

Press Release from June 12, 2018



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## MakeCity 2018: Press Release for Festival Opening

### “Solidarity instead of competition” – the international MakeCity Festival for Architecture and Urban Alternatives begins on June 14 in Berlin

MakeCity kicked off today with a press conference in the Czech Centre Berlin: the biggest Festival for architecture and urban alternatives in Germany. Approximately 20,000 visitors are expected to attend from June 14 to July 1. On the conference podium, representatives from architecture, urban planning, and politics came together to say: for the future development of a living and liveable city, it's time to ask the residents themselves! The motto **Berlin Remixing | Stadt Neu Gemischt** encourages urban inhabitants to get involved, to question decisions, and actively shape processes at work. With over 280 events across and outside Berlin, the Festival offers a diverse platform for public exchange for 18 days, focusing on cutting-setting projects from the fields of architecture, urban planning, and landscape planning, and including good-practice examples from the Berlin metropolis as well as international success stories.

Following its 2015 edition, MakeCity is taking place for the second time in Berlin: a conscious choice, as the engagement of over 100 event partners confirm: “*We stand*

*for a society that puts aside obstacles, appreciates all people just how they are, and puts solidarity in place of competition. In Berlin we have the chance to realise this model of society. Berlin can and should be a role model!"* states **Antje Kapek**, Chairperson of the Fraktion Bündnis 90/Die Grünen from the outset. That the Festival moves beyond just local perspectives is made clear by the list of well-known international contributors, who have travelled from afar, bringing examples from Los Angeles, Oslo, Rome and Copenhagen, Barcelona, Bratislava, or Ahmedabad.

The **trans-sectoral approach** – which bridges the disciplines of politics and administration, culture and the economy, urban planning and development, architecture and engineering, and design and production – is a further hallmark of the Festival. *"With Stadt Neu Gemischt – Berlin Remixing – we want to make clear, through international and resolved trans-disciplinary exchange, what exactly defines holistic thinking about city-making, architecture, living models, and the extension of the ideal Berlin mix. We transfer the idea of the 'remixed city' to typologies, urban landscapes, architectural materials, and more: we call for visitors to the festival to be actively involved!"* says founder and artistic director of MakeCity, **Francesca Ferguson**.

**Britta Jürgens (Deadline)**, member of the curatorial board, expands: *"MakeCity demonstrates just how lively and liveable cities can be, when the urban administration structures development such that citizens can bring their ideas, strengths and projects to the table!"* At the press conference, as one of these members of the curatorial board – outlining the key points for the core themes of the festival – Jürgens introduced the focus on **ARCHITECTURE / SPACE**. Here, the emphasis lies on developments as a result of constantly rising population figures, and the establishment of new, affordable housing and forms of living around alternative models of use, structural methods and finance models. She hopes that as a result of the Festival, *"MakeCity will encourage an even broader spectrum of urban society to be involved in thinking, planning and building Berlin!"*

The second core festival theme, **STRUCTURES / PROCESSES**, was addressed by architect and engineer **Jan Wurm (Head of Foresight + Innovation, ARUP)**, the notion of the *Circular City* – a closed-loop urban economy based entirely on recycling – plays a central role, integrating new social approaches to urban design, models of sharing and alternative forms of working together. A new "Berlin Model" is being

developed that should activate and take responsibility for more participation from urban initiatives. *“MakeCity Festival makes it possible to bring us together to exchange views on the topic of closed-loop circular economies in the building industry, in order to concretely prepare and introduce the shift to circular building processes in a Berlin context”*, he summed up.

For the landscape architect **Martin Rein-Cano (Founder Topotek 1)**, *“MakeCity is so important because it strengthens the process of exchange between developers and users, provides a public platform and through this, makes a differentiated examination possible between all levels – aesthetic, economic and political.”* He presented the theme **URBAN / NATURE**, which is featured by way of Studio Talks, MCO’s and top-level panels, on the blurry boundary between grey and green infrastructure. For him, the Festival should, above all, *“establish a broad and public consciousness for the themes and the discourse around sustainable urban development.”*

#### **What is on the cards for MakeCity in the coming years? Francesca Ferguson**

praised the developments that MakeCity has taken into its hands since 2015:

*“Although three years ago, the Senate was still hesitant, MakeCity today has become an integral component of Berlin's coalition agreement. The programme was significantly expanded, with many supporters involved for the second time. The Senate Office for Urban Development and Housing is one of the most important cooperation partners and the Stiftung Deutsche Klassenlotterie financially supported MakeCity this year.”* In light of these positive signals, the Festival founder and Artistic Director appeals for the establishment of MakeCity as a triennial.

The fact that the largest festival for architecture and urban alternatives has now found its home was also emphasised by Berlin's Senator for Urban Development and Housing, **Katrin Lompscher**: *“Berlin is the ideal place for MakeCity. The city is among the most exciting worldwide. One of our most important tasks is therefore to find clever urban development solutions for growth, while at the same time maintaining the social cohesion, the urban mix, the open spaces, and vibrant urban quarters that make Berlin so appealing.”* For her it is a logical consequence that the MakeCity Festival has become an integral part of the the coalition agreement, *“because the first festival in 2015 was a good reference”*. The Senator hopes that this year's festival will deliver discussion results *“that may be an inspiration for administrative arenas”*. **Antje Kapek** added: *“Please give us your ideas and let us enter into a mutual discussion about*

*them!" She would also like to receive an appropriate evaluation after the festival with "analysed results and recommendations for the coalition."*

In the following discussion, festival partner **Elke Ritt** from British Council did not speak in favour of more evaluations. *"Most of all, the festival needs long-term security for financial planning. This is my appeal to the Senate."*



The Czech Centre on the corner of Wilhelmstraße and Mohrenstraße is Festival Centre of MakeCity Berlin from June 14. © Tschechische Botschaft

## **PRESS RESSOURCES**

**Press Kit:** Please view the press kit from the opening press conference of June 12, 2018 [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](#).

**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.

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

**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)

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**Press images and information:**

<http://makecity.berlin/en/press/>  
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**Production MakeCity 2018:**

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