



Dresden, Prager Straße, Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer

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DAZ_AGENDA

IN DER ZUKUNFT LEBEN // LIVING IN THE FUTURE**The Impact of Post-War Urban Development on our Cities**

An Exhibition by the Association of German Architects BDA

11.09. – 15.11.2009

+++ Cities are constantly changing. Their urban structures represent different layers of time. IN DER ZUKUNFT LEBEN (Living in the future) portrays urban situations that are characteristic post-war urban developments in East and West Germany. Visual documents, interviews and films open up a view on the original designs as well as transformations until this day and point out the cultural identity of these urban spaces. The exhibition presents the Rheinstraße in Darmstadt and the Prager Straße in Dresden, both streets are intra-urban axes that influenced the cities' development. Housing developments in Halle-Neustadt and Bremen-Neue Vahr will be shown as well as Suhl in the Thuringian Forest and Friedrichshafen by Lake Constance to represent post-war architecture in middle-scale cities.+++

Exhibition: 11.09. – 15.11.2009 // DAZ Scharoun Saal
Tue to Fri 12.00 am – 7.00 pm, Sat+ Sun 2.00 pm – 7.00 pm.
Entrance free.

PRESS PREVIEW: 10.09.2009, 5.00 pm // DAZ Scharoun Saal

OPENING: 10.09.2009, 6.00 pm

Opening

10.09.2009, 6.00 pm // DAZ Taut Saal

Speakers:

Dr. Ulrich Hatzfeld, Head of Department for Urban Affairs at the Federal Ministry of Transport,
Building and Urban Affairs
Michael Frielinghaus, President BDA

CITY PORTRAITS by the exhibition authors:

Silke Steets / Darmstadt, Rheinstraße
Friederike Meyer / Dresden, Prager Straße
Jan Wenzel / Halle-Neustadt
Florian Heilmeyer / Bremen-Neue Vahr
Anne König / Suhl in the Thuringian Forest
David Kasperek / Friedrichshafen by Lake Constance

Presented by Kai Vöckler, Curator

Accompanying Program

05.11.2009, 7.00 pm // DAZ Taut Saal

RE-VISION IDEALS!

A symposium on the ideas and ideals of modernism and their impact on, and relevance for
life in the city of tomorrow.

13.11.2009, 7.00 pm // DAZ Taut Saal

POST-WAR MODERNISM IN GERMANY – Re-Imagining An Epoch

Podium discussion to accompany the launch of a new publication on planning strategies and
new guidelines for an appropriate contemporary treatment of the urban built environment
of the post-war modernist era.



Bremen-Neue Vahr, Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer

Berlin, September 2009. **Cities are constantly changing and therefore the urban topology may be said to represent different time-layers. The exhibition *LIVING IN THE FUTURE* features six exemplary urban situations that are characteristic for urban developments after World War II in both East and West Germany.**

Every city possesses some distinctive, unique and special characteristics – that persist in spite of constant change and any apparent similarities to other places. A city derives its own peculiarity from its particular conglomeration of buildings, public spaces and streets that stand for the various epochs throughout which they have arisen, and their respective social, political and aesthetic norms. A major impact was made on German cities by the era of post-war urban development between the nineteen fifties and the nineteen seventies. Roughly fifty percent of the built urban topology in Germany was constructed after 1945. Although it is hard to conceive any German city without its modern post-war structures, the latter is now under critical attack. With the persistent loss of important buildings from the era, questions must be raised about the validity of this architecture for the cultural identity of urban communities in Germany.

Modernism

The onset of the last century was expected to hail a new era in housing and working conditions that ensured humane living conditions for everyone. Light, air, and sun were the founding principles of architectural modernism. Post-war urban development in Germany was shaped by modernist conceptions of a hygienic, green and car friendly city. An acute shortage of housing provided the opportunity to implement modernist principles in architecture on a large scale. Throughout Europe, and in widely differing political systems, buildings and urban estates were constructed, applying new austere formal elements, and using new materials and techniques in line with the new ideas of efficiency and mass production. These buildings were expressions of a brilliant future. The specific attraction of post-war architecture remains evident today. However, for their successful continued use an impartial assessment of contemporary needs and changing social conditions is necessary. Climatic change and scarce resources, demographic changes and migration provide new challenges.

Exhibition

LIVING IN THE FUTURE provides an insight into current conceptions of post-war building and urban construction. The exhibition attempts an exemplary presentation of how cities deal with their architectural and urban legacy from the nineteen fifties through to the seventies. Six city portraits will represent relevant principles in architecture and urban development in West and East Germany as well as revealing what is unique about each one of them. Images and films, supplemented by interviews and other documentary material will recreate the cities' development from original plan until today as well as providing an insight into how these urban spaces provide a sense of cultural identity for the communities that live and work there.

The examples of *Rheinstrasse* in Darmstadt and *Prager Strasse* in Dresden have been selected to represent how the creation of major inner city thoroughfares has affected urban development. The big housing estates of Halle-Neustadt and Bremen's *Neue Vahr*, of Suhl in the Thuringian Forest and Friedrichshafen by Lake Constance should provide relevant examples of urban architecture in middle-scale cities. These six portraits have been compiled by today's generation of young architects, critics, journalists, sociologists and artists. Their views intend to raise our awareness of the problems and perspectives, the contradictions and commonplaces of post-war architecture.

With *LIVING IN THE FUTURE* and the accompanying symposium *RE-VISION IDEALS!* the Association of German Architects BDA seeks to alert the public to the need for a wide-ranging examination of the existing topology of post war urban development. The exhibition at the German Centre for Architecture DAZ is a tribute to the continued vitality and viability of the post war modernist legacy and how it has become intrinsic to our urban history.

Catalogue

The catalogue *IN DER ZUKUNFT LEBEN! Die Prägung der Stadt durch den Nachkriegsstädtebau* (*LIVING IN THE FUTURE! The impact of post-war urban development on our cities*) is published in line with the current exhibition. With contributions from Martha Doehler-Behzadi, Andreas Denk, Kai Vöckler and city portraits by Florian Heilmeyer, David Kasperek, Anne König, Friederike Meyer, Silke Steets, Jan Wenzel, with photos by Felix-Sören Meyer. Edited for the Association of German Architects BDA by Kai Vöckler and Andreas Denk. 176 pages, incl. 96 pages in colour. Nicolaische Verlagsbuchhandlung GmbH, Berlin. 19,80 EUR, ISBN 978-3-89479-567-2. In German language.



IN DER ZUKUNFT LEBEN // LIVING IN THE FUTURE is an exhibition of the Association of German Architects BDA and is under the auspices of the Federal Minister of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs, Wolfgang Tiefensee. It is supported by the Federal Ministry of Transport, Building and Urban Affairs. Exhibition curator is Kai Vöckler.

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Project Team

Curator: Kai Vöckler

Curatorial Assistant: Christine Rüb

City Portraits: Florian Heilmeyer, David Kasperek, Anne König, Friederike Meyer, Silke Steets, Jan Wenzel

Photography: Felix Sören-Meyer

Film: Luise Donschen

Exhibition Design: Thilo Fuchs / TATIN Design Studio Berlin

Biographies

Kai Vöckler (1961). Freelance urbanist and publicist. Guest curator at European cultural institutions. Numerous projects in cooperation with architects and urban planners. Co-founder and program director of Archis Interventions. Lives in Berlin.

Florian Heilmeyer (1974). Architectural journalist and curator. Correspondent for several international architecture magazines. Since 2008 editorial journalist for www.baunetz.de. Recent participation in exhibition projects *Talking Cities*, *Shrinking Cities*, *Updating Germany* and *TV Towers – 8.559 Meters Politics and Architecture*. Lives in Berlin.

David Kasperek (1981). Freelance journalist. Studied architecture in Cologne and is now editorial journalist for *der architekt* magazine. Lives in Cologne.

Anne König (1971). Author of radio features, artist and co-publisher of *spector cut+paste* magazine. www.soundatlas.de. Lives in Leipzig.

Friederike Meyer (1972). Journalist and architect. Since 2000 editorial journalist for *Bauwelt* magazine. Lives in Berlin.

Silke Steets (1973). Sociologist and member of the artists' and architects' group niko.31, Leipzig. PhD in 2007. Research assistant at the Institute for Sociology TU Darmstadt. Lives in Darmstadt and Leipzig.

Jan Wenzel (1972). Author, photographer and co-publisher of *spector cut+paste* magazine. Numerous exhibitions and publications. Co-publisher of *Heimat Moderne* magazine, Leipzig 2005. Lives in Leipzig.

Luise Donschen (1982). Anthropologist and filmmaker. Documentary *Zwischen den Grenzen* in cooperation with Laura von Bierbrauer (competition entry amongst others at the Short Film Festival Hamburg 2006). Lives in Hamburg.

Felix-Sören Meyer (1975). Photographer. Exhibitions and publications. Lives in Hamburg.

Thilo Fuchs (1972). Architect, project manager and creative director. Co-founder of TATIN Scoping Complexity. Works at the interface of space, graphics and media with numerous international projects in the field of communication and exhibition design. Winner of several design prizes. Lives in Berlin.

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Press photos on request

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01 A

Suhl in the Thuringian Forest

Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer



01 B

Suhl in the Thuringian Forest

Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer



02 A

Friedrichshafen by Lake Constance

Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer



02 B

Friedrichshafen by Lake Constance

Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer



03 A

Darmstadt, Rheinstraße

Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer



03 B

Darmstadt, Rheinstraße/Luisenplatz

Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer



04 A

Dresden, Prager Straße

Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer



04 B

Dresden, Prager Straße

Foto: Felix-Sören Meyer



05 A

Bremen-Neue Vahr

Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer



05 B

Bremen-Neue Vahr

Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer



06 A

Halle-Neustadt

Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer



06 B

Halle-Neustadt

Photo: Felix-Sören Meyer