



Press Release

Berlin, April 26, 2018

Berlin Remixing

MakeCity – Festival For Architecture And Urban Alternatives 2018

Countdown to **MakeCity – Festival For Architecture And Urban Alternatives 2018**: With the motto of **Berlin Remixing | Stadt neu gemischt**, the independent non-profit organisation *MAKE-SHIFT* will be presenting Germany's biggest international festival for architecture and urban alternatives from June 14 – July 1, 2018 in Berlin. Over a period of 18 days, more than 200 panels, exhibitions, workshops, guided city tours and studio talks are being presented throughout the city. The complete programme will be published on the [MakeCity-website](#) from May 10th.

Please save the date: The official press conference will take place on Tuesday, June 12th 2018, 11am, at the Festival Centre, Czech Cultural Centre Berlin.

Address: Czech Cultural Centre Berlin, Wilhelmstraße 44, 10117 Berlin.

Berlin Remixing is the headline for the second *MakeCity* festival; a city-wide event emerging from a context where land speculation has led a rise in real estate prices of up to 700% in the city's central districts. Where the municipal government has set unprecedented goals for the construction of new social housing units over the coming years. The integration of a newly arrived migrant population, politically active civil society negotiating for new concepts of cooperative housing and mixed-use developments, and the innovative integration of production spaces in the urban fabric: all these current developments frame *MakeCity's* conversation(s).

Berlin Remixing emerges from this context, aspiring to make making concepts for a new social contract tangible for cities; one that overcomes the notion of 'top down' vs 'bottom up' planning strategies. Exemplary new coalitions, projects and processes selected internationally showcase innovation on many levels – material, process-based, architectural and landscape urbanism, for cooperative cities – are featured during the 18 festival days.

MakeCity is resolutely trans-disciplinary. Bringing together architects, urban planners, leading municipal decision makers, civic groups, urban designers and makers that are defining innovative strategies and new coalitions for social change in our cities.

As a result, over 200 events – from exhibitions, workshops and excursions in cultural centres, workspaces, studios, production and maker spaces to international panels at the festival centre – have been developed by the festival's partners. The *Chamber of Architects*, the *Senate for Urban Development and Housing*, embassies, NGOs, architecture practices, contested sites and new commercial and cooperative developments become sites for debate, discovery and exchange.

The three main themes defining the festival headline – *Berlin Remixing* – and international exchange are:

Structures / Processes, examining innovative production cycles, the future of steering participatory urban planning processes, with a view to questioning the need for a new social contract for cities, and new trans-sectoral alliances. The circular economy and the way in which non-linear production and re-use cycles can impact our preconceived notions of urban design, lie at the heart of a fundamental 'remix' of urban design processes.



Urban / Nature : We will look at the fundamental effects of climate change on urban infrastructures and landscapes, the evolution of hybrids that interlink grey with green infrastructures, ways in which food production in cities is transforming the urban fabric, generating new micro-economies – and third spaces for civic engagement.

Architecture / Space: As an architecture festival, **MakeCity** will, of course, feature the built representation of remixing, re-thinking and re-negotiating space and form within the urban context. Ground-breaking models for wood-built urban architecture, modular systems, mixed-use developments that include ground floor spaces for production and further greater diversity and resilience. Fundamental concepts for financing cooperative developments, new models for shared ownership, cultural integration and co-living can be explored and discovered throughout the city.

By way of the key formats – **MakeCity Open** tours, open house **Studio Talks** and **Urban Hubs** as well as over 11 days at the **Festival Centre** - notions of re-mixing are made concrete and experienced live.

The Festival Centre

Located in the heart of Berlin Mitte, the festival centre will serve as **MakeCity's** main **Urban Hub** over the course of 11 days – a site for screenings, discussions, keynotes and workshops by festival partners. Here we build bridges and consolidate links between the city-wide conversations and exploratory tours.

The HUBS

Acting as both thematic and physical beacons for **MakeCity**, **Urban Hubs** are mid- to large-scale sites that will make most of the international network of talent and expertise brought together within the city for the duration of the festival. Galleries, numerous European cultural centres and innovative architecture and urban design partners collaborate and bring about a range of activities – from exhibitions to bicycle tours to hackathons and debates. This year, the **Urban Hubs** include: The *Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Berlin*, *Refugio*, *Technische Universität Berlin*, the *College of Fine Arts Berlin (UdK)*, the *Alte Münze*, ground floor sites such as *Feld-Fünf*, *Markthalle Neun*, and new socio-commercial developments such as *LOBE* in Berlin Wedding.

Make City Open (MCO) Tours

MakeCity Open encompass behind the scenes tours and innovative Open House events, that invite the general public to engage in exploratory conversations on city-making. Tours include newly completed buildings and sites under construction, sites of urban production and the 'Berlin Mix' of living, working and craft, urban landscape design, innovative site reactivations of buildings and urban landscapes. The festival offers over 50 tours this year.

Studio Talks

Over thirty architects, landscape designers and agencies will host events in their studios and workspaces. The **MakeCity** partners will do more than just present their own work: **Studio Talks** feature topics relating to "**Berlin Remixing**" with a special focus on international exchange and dialogue. The format ranges from panel discussions and book launches to open workshops, barbecues, rooftop screenings and happenings.



FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

Opening the festival, a discussion on *Cities for People?* brings together leading decision makers to outline new alliances for climate initiatives, participatory urbanism and social coalitions for fairer, and more environmentally sustainable cities. The SESC model – a unique way of financing cultural spaces and sports in cities will feature here. **Tina Saaby Madsen** (Chief City Architect, Copenhagen, DK), **Paula Verhoeven** (Manager Rotterdam Climate Initiative, NL), **Mary-Ann Schreuers** (Vice-Mayor City of Eindhoven, NL), **Katrin Lompscher** (Senator, Senate Department for Urban Development and Housing Berlin, DE) and **Ada Colau Ballano** (Mayor of Barcelona, ES) outline leading policy visions for new forms of social contracts that make for greater resilience and new civic governance models. **Michel Bauwens**, founder of the Peer 2 Peer Foundation, and **Daniel Dahm**, ecologist and entrepreneur, reflect upon the radical implications of share economies for urban societies. Civic Labs – *Mind Lab, Denmark, Participatory City*, London, and *Haus der Statistik*, Berlin will foreground forms of agency that lead to new coalitions and civic empowerment. The *Urban Hub Refugio* will be a site with a special focus on spatial politics of migration and cultural integration – as European cities experience a demographic ‘remix’.

Land speculation, and the social responsibility that comes with ownership, will also be discussed against the backdrop of dramatic rises in land values and housing costs in the growing metropolis. The *Senate Department for Urban Development and Housing* will offer *MCO tours* in Berlin Mitte near Alexanderplatz – an area largely still in the hands of the Berlin state - and relate future concepts for a more intelligent mixed-use development.

Shouldn't We All Be Developers? looks realistically at the notion of the architect as developer, and the developer as engaged amateur, and how to step beyond risk-averse financing in order to innovate. With **Roger Zogolovitch**, UK, ethical banking experts, the Spanish cooperative **La Borda** – that overcame austerity economics to finance new housing, and an artists' collective from Los Angeles that has become owner and developer of several hectares of residential studios in 21 days.

Architects **Deadline, IFAU** and **Heide von Beckerrath**, offer *MCO Tours* of the newly completed sites and reveal their ‘Berlin Model’ for residential architecture that combines ownership with cooperative models – mixing the commercial with the social. As an urban hub, **Markthalle Neun** open up new fields and economies for urban food production – as both micro-economies and social projects (with **Quartiermeister** and **Infarm**).

New cycles of material production and re-use will be featured with leaders in the field of experimental design including *CITA's Martin Tamke* (DK), and *Innochain, C-B-A Architecture – Paolo Bercach* – present an urban wood building constructed with modular elements in 21 days. The *Urban Hub* at *Rollberg*, in Neukölln, devised by *Arup, Hütten&Paläste*, and *Eike Roswag-Klinge* with *Design Build* (TU Berlin) will extend the festival themes of the circular city with exhibitions and a symposium.

The radical re-think on urban territories by *Skid Row Housing* (Los Angeles, US) and *Querstadtein* is ushered in by tours and re-mappings that upturn conventional perceptions of urban zones.

Those looking for the next level in building logistics and construction can take an *MCO Tour* to the *Rem Koolhaas* site for *Axel Springer*.



ARCHITECTURE / SPACE

New living models, mixed typologies and co-housing concepts are a major feature here. Building for increasing cultural diversity in cities, and responding to rapidly changing demographics are key issues when „*Berlin Remixing*“ comes into play. Multi-functionality is writ large amongst the new architecture and urban spaces featured both within the festival centre and with the *MCO Tours* and *Studio Talks*. We take a new look at the avant-garde aspects of the Berlin Block structure devised by *Hobrecht* and his compatriots in the 1860's – as ideal models for flexible built environments that can support a broad range of residential types, crafts production and small-scale enterprises. Both newly developed – and established but contested – Berlin 'Höfe' – courtyards dating back to 19th sites, as well as new builds for mixed-uses will be open to the public.

Remixing, here also applies to uncompromising approaches to construction waste in the interest of re-use, upcycling and adaptability. *Buildings as tomorrow's resources?* European cities are confronted with the results of long-term cutbacks in the public sector – yet empty banks, theatres, churches, swimming pools can be occupied, re-invested with transformative uses, and smartly repurposed: *Re-Use Total* will feature *Jean-Philippe Vassal* (Lacaton & Vassal Architects), the *Sentalen* project stunningly repurposed in Oslo, *Lene Damsbo Brix* (Lendager Group Architects, DK - who are sent to re-use virtually every piece of a former industrial site in Sweden), and *Eva Prats* (Flores & Prats, Sala Beckett, ES). The current protagonists of the *Alte Münze* (old Mint), a large-scale contested site for temporary use, will curate *MCO Tours* on their socio-cultural perspectives for future development. The *Industriesalon Schöneweide* offers *MCO tours* addressing the contested future of an industrial heritage site – the implications of private developers being given free rein.

Berlin Remixing also dives into the crucial question of education – and the architecture that supports this. Berlin's 'School Offensive', with 60 new schools planned over the next few years, is the backdrop for *New Schools of Thought*. We look abroad – to Finland – for the most radical school buildings and models. And to the avant-garde – *Zvi Hecker* (Heinz Galinski School in Berlin, IL/DE) for whom a school is an unfolding book, as well as *Riina Palva* (VERSTAS, FI) and *Markuu Lang* (Future Classroom Lab of the European Schoolnet, FI). The *Nordic Embassies* are also featuring Scandinavian school architecture at their Hub, in the *Felleshus*.

Material possibilities in architecture, where clay construction meets the 3D Printer, - '*Technologies vs. Materials*' will look at ways in which digital tools transform traditional building methods without losing the elegant resourcefulness and efficiency of low-tech architecture. Also featuring *Caitlin Mueller* (Director of Digital Structures, MIT, US), *Selen Ercan* (Research Assistant SEC-FCL, Singapore, Chair for Architecture and Digital Fabrication, ETH Zürich, CH/SG). Award-winning architect *Anupama Kudoo* offers a counterweight to digital excess: "My work is to find alternative solutions to build using significantly less materials, and action them." In an *Urban Hub* symposium, architect *Bettina Götz* offers an excursion into the *Principles of the unfinished*. She asks: can fragmentation; the practice of leaving bits out, be a strategy for urban planning?

In times of spatial scarcity, where small-scale enterprises – and urban production are forced to move to the outer peripheries of cities, *MakeCity* also features ground floor sites – potential, and exemplary built projects and temporary interventions, as a densification of mixed use to enliven otherwise mono-functional residential areas.



Award-winning practices **Bureau SLA** and **SUPERUSE** – both architecture practices with a mission to re-use – are installing **Stadtwerken @ MakeCity 2018** in a prefab-housing district in Berlin's district of Hohenschönhausen. Here, they will display plastic tiles, refashioned from domestic waste, and re-purposed blades for playground design – and set the stage for upcycling workshops in a special cooperation with the new foundation, **Stiftung Stadtkultur**, created by the social housing company, **Howoge**.

The **MakeCity** formats enable a first-hand look behind the scenes: the material potential of wood-built urban architecture can be discovered in a number of excursions, including the large-scale **FLEXIM** production site in Marzahn by **Eike Roswag-Klinge**, and in Studio Talks by **Sauerbruch Hutton**, amongst others. Models for co-living and cooperative housing will include the shared residential development for pensioners, devised by the social housing company, **Gewobag**.

URBAN / NATURE

As cities are increasingly confronted with the lasting effects of climate change, urban nature and landscapes are necessarily rethought and designed by landscape architects to cope with extremer conditions. Flooding can transform a public space into a lake in a matter of days. **Urban / Nature** opens up broad themes for hybridised urban landscape designs as a result of this phenomenon. The interplay between urban landscapes and nature is a key concept within the festival and one that involves international concepts for re-use cycles and new urban ecologies. Germany intends to accommodate the notion of a right to green environments into the constitution. Green infrastructure needs to be ingeniously interwoven with conventional grey infrastructure. We discuss the creation of so-called third spaces; **New Ecologies**, where the cooperative meets the ecological enterprise: urban food production and the reactivation of central spaces within the urban landscape generate a civic economy and renewed sense of community. Protagonists include **Simon Laisné** and **Paul Citron** (Plateau Urbain – Les Grand Voisins, Paris), **Florian Niedermeier** and **Nikolaus Driessen** (Markthalle Neun, Berlin) and **Siemen Cox** (Tropicana, Rotterdam, NL). **Siemen Cox** speaks of a re-activated theme park as an entirely cyclical and self-sustaining entity. Such micro-economies within cities shift our perceptions of urban ecologies and open up entirely new realms for planning, both by architecture and nature for long-term resilience in a way that incorporates community building.

The City As A Climate Machine – Climate Change and New Urban Landscapes at the festival centre will feature leading city planners and architects rethinking the city space as a result of climate change – with **Duzan Doepel** (Doepel Strijkers, NL), **Lykke Leonardsen** (Head of Climate Unit in Copenhagen DK) and **Hannes Schwertfeger** (Bureau Baubotanik, Stuttgart). Infrastructure is re-tuned to support and shape green environments, public spaces in cities take on different functions depending on weather conditions.

Whilst **Studio Talks** and **MCO tours** by leading landscape architects will feature key projects at the city's inner and outer peripheries, the **Urban Hub Markthalle Neun** is a focal point for excursions and debates on the local economies of food production in cities, featuring aquaponic and interior urban farming (**Infarm**), breweries that incorporate a strong social agenda within their enterprise, (**Quartiermeister**) and urging for more transparency in the food production cycles of cities with a special **MCO** to the **Berliner Großmarkt** on its planned redevelopment. As cooperatives and initiatives linking urban and rural space become a growing phenomenon in cities, **Hütten und Paläste Architekten** will develop a special **MakeCity Open** event in **Prädikow**, Brandenburg on the final weekend – an exchange between community builders on this new urban-rural paradigm.



Hybrid forms and performative interventions that meld infrastructure and nature will also feature within *MakeCity*. *Hans Walter Müller* (engineer, artist and architect) and *Jean-Philippe Vassal* will install an inflatable structure at Ernst Reuter Platz, *Something Fantastic* will occupy the street, and the musician *Christopher Dell*, will meld music and urban theory in a live composition at *Architekturforum Aedes*.

MakeCity will, of course, also feature a great number of Berlin-wide events during the *Tag der Architektur* (Day Of Architecture) on 23rd-24th June 2018.

www.makecity.berlin

Main Festival Partners are: Lotto Stiftung Berlin, Senat für Stadtentwicklung und Wohnen, Creative Industries Fund NL, Architektenkammer Berlin, VHW Bundesverband für Wohnen und Stadtentwicklung, Dan Pearlman Group.

Press photos are ready for download **[here](#)**.

For further information and interview requests with any of the festival protagonists as well as festival founder, *Francesca Ferguson*, please contact: Press@make-shift.info