



Press Release

MAKE CITY – The Festival For Architecture and Urban Alternatives

Countdown 3 weeks: On 11 June 11 the architecture festival MAKE CITY begins / Berlin will engage in a citywide conversation on thinking and making city differently / Three weeks with over 150 Events / Free Entry / Register Online now at www.make.city.berlin

Berlin, 18.05.2015. MAKE CITY is Berlin's first citywide Festival for Architecture. It has been conceived and co-designed in and out of Berlin, at a time when investors and developers are attracted to the city as never before, and Berlin's public lands and commons are an increasingly precious resource. Over 100 partners; local and international experts will compare urban situations, models and possibilities. "In Berlin there are architectural and urban prototypes evolving that extend the boundaries of urban planning and question conventional design processes. We are therefore inviting city-makers from the architecture scene, from creative industries, civic groups, local initiatives, political mediators and Berliners in a citywide conversation on new urban models and participatory strategies" declares **Francesca Ferguson**, founder of the festival.

The founding partners of MAKE CITY who have made this festival possible, are not only presenting their projects and concepts, rather they have developed events – Studio Talks, Tours, Open House invitations, where they discuss the key themes and questions of the festival. Who owns our urban waterways and walkways? Is there such a thing as feminine space? Are we building for the patchwork family? Is co-housing the answer for the 'precariat'? Can we design commons and resilience? MAKE CITY has three Key Themes:

1. The urban commons

Commons are seen as an effective way to manage natural resources. The commons as a strategy for urban life remains barely explored. New urban commons have almost never been proactively designed – according to Theatrum Mundi, the foundation that has initiated the international competition on 'designing commons'. The festival launches with a keynote by **Massimo de Angelis** (11.06.), an accompanying panel and an exhibition. Landscape architects **Atelier Loidl**, **Topotek 1**, **A24** and **SINAI** will discuss „Smart Parks“ – new urban landscapes in which the borders between public and private space are rethought. On board of the M.S. Schiffskontor **Christian Schöningh** and **Dr. Michael LaFond** will talk about the urban waterways and riverbanks as commons to be protected (14.06.). **Atelier Loidl**, **Robertneun** and **Heide & von Beckerath** guide us through the Park at Gleisdreieck, a large-scale transformation of urban infrastructure and border zones into a state of the art park. The new residential housing at its margins have been designed by 'Baugruppen', private investors and international developers (13.06.). The landscape architects **Atelier le Balto** invite to celebrate 10 years of the project "Whereisthegarden?" behind the Hamburger Bahnhof, one of many hidden gardens designed in interstitial sites (21.06.).

2. Urban Living and Working

MAKE CITY will present a cutting edge mix of urban workspaces, residential architecture and new models of living. "The festival offers the perfect opportunity to present self-initiated urban concepts; projects at the heart of Berlin's recent development" declares **Kristien Ring**, AA Projects. She will moderate the Panel "Self Made City" at the festival centre and is curator of the "Urban Living" exhibition at the **DAZ – German Architecture Centre**. DIY is no longer enough – we need to Do-It-Together. The founders of the **Institute of Creative Sustainability** explore co-working, co-housing and community gardening – at Spreefeld, Spreeacker, and TeePee Land. They show – in the 'city of singles', what models for living exist to



overcome isolation (13.06.). On the same day **Beginenwerk e.V.** will present the collective residential project by and for women. 600 000 women live in Berlin – alone. A situation that calls out for contemporary and intelligent architectural concepts. Since 2012 the tenants association **Kotti & Co** has protested the rising cost of rents in social housing developments. The MAKE CITY OPEN tour by **Ticket B** will present the 'New Kreuzberger Centre' as an ambitious model for self-organisation by its tenants (14.06). MAKE CITY will also be rethinking – and discovering – architectural typologies: 'option lots' in Mitte, with **Arno Brandhuber** and **Niche Tours** (12.06.), 'Courtyard 2.0' – **Artis + Ziegert Roswag Seiler** (12.06.), prefab housing remixed (14.06), ground floor reworked – (16.06. **BF bfstudio Architects**). Re_sourcing the urban also involves looking at the valuable resource of 1960's architecture and industrial heritage – transformed and rethought (19.06.), or concepts for the biggest rooftop in Berlin (Tempelhof Airport, with **Ziegert, Roswag Seiler**). The **Bauhütte in Südliche Friedrichstadt** – one of the biggest urban areas under renewal in Berlin – will be the site for numerous events on the social imperatives of architecture. **AIT publishers** will present the Exhibition "Affordable Living, Housing for Everyone", and **Theatrum Mundi** "Designing the urban commons" both at the HO Berlin (11.- 28.06.). MAKE CITY will conclude with the Day of Architecture XL – the 20th Anniversary of the format by **Architektenkammer Berlin**, (27./28.06.) – with countless tours around the city.

3. Urban Open Source: Designing it Together

The third key theme of MAKE CITY is urban open source. The festival features participatory urban planning processes that go beyond 'top down vs bottom up' polarities. Berlin's public lands have been sold to the highest bidder for years. Will there be a conceptual model for new value-generating development of the city's spatial resources? **Andreas Krüger**, **Christian Schöningh**, and international partners discuss the Berlin Model (11.06.). MAKE CITY evolves a discourse from and with the design and maker scene, showing how the civic economy changes our perceptions of urban governance fundamentally. Keynotes: **Fran Tonkiss (LSE cities programme)** (18.06.), **Indy Johar** and **Dan Hill** join activists and city administrators (19.06.). **Liebscher Tauber + Tauber architects** bring the Baugruppen architects, residents, and designers together to devise participation as a ludic strategy (14.06.). The project **Hack Your City** with the **Open Knowledge Foundation** – part of the Science Year 2015, City of the Future – brings citizens together with young scientists, developers, architects and designers. These will devise hacks and solutions to real urban problems (20.06). **GRAFT** architects and **Triad Berlin** will discuss the consequences of the referendum to stop housing and landscape architecture on and around the urban commons of Tempelhof Airfield (18.06.). The **Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung** has developed four days of international knowledge transfer on participatory urban planning, with examples drawn from Switzerland, the Netherlands, Germany, Brasil and Nigeria (17.06.). **Actors of Urban Change**, a programme by the **Robert Bosch Stiftung** in cooperation with **MitOst e.V.** will feature an exhibition on collaborative urban design. According to Keynote Speaker **Adam Greenfield** "The smartest cities rely on citizen cunning and unglamorous technology." (19.06). The TU Berlin questions the Smart City imperative in an international symposium on 20 June.

The entire programme is on www.makecity.berlin. A bi-lingual festival newspaper has been produced for MAKE CITY.

MAKE CITY Festival Centre

The Czech Centre at the heart of Berlin Mitte will, from Thursday – Saturday be the central hub of the festival's international discourse. The entire programme has been made possible by **The Science Year 2015 – City of the Future**, (Federal Ministry of Education and Research).



Festival Hubs, Studio Talks, Make City Open and Open-House in Berlin

MAKE CITY features over 24 further urban hubs, including the **Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung**, the **Deutsche Architektur Zentrum (DAZ)**, the **Technische Universität Berlin** and cultural institutes and galleries of EUNIC – European cultural centres (including the UK, Italy, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, and Spain). A further 30 Studio Talks, largely devised by the founding partners of the festival, and 40 Make City Open tours with Open House events round off a dense and thematically focussed programme.

Entry and Registration

MAKE CITY is an open format. Entry to all events is free. Many events require registering via the website due to limited seating. The festival is bi-lingual and from 18th May visitors can register on www.makecity.berlin.

Main Partners and Sponsors for MAKE CITY

Science Year 2015 – City of the Future, Ziegert – Bank- and Property consulting, Big Board a.s., Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, Architektenkammer Berlin, Stassen LLP, Czech Centre Berlin, Ton, AIT Architektursalon, Perspectives programme of the French Institute.

MAKE CITY has been founded and produced by Make_Shift gGmbH a non-profit association for architecture and urban design.

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