SUMMER SCHOOL
12 to 16 June 2017
University of applied sciences Potsdam

Concept

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Since 2012, the International Week takes place at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam. The Cultural Work program invites teachers and students of its foreign partner universities. On the base of this previous exchange project, the international Summer School "Common Ground - How to create cities together" was conceived for 2017 in a seminar. In this year, the focus of Summer School is on the subject of urban development: Negative impacts of excess and growth are becoming increasingly visible and more conscious for us in cities.

Alternative participatory approaches to life design such as community building, urban gardening, sharing and so on are therefore becoming more attractive to active citizens. The desire for more participation, co-right to speak and alternative solutions for the planning of the city is getting louder. Potsdam also has a lot of initiatives from citizens in order to create more participation possibilities and, above all, to stimulate a public discussion so that decisions are made not only behind closed doors of the city administration and from above.

Against the background of the current urban development in Potsdam, which is strongly criticized by parts of the population, the topic is to be examined in more detail. Recent discussions show that there is no consensus on the extent to which the historical reconstruction of the city center, a "modern museum", is necessary and at all desirable. Many citizens, on the other hand, criticize the fact that still usable, affordable rooms are supposed to give way to expensive, historic buildings, and on the other hand, that only a certain part of the city's history should be told.

Another problem is the lack of housing and free rooms for students, artists and creators. In course of this, the use of a centrally located building (former computer center), which has been released for three years as a center for creators, is in constant discussion.

The Potsdam University of Applied Sciences is also directly affected: by demolition of the university building in the inner city, the campus is moved to the outskirts of the city. Now a way has to be found that many students place on the common campus.

How can universities communicate with their city, show it to one another, and how can they interact with each other?
In addition to the immediate urban planning questions, the Potsdam University of Applied Sciences has accepted an important topic that affects all of us: the climate! With the conversion to a climacampus the university contributes its contribution to new ways of thinking and action.

As an example from Potsdam and the University of Applied Sciences as a case study, the Summer School 2017 will examine the comparable projects, approaches and ideas in the countries of our partner universities. Practical examples have been searched in Potsdam and the surrounding, dealing with alternative and participatory design concepts. These examples are to be regarded as a model, on the basis of which the following questions can be discussed:

Who is planning? Who speaks? Are there opportunities for participation and in which form?

The interdisciplinary exchange between lecturers and participants and actors of the city of Potsdam is the main focus. In order to stimulate and complement this exchange and comparison of experiences with scientific input, teachers of the Potsdam University of Applied Sciences as well as teachers of partner universities are invited to present lectures on their research topics in the area of urban development and cultural and social change. Through the different experiences of the respective countries, a wide range of perspectives will be presented, from which can be thought, discussed and designed.

The Summer School will take place from 12 to 16 June 2017 at the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam. The participants will spend a week in Potsdam, where they live and work together.
GROUND BRAKING QUESTIONS &
WORKSHOP TOPICS

- How can interdisciplinary projects of Potsdam's actors, teachers of the FHP or teachers of the partner universities influence and shape urban and social change processes?

- What makes a city attractive? And to what extent can methods such as "community building" contribute to the attractiveness of a city?

- Are there shared interests and values of a city population beyond geographic, cultural and religious boundaries, and how can they be represented?

- What are alternative organizational structures for communities?

- How can we make a city greener through collaborative projects? Why is there a great need to create gardens together and not individually?

- How can a university contribute to a climate-friendly urban design?

- What is the role of cultural work in the context of sustainable urban development, transformation and participation?
TARGET GROUP

The summer school is addressed to lecturer and students of the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam and to the partner universities of the degree course in cultural work.

GOALS

The Summer School is designed to promote international and interdisciplinary exchange and at the same time to create a space of experience at a scientific level. Through a lively program, which is based on the combination of theoretical input and practical action, the core of the cultural management study program is also visible and represented. In addition to classical teaching, the main focus is on the apprenticeship of project planning and interdisciplinary methods.

The offered program will progress through lectures, workshops, a visionary Lab, excursions and discussions within which new insights are going to be made in the field of concerted action.

Starting from the question "How to create cities together?" it should be explored how alternative and new ways of participatory projects and joint actions can lead to a paradigm shift and so to a new we-culture, which also means promoting sustainable and alternative ways of living.

Through the exchange of the different experiences, depending on the geographic location of a city, new ideas are going to be stimulated, in the form of new project plans or seminar concepts, in a way to implement the handled topic in practice as well as in teaching and to ensure the Summer School future viability at this level.
WEEKLY SCHEDULE

The weekdays were conceptually divided into three themes: CITY COOPERATION - COMMUNITY, GREEN CITIES - HUMANITY, NATURE AND CITY, CULTURE AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION. These topics are all examined and discussed in terms of sustainable urban development. The individual days are structured in such a way that at the beginning a scientific input is given by a teacher of the University of Applied Sciences or partner university in the form of a lecture. In the afternoon there will be different formats such as workshops, visionary labs, excursions, discussions and so on. At the end of the week, the documentation of the individual days as well as the project ideas developed in the Visionary Labs will be presented.

MONDAY

OPENING

The Monday morning provides the guests as an orientation and arrival time in Potsdam. In the early afternoon, the Summer School is opened by two speeches. The two introductory speeches are intended to provide a brief introduction into the wide field of topics "Common Ground - How to create cities together", which will be a common thread throughout the week. The first lecture will be held by Prof. Dr. Hermann Voesgen, Vice-President for International Affairs and Head of the seminar "Citizens have the word - Participation in urban development". It would be desirable if the second contribution will be made by one of the teachers of the partner universities.

Afterwards, a short insight into the upcoming weekly program will be given and an open familiarization space will allow to meet, encounter and exchange. Guests and participants are asked to bring an item. On the basis of this, questions concerning the respective place of origin and the respective university are answered. Similar to the blind date format, two participants can exchange at the same time, which then rotate after a predetermined time. At the end, the objects can be exchanged and given away as a gift. The form for how this exchange happens is free and part of the communication process. The evening ends with a buffet and social gathering.
CITY COOPERATION - COMMUNITY?

On Tuesday, the theme is community building and addresses the question of the prerequisites and initial situations necessary to create an open, lively urban space. The question touches different levels. The focus is on interpersonal relations and the personal, social and psychological preconditions of the inhabitants of a city, as well as on the urban, political, legal and geographical conditions which can play a role and be illuminated. The aim of the day is to crystallize the conditions and prerequisites for an inclusive city community where, as far as possible, all citizens are finding space for individual development and design. Here, too, the question must be asked what citizens need to contribute, how much commitment, self-responsibility, empowerment and activism is necessary and how this can be promoted and demanded in order to allow for personal and social growth and to create a sense of being.

The morning starts with an introductory speech by Prof. Dr.-Ing. Michael Prytula about "Smart Communities. Gransee 2013, Future-oriented City and Regional Development", a past Interflex seminar at FHP with the following focus: "For and together with Gransee, new models of community life are to be developed and tested, which place the community in the foreground. For example, the development of a new, integrated community center can create a lively center for the entire region, where the library, archive and other citizen services are united. Examples could be the "Idea Stores" in London or the "Urban Media Space" in Aarhus. A second impulse on the subject of community building / team formation is welcome.

In the afternoon, a community building workshop will be held. It is managed by Beriah Potsdam (www.beriah-gemeinschaftsbildung.de), in which the whole group will participate. It is, on the one hand, a question of being able to experience and learning community-building methods, while at the same time creating a Community dynamism which will have a positive effect on the group's convergence. There is an open period for further workshop ideas and offers. At the end of the day, a Visionary Lab is planned in 2-4 groups. The Visionary Lab sees itself as a space to exchange ideas and insights, to design ideas, to present ideas and to present own projects and experiences.
GREEN CITIES – HUMANITY, NATURE AND CITY

Many big cities lack nature and ‘green spaces’, which are needed for the wellbeing of the people. For that reason, an alternative approach to how can a city become greener and how to we bring nature back to the city, are becoming more and more popular.

How can we make the city greener with community project? Why is there the urge, to build common gardens together and not individually?

Two example projects will be presented at the first part of the day. The first keynote speaker comes from Latvia and will refer to the fortune-garden “Likteņdārzs” www.liktendarzs.lv – a way to use a garden as a remembrance- and meeting point. The second contribution to urban greening, urban gardening, community gardens is still open.

In the afternoon, various excursions to projects, initiatives and cultural institutions in Potsdam will take place. These will cover the areas of art and culture collectivities and communities (Rechenzentrum, http://www.rz-potsdam.de/), life and living in community (Projekthaus Babelsberg: http://www.projekthaus-potsdam.de/), (WohnMichel: http://wohnmichel.org/), sociocultural communities (FreiLand: https://www.freiand-potsdam.de/), community gardens and Campus life (Buga/Biosphere Potsdam: http://www.biosphaere-potsdam.de/preise/, CampusGarten: www.campusgarten-potsdam.de, CasinOtopia: http://asta.fh-potsdam.de/initiativen/casinotopia/ Over /). Further ideas and suggestions are welcome.

In cooperation with Earthship-Germany, a workshop in the campus garden is planned. "Earthships - Realizing an alternative life-space-dream" deals with the Earthship concept and with sustainable living spaces that enable self-sufficient, self-sustaining and resource-assisted living. (Http://earthship-deutschland.de/)
CULTURE AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION

The concept of thursday is relatively open with the topic culture and urban transformation. Teachers of the University of Applied Sciences Potsdam as well as the partner universities will be given the opportunity to contribute to the topic and to contribute impulses to a culture of sustainable and future-oriented urban community and development. In addition, contributions can also be offered which deal with the relationship between universities and cities. How is the participation of the respective universities and students in the artistic and cultural activities of the cities? Proposals for different mediation formats are expressly desired.

After the lunch break there will be time again for a visionary lab in which project ideas and visions can be developed or completed in working groups. There is the possibility to present the ideas developed in the Visionary Lab on Friday within the framework of the Pecha Kucha.*

In the early evening, a public panel discussion is planned with the topic "The role of cultural work in the context of sustainable urban development, transformation and participation". Speakers from various fields of urban development, politics, academia, art and culture, as well as teachers who have already dealt with the topic at the Summer School, will be invited. The discussion is at the same time also the highlight of the week, in which the essence of all the subject areas can be brought together and made clear.
FRIDAY

SUMUP UND CITY VISIONS

At the end of the week, the research, the experiences gained, the newly opened perspectives, project ideas and personal experiences will be summarized. The day is divided into a theoretical part in the morning and a final practical part, which is also a come-together and a final ceremony in the same time. The official closing is at 4 pm.

At the beginning, a brief week-back and a summary of the whole week are given in the form of a Pecha Kucha*, and project ideas of the Visionary Labs can be presented in this format. The short lectures are based on the documentation of the individual days, which can later be incorporated into the project documentation and evaluation of the research results of the entire Summer School. Likewise, all participants should have the opportunity to express their praise and criticism in a short round of feedback.

After that, collaborative painting and creative design will take place under the motto “Paint your utopia of cities”. There will be between four and six tables (depends on the number of participants) covered with white paper, also colors and handicraft materials will be available and ready for making a collage. All participants are then invited to express, implement and realize their ideas, vision and inspirations.

How colorful would our city be when we, each one of us, shows and contributes his colorfulness and significance, and take responsibility for them? How empty and colorless would the paper, or the city, be when no one takes part?

After the creative-painting part, all the tables will come together, like pieces of a puzzle, and together it will observed, viewed and photographed as one whole big painting. There will be the opportunity to have a small talk about the painting. At the end the paintings will be taken off and the participants would have the chance to cut a piece and take it with them back home. Blank postcards will be available, for those who would like to glue a part of the painting on it. The idea here is have something personal, individual to give away, a reminder to take back home, which could be easily used to get and give contacts or maybe write a nice greeting.

* Pecha Kucha (Meaning: „chit-chat“) is a presentation style in which 20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each.