



## Press Release

### **MAKE CITY: A Festival for Architecture and Urban Alternatives** **Re Sourcing the Urban**

**From 11–28 June 2015, Berlin will become a centre for national and international architecture and the creative community. MAKE CITY invites you to participate in this event, with 100 founding partners and over 125 events, studio talks, tours, exhibitions, interventions: MAKE CITY OPEN!**

**Berlin, 8 April 2015.** From 11–28 June, the Festival for Architecture and Urban Alternatives will be founded in Berlin. Berlin is one of Europe's major growing metropolitan areas, and with its history as a reunified city offers the space and opportunity to do things differently. There is hardly a comparable city in the world with such a burgeoning discourse on architecture, urban planning, open urban spaces, and civic participation. The discourse is being defined not only by architects and urban planners, but by a broad-based creative scene, by numerous civic platforms and political round tables. MAKE CITY is participatory from the ground up. Over 100 founding partners from the city and the creative economy are supporting the festival financially and are co-designing the programme, now available on our website [www.makecity.berlin](http://www.makecity.berlin).

Berlin is undergoing a fundamental paradigm shift. Maintaining open urban spaces as urban commons and developing design strategies that enable innovative and sustainable urban planning are challenges that are increasingly countered by the growing need for affordable living space and the interests of developers. MAKE CITY has evolved as a result of this shift, and is founded upon the premise that Berlin still has a chance to make and think city differently. The festival will embed itself throughout Berlin with numerous different formats – from salon talks, fieldwork and workshops to screenings, conferences, competitions and exhibitions – at different scales with partners throughout the city. 'We will show and discuss successful possibilities for collaboration, entirely new ecological and economical approaches to our urban resources, and new architecture that redefines the boundaries between public and private space', according to **Francesca Ferguson**, the festival's initiator. 'Berlin has found something it didn't expect: that it is not defined like other cities by its wealth or its industry or its commerce, but rather surprisingly by its own fascinating complexity and contradictions', as **David Chipperfield** puts it.

To bring together the diversity of the festival in the city as a whole, MAKE CITY will create an international debate around 3 key themes of '**Re\_Sourcing the Urban**': **1. The urban commons** – urban landscapes and designing, renegotiating commons. **2. New designs for urban Living/Working**, from 'Baugruppen', co-housing, to projects that pioneer for a mixture hybrid live/work cultures and spaces. **3. Urban open source**: the economy of sharing and co-designing, participatory planning processes and strategies for urban resilience.

#### **The Festival Centre**

The Czech Cultural Centre in Berlin Mitte, an extraordinary 1970's building at the heart of the city will serve as the festival's headquarters for all three weekends, (Thursday – Saturday) and will unify the city-wide conversation. Experts including **Massimo De Angelis**, **Fran Tonkiss**, **Indy Johar**, **Dan Hill**, **Adam Greenfield**, **Aristide Antonas**, and **Richard Sennett** will discuss designing the commons and urban



resilience, a city's ability to react to economic and political change by way of participative processes. For example, we see the emergence and growth of initiatives of 'green urbanism', advocating intelligent greenhouses, intercultural garden projects, environmentally friendly urban farming systems, that have an impact on social structures and urban culture. For the focus Designing Commons, the **London School of Economics** and **Richard Sennett's foundation Theatrum Mundi** are the MAKE CITY's partners.

Local initiatives like **Flussbad e.V.** and **Stadt Neudenken** will discuss mechanisms of alternative urban development with the author of 'Self Made City' **Kristien Ring** (AA Projects) and other guests. **Dan Pearlman** will speak with academics, urban planners, and policymakers on 'new hybrid work worlds', and how the needs of various target groups also require a look at economic aspects. Landscape architects **Atelier Loidl**, **Topotek 1**, **A24** and **SINAI** will look at the subject 'Volkspark 2.0: The Smart Parks of the Contemporary City'.

### **Additional Festival Hubs in the City**

Besides the Czech Centre, there will be various other 'festival hubs' in the city, including the **Heinrich Böll-Stiftung**, **Deutsches Architektur Zentrum (DAZ)**, **Technische Universität Berlin**, and several other **European cultural institutes** (including the UK, Italy, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, and Spain). They all will be exploring the core subjects of the festival and contributing to MAKE CITY with exhibitions, conferences, or interventions in urban space. DAZ, for example, will be showing the exhibition 'Urban Living', and will offer two accompanying Y-Table Talks. Berlin's TU will be holding the conference 'Beware of Smart People'. **Actors of Urban Change**, a collaborative effort of the **Robert Bosch Stiftung** and **Mitost e.V.**, are preparing an exhibition at C60, a collaborative space, for MAKE CITY. The programme promotes sustainable and participative urban development in the European context by enabling actors from culture, government, and business to strengthen their competence for trans-sectoral collaboration. With the support of the **British Council**, MAKE CITY will be presenting Germany's first Maker's Library with the practice **Elegant Embellishments**, Berlin. The team redesigned its architectural office to create a meeting point, a reading and design space, offering workshops and access to mentoring programmes.

### **A multiplicity of formats and Partners: Studio Talks, Urban Tours 'Make City Open'**

During MAKE CITY, 30 curated **Studio Talks** will take place at various venues Sauerbruch Hutton, Ortner & Ortner, David Chipperfield Architects, Something Fantastic, Topotek 1, A24, SINAI, Heide & von Beckerath, ROBERTNEUN, roedig.schop, Ludloff + Ludloff Architekten, bf studio Architekten, Artis, Staab Architekten, Nägeliarchitekten, and Glockenweiß. Around 40 specially conceived **urban tours** MAKE CITY OPEN by Niche, Ticket B, and the MAKE CITY team will explore the neighbourhoods of the city, like Spreefeld, Gleisdreieckpark, or SOS Kinderdorf at Tempelhofer Feld. They will provide rare insights into joint construction projects, new residential construction, urban landscapes, and forgotten and undiscovered architectures of the city that are otherwise not open to the public. Interventions and installations in public space will also take place as part of the festival. The festival culminates in **Tag der Architektur XL** (27–28 June 2015), hosted by Architektenkammer Berlin, located in the listed Mendelssohngebäude in Berlin-Kreuzberg, and shows the exhibition 'Berlin.Istanbul'. Urban Photography, a cooperation between **BAU International Berlin** and **Kunstbrücke Istanbul Berlin**, Bahçeşehir University, Istanbul.

'MAKE CITY has the potential to be a major step towards a new direction in user-based urban development, initiated by way of activism, architecture, design, and the arts, and reaching out to politics, business, and to all of us, the common people.' says **Jörg Stollmann**, Vice Dean of Architecture & Urban Planning, TU Berlin.



**Main Partners and Sponsors of MAKE CITY:**

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung e.V., Architektenkammer Berlin, Czech Centre, Institut Français Berlin, Perspective, Ziegert – Bank- und Immobilienconsulting GmbH, Big Board a.s., Stassen LLP Rechtsanwälte und Notare

**Founding Partners of MAKE CITY**

Including: Roedig Schop Architekten & Institut für urbanen Holzbau, Sauerbruch Hutton Architects, Jovis und De Gruyter Verlag, Theatrum Mundi, Dan Pearlman, Graft Architects, Atelier Loidl, Nägeliarchitekten, die Zusammenarbeiter, Holzer Kobler Architekturen, ROBERTNEUN™ Architekten, Ludloff & Ludloff, Stadt Neu Denken & Runder Tisch der Liegenschaftspolitik, Axel Haubrok, AIT Architektursalon, Andreas Foidl, Berliner Großmarkt, DAZ, M.S. Schiffskontor GmbH, Visitberlin, Design Akademie Berlin, uncube magazine, and Ticket B. For a complete list: [www.makecity.berlin](http://www.makecity.berlin)

The festival is being organized by Make\_Shift gGmbH, a non-profit organisation for architecture and urban planning. **Initiator:** Francesca Ferguson (Curator and Architecture critic). **Members of the advisory board:** Dr. Thomas Herr (CEO, Valteq GmbH), Matthias Mai (CEO Mai PR), Andreas Krüger (CEO Belius GmbH), Kristin Feireiss (Aedes ANCB), Gabriele Horn (director, KW Berlin), Christine Edmaier (President, Architektenkammer Berlin), Prof. Rainer W. Ernst (Architect, BDA), Jürgen Mayer H (Architect).

MAKE CITY is conceived as an open format and invites experts and all those interested in making the city to participate in the conversation. The festival will feature a festival journal. Admission is free. Since there is only limited seating available for each event, we request that you note the registration conditions.

**[www.makecity.berlin](http://www.makecity.berlin)**

The new website for MAKE CITY is online as of today. The events calendar will expand over the next few days and weeks.

In the press area, media representatives can find visual material with the relevant credits.

**Press contact:**

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