and new perspectives. To offer alternatives to the top-down vs. bottom up discourse on city making. Throughout Europe, the financial crisis has led to a fundamental and long-term rethink on the civic economy. Austerity economics have led to drastically cutbacks in social and public services. This has increasingly called forth a far greater level of civic engagement – and with it alternative economic models for regeneration in cities. MakeCity intends to reflect new coalitions between civic movements, municipalities, urban planners and progressive developers that are paving the way for the reactivation of a social contract for urban change. The festival features new architecture and new typologies and design processes that reflect such paradigm shifts.

Berlin's cross-party coalition has enshrined a clear social agenda in its political contract that includes far-reaching targets for new social housing, mixed use and the reactivation of ground floor spaces. The city is growing by 40 000 inhabitants a year. The coalition contract aims to contribute to social, cultural interaction and local urban production. Municipalities are reacting to rampant property speculation in the city by buying back properties and safeguarding them. Major publicly owned sites are to be developed in future together with civic initiatives.

This is the backdrop for the international exchange during **Berlin Remixing**. We will look at innovative design strategies for cultural diversity in cities, affordable housing and mixed-use developments; in short, innovative ways of keeping urban production within the central city fabric – all of which seek to enrich local urban districts.

The European network activated for the **MakeCity** programme should innovate and inspire change within the world of both state-driven, citizen-led, and private urban development.

The festival is being shaped by way of workshops with partners and co-designers of the programme. MakeCity will be built around three core themes: Rethinking **Structures / Processes** for circular systems and urban design. The circular economy begins in cities, and the featured projects will show how we can tackle the over-consumption of resources by creating regenerative cycles in urban systems and our material economies. **Urban / Nature**: the interweaving of the urban and the natural environment. We will build upon the discourse on urban commons and urban landscapes



that fuelled MakeCity in 2015. Projects will feature micro-communities and civic initiatives that have evolved from a deeper understanding of our green infrastructures. **Architecture / Space:** innovative programmes and projects that remix user models and materials. **Berlin Remixing** will reflect the ways in which paradigm shifts in society's values are reflected in the built spaces of cities; in new typologies, adaptable architecture, and ground-breaking strategies of reuse.

MakeCity is supported in 2018 by the German Lottery Foundation and the Berlin Senate. Numerous Patrons and founding partners contribute financially to the festival. The Senator for Urban Development and Housing, Katrin Lompscher anticipates that “with its trans-disciplinary dialogues and debates, **MakeCity** offers initiatives, citizens, political, cultural and economic protagonists and municipalities the opportunity to engage and inspire one another – and to improve their networks in the interests of forward-thinking and constructive urban development.” The Chamber of Architects is a major partner, and **MakeCity** frames the Day of Architecture in Berlin. According to Sebastian Beck, project curator for the VHW, the Federal Association for Urban Development: “Urban Development is increasingly about governance, involving engaged civic urban developers: a galvanised civic society. **MakeCity** is a Platform with which to advance the debate on the contours of contemporary urban governance.”

The MakeCity festival will feature **four main formats:** The **Festival Centre** (at the Czech cultural centre in Berlin Mitte) will consolidate the international discourse around the core themes over 9 of the 17 festival days. **Urban Hubs** are larger-scale cultural and architectural sites featuring their own curated exhibitions and events. **Make City Open** will feature curated tours, walking debates and Open House visits to new built projects throughout Berlin. **Studio Talks**, devised by the participating architecture and urban design practices, will give insight into working methods and strategies.

**MakeCity 2018** is also conceived together with a curatorial advisory board made up of experts in new materials, wood-built urban architecture, open workshops and mixed use, participation, urban food production and the circular economy.

For further information please see the website [www.makecity.berlin](http://www.makecity.berlin)

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