

Press Release from June 21, 2018



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#### HALF-TIME for MakeCity:

##### International expert panels und exploratory tours make for booked-out events

Just one week after its launch on June 14, MakeCity - Germany's biggest festival for architecture and urban alternatives, has been attended by a large number of visitors. Particularly popular are the MakeCity Open tours: offering more than 80 tours of lesser-known buildings and construction sites across the city, and already generating waiting lists. Expert panel discussions in the festival center are also well-attended, due to their insight into current issues and international exchange. The first 90 events of the festival have reported **overall attendance of 85%**. Another 190 events – including highlights in cooperation with the **Day of Architecture** on 23/24 June – are yet to come. The extensive MakeCity programme has been co-designed by over 100 festival partners. In total, 16,000 visitors are expected by 1 of July.

Above all, the critical discussions at the festival on key urban issues ignite the desire for more. Leading figures in municipal government have pointed out the crisis of trust between the administration and the civic initiatives, particularly in the face of unchecked land speculation. At the launch of the **Day of Architecture**, in partnership with MakeCity, **Britta Jürgens** of Deadline declared that it is a small step for investors to reduce their profit margins and invest in mixed-use developments that activate the ground floor, rather than invest in mono-functional buildings. Architects at MakeCity are showing numerous ways in which they go beyond their standard brief, forging a social agenda for buildings and in neighbourhoods. Civic coalitions with political entities for social justice, civic enterprise, and commons in cities is a high priority for the European Union: director of the P2P foundation, **Michel Bauwens**: *"We need to go beyond national borders in order to create leagues of cities!"*



Prague: new structures for an old town © Jenna Dahlwitz

## First results and a look at MakeCity events to come:

**Schools of the future!** In **New Schools of Thought**, at the MakeCity festival centre, **Michael Fröhlich**, AFF, **Susanne Hofmann**, Baupiloten, and **VESTAS** from Finland presented radically open floor plans, communal spaces and niches, designed by hacking strict regulations and building norms. In Berlin, smaller practices are locked out of competings for over 50 new schools; instead the entire process will be steered by large-scale general planners and the HOWOGE association – a reality vociferously protested by all architects present. The urgent debate on school typologies continues at [AFF's Studio Talk on 21st June](#) and will be among issues raised at the [final symposium and evaluation on June 30](#) with party representatives for urban development and the Chamber of Architects.

**Antje Kapek**, chairperson of the Green Party, urged that “with land price escalations of 800% in Berlin - the highest worldwide - there is a real need to negotiate with investors.” In [Shouldn't We All Be Developers at the festival centre, 22 June](#), renowned conceptual developer **Roger Zogolovitch**, will take the next logical step, calling out for architects to take intelligent real estate development into their own hands. Yet, as **Paolo Bercia** of **c-B-A** will point out in his [Studio Talk on 27 June](#): current land prices mean that before architectural design has even begun, the m<sup>2</sup> price lies at 5000 Euros in Berlin. In this financial reality, this modular wood-built 5-storey building could remain a rare exception – even if [“Wood is the New Good”](#), according to **Sauerbruch Hutton**: Resourceful building is needed more than ever, yet to [Anupama Kundoo](#), award-winning architect, it is *“We don't need smart materials and cities, we need smart people!”*

The need to regulate this rampant speculation and move towards a social contract for cities in negotiation with private capital will be paramount in the discussion [“Does Ownership Come with Responsibility?”](#) with initiators of a federal land trust. Will large tracts of urban land and infrastructure be developed by corporations i.e. as in **Google Urbanism?** **Manfred Kühne**, project lead for major large-scale developments at the Senate for Urban Development pointed out the co-opting of the Berlin Blocks for neo-liberal enterprises, which give nothing back to the community. On [28 June in the Festival Centre](#) the keynote from FabLab leader **Tomas Diez** will herald a critical discussion with **Linda Vlassenrood** of **DATastudio**, **Eindhoven** and place-makers - on the current power of private capital to determine how cities are logistically planned. The [SurReal estate agency exhibition](#) at Alte Münze parodies Berlin's critical situation.



Project Room at Metropolenhaus © NomadbyChoice

This reality threatens the possibility of intelligent mixed-use in the city: The key components for a mix of living, working and social spaces will be presented at newly completed developments in **MCO Tours and Studio Talks**: of the city's first Gewerbebaugruppe, by [Deadline](#), funding systems where ownership of residential units is combined with cooperative housing and highly flexible ground-floor constellations for small businesses (**ARGE** from ifau and **Heide von Beckerrath**). **Matthew Griffin** from **Deadline**: *“Our development is a city within the city. We started with a naked infrastructure, and are now creating an extremely diverse space for all kinds of small to mid-scale businesses: from single ateliers to open offices to hotel rooms.”* **Praeger Richter**'s [Ausbauhaus in Neukölln on 20 June](#), is also focused on maximum flexibility and so will the debate on stripped down architectural infrastructures [“Naked Infrastructures” on 23 June](#): With **Hubert Klumpner** from Urban Think Tank and **Mark Köhler** of Superlofts where architecture stripped to the minimum and built up by the user can cut m<sup>2</sup> prices by half. **Jean Philippe Vassal**, Keynote speaker at **Re-use Total**: *“Do as little as possible – it's about maximising the space – it is not always about the material!”*

However, material minimalism is not the only answer – today's buildings increasingly need adaptations for climate change. Indigo Architects from Ahmedabad pointed out the raw concrete terraced building by Arno Brandhuber in **Studio Talk at LOBE**: the limitations on dealing with rainwater on such an iconic structure has not been thought through, and concrete may be beautiful but can be climatically disastrous. At the [Circular Hub – Rollberg Neukölln on 26 June](#), discussion on circular thinking continues, incorporating climate change and re-use and re-thinking material cycles. **Florian Doer** of De Urbanisten's solutions for flooded areas by the river in Rotterdam, creating new islands and biotopes ingeniously using the infrastructure of sewage systems for green sidewalks that catch rainwater: *“For this, all sectors of engineering, logistics and municipalities need smarter coordination from the start!”*

How to incorporate this knowledge of re-use and maximising resources at local level: **Stadtwerkstätten** – the ground floor initiative by Stiftung Stadtkultur – with **SUPERUSE** and **bureau SLA**'s ingenious recycling strategies, shows with [hands-on workshops by Material Mafia on 23/24 June](#) and talks [how plastic waste is turned to building material](#). For the ground floor as a crucial resource for more diverse districts see **roedig.schop** at their [urban hub](#). See also the MCO walking debates at the [Gerichtshöfe](#) and the [Wiesenburg](#), and at [Molkenmarkt](#) on 26 June with local politicians, studios representatives, **Martin Schwegmann** and **Berlin**



Kreativ Kollektiv e.V.; all of them looking at the need for the Berlin Remix in districts and ground level in cities.



Berlin3000 at Berliner Ensemble © NomadbyChoice

**With space at an absolute premium in cities:** What of vast megastructures, such as THF with its 300.000 m<sup>2</sup> of space? ICC – (25 600 m<sup>2</sup>) has been empty since 2008. At **CityLAB** tour and discussion with **Senate for Urban Development** and the Open Knowledge Foundation, experts urged a kickstart this year for a temporary use of its hangars. Models for smart city labs throughout Europe were presented, shaped by numerous digital enterprises and fab lab/maker organisations. Such enterprises critically need space to develop in Berlin yet at present, the municipality has not 1 Euro budget for heritage preservation as biggest heritage building in the city, and only 1/3 of funding needed for urgent renovation. Only a tiny gatehouse of 15m<sup>2</sup> will be available for temporary use. The critical discussion on spatial resources continues at [REMIX XXL on 21 June](#) – with **Pascal Thirion** and **Something Fantastic** at the Festival Centre.

**What will really shape and fuel the Senat's Citylab Project?** Digital futures, incubators for urban tech and infrastructure startups, civic agencies? On **June 27** "[Make City. Make Berlin](#)" at the Festival Centre, **Berlin Partners** matchmake and pitch with urban enterprises from **Radbahn** to **Urban Coop** to define a possible direction. At **Bötzow Brauerei** the [Textile prototyping lab](#), with Vitra Design Museum and the Maker scene discuss the crucial need for spaces with technological means to promote innovation in urban production and fabrication. Yet, states **Manfred Kühne**, there is at present absolutely no coordination or connection between major sites such as **Tegel** (the future urban tech republic), **Tempelhof** (future site for experimentation), and the research centre **Adlershof**. **Schöneeweide** is an industrial centre and heritage site, a jewel for future business development – also with no clear development agenda. The [MCO by the Industriesalon on 23 and on 28 June](#) gives a critical review of this area.

**Finally, on remixing cities for integration:** **Sarah Dallas Prosser** - key advisor to Oslo's municipal government - spoke of the need to empower social entrepreneurship amongst former migrant communities now resident in cities. "*Public private partnerships are not the answer! We need to make public social partnerships in future!*" At **Refugio**, the [Hub on integrative social design on 23 June](#) will debate integration and urban design, and [guided tours by Querstadtein on 23 June](#) will turn perceptions of urban fabric on its head as former refugees guide through the city. At the Festival Centre integrative urban planning and empowerment is key: "[From Arrival To Cooperative City](#)" on **28 June**. Spaces of the social like these are [creating an aesthetic that fosters community, exchange and enterprise](#).



Citywalk around the area of Berlinische Galerie © Jenna Dahlwitz

#### PRESS RESSOURCES

**Press Accreditation for the Festival Programme:** Due to limited places, many events require registration. We request that press register via email at the following address: [registration@make-shift.info](mailto:registration@make-shift.info) **Press Kit:** Please view the press kit from the opening press conference of June 12, 2018 [here](#).

**A Programme Overview (online)** can be found [here](#).

**Programme Overview (pdf):** The extensive programme and a map showing the 103 event locations can be found in one document [here](#). Highlights and recommendations for the press are marked yellow.

**Presskit (pdf)** from the opening press conference in 12 June can be found [here](#). **Press Release for Festival Opening (pdf)** [here](#).

**Festival Magazine:** The Festival magazine (dt./engl.) offers a close insight into the above-mentioned themes through expert interviews and short, informative texts, introducing countless fascinating projects. 40,000 printed copies are circulated at the Festival Centre and event sites; the magazine will appear as a supplement to the *taz. die tageszeitung* on June 9. A preview of the Festival magazine can be found [here](#).

**Fresh Festival pictures, further press images and information:**

<http://makecity.berlin/en/press/>

<https://www.artefakt-berlin.de/en/current-projects/makecity-berlin/>

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