

the sooner
now

thesoonernow.com



URBAN UTOPIAS —
13 OCT

— PAST, PRESENT,
2018

AND FUTURE

FvF Friends Space
Glogauer Str. 2
10999 Berlin

In partnership with
IDEAT

With more than half of the human population now living in cities, the world is increasingly shaped by urban needs. Needs that become challenges, as ever more people, goods, and data circulate within sprawling metropolitan grids. Throughout history, the urban framework has served as a catalyst for new ideals in architecture, culture, and society at large. In examining urban utopias then and now, we pave the way to future ones. Welcome to The Sooner Now.

Partners

[Soda Books](#)

[Fundamental.Berlin](#)

[Five Elephant](#)

[Brot & Zeit](#)

[Son Kitchen](#)

[Roe & Coe](#)

[Vösslauer](#)

[Carpe Diem Matcha](#)

[Ostmost](#)

[Mono Tee](#)

[Stone Brewing Berlin](#)

[Weingut Baumberger](#)

[LA Cold Press](#)

[Dedon](#)

[Manufactum](#)

[Made](#)

[Marsano](#)

Share your personal utopia
#thesoonernow

Forum

-
- 10:00 [Doors Open](#)
-
- 10:15 [Opening Remarks](#) | Freunde von Freunden, MINI Germany, and IDEAT
-
- 10:30 [Opening Keynote](#) | [Paddle Your Own Canoe](#) | Joe Halligan, Assemble
-
- 11:30 [Talk](#) | [Other City Narratives](#) | Victoria Okoye, University of Sheffield
-
- 12:00 [Talk](#) | [Seasonality](#) | Julian Schubert, Something Fantastic
-
- 12:30 [Coffee Break](#)
-
- 12:45 [Dialog](#) | [The Future of Urban Living in 10 Buzzwords](#) | Jeroen Beekmans, Pop-Up City & Corinna Natter, MINI LIVING
-
- 13:30 [Lunch Break](#)
-
- 14:30 [Talk](#) | [Because there is no Planet B](#) | Simon Uh Choll Lee, CRCLR
-
- 15:00 [Talk](#) | [What is the Personality of Berlin?](#) | Natasha Grand, INSTID
-
- 15:30 [Talk](#) | [Thinking in Speculative Futures](#) | Wilhelm Rinke, Berliner Ideenlabor
-
- 16:00 [Coffee Break](#)
-
- 16:15 [Panel](#) | [Futures of the Past](#) | Martin Bricelj Baraga, Artist; Laurence Bonvin, Filmmaker; Zvi Hecker, Architect; Zara Pfeifer, Photographer
Moderator: Lisa Tiedje, Architect
-
- 18:00 [Closing Keynote](#) | [Welcome to CCCC.city!](#) | N O R M A L S
-
- 18:30 [Open Bar and DJ Set by Josa Peit](#)
- 22:00

Speakers & Contributors

Joe Halligan

Assemble, London

Working across art, design, and architecture, Turner prize-winning collective Assemble addresses the all too common disconnect between public interest and how spaces are made. In doing so, Joe Halligan and his fellow 17 Assemble members follow a strictly horizontal, cooperative approach that actively involves the public as both participant and collaborator in the realization of their work.

Victoria Okoye

University of Sheffield

In her blog African Urbanism, urban planner, researcher, and writer Victoria Okoye investigates alternative urban narratives in West African cities. As part of her PhD at the University of Sheffield, she currently examines forms of public spatial appropriation in the city of Accra, Ghana, along with the meaning and knowledge that informs these self-organized interventions.

Julian Schubert

Something Fantastic, Berlin

The design practice of Something Fantastic spans from book and exhibition design to furniture, buildings, and urban development schemes. As part of recent research and teaching activities, Julian Schubert and his two partners Elena Schütz and Leonard Streich have pondered the ways to include seasonal properties into architectural and urban planning.

Jeroen Beekmans

Pop-Up City, Amsterdam

Co-founder of the agency for urban development Golfstromen and associated Pop-Up City blog, Jeroen Beekmans investigates fluid and flexible living concepts that are beneficial for cities and their people. On the tail end of his latest research project, Beekmans will share insights on the promises and pitfalls of co-living and micro-housing.

Corinna Natter

MINI LIVING, Munich

An interior designer by training, Corinna Natter is responsible for the conceptualization and on-site realization of the spatial designs by MINI LIVING. Following the principle of 'creative use of space', Natter designed prototypes for inhabitable urban cabins in cities from London to Beijing in order to explore how to provide maximum quality of life on a small footprint.

Simon Uh Choll Lee

CRCLR, Berlin

The co-founder of Berlin's first circular economy hub has a background in banking, start-ups and fundraising. Behind CRCLR is the idea that—just like in nature—waste should not exist and that economies can be designed to work in closed loops. At the CRCLR House these principles are being put into practice.

Natasha Grand

INSTID –
Institute for Identity, London

The founder of INSTID helps cities define, live, and communicate their purpose in order to realize their full potential. A critical part, Natasha Grand says, is building an emotional connection with its people. But what is such a connection made of? Let's investigate together!

Wilhelm Rinke

Berliner Ideenlabor

The laboratory is Wilhelm Rinke's natural habitat. A biologist by training, he now acts as Head of Design Thinking at Berliner Ideenlabor, a consultancy for innovation culture and future foresight. Every six months, the team refocuses on a new research topic. Their latest investigation: how speculative design methodologies can mitigate uncertainties in urban innovation.

Martin Bricelj Baraga

Artist, Ljubljana

When he's not assembling large-scale sculptures and installations around the world, Martin Bricelj Baraga instigates cultural initiatives that advance experimentation in the arts. One of them is Nonument, an interdisciplinary research project devoted to preserving the memory of lost—or doomed—20th century architecture and monuments in public space.

Speakers & Contributors

Laurence Bonvin

Filmmaker, Berlin & Geneva

A professor for photography at ECAL in Lausanne, Laurence Bonvin's pictures and films reveal an astute eye for urban topographies. Her latest short *Avant l'envol*, for example, is a careful observation of people interacting with modernist architecture of the West African city of Abidjan. Be sure to watch it in our short film program.

Zvi Hecker

Architect, Berlin

With a practice spanning fifty decades, Zvi Hecker's expressive geometries are known around the world. He designed the Bat Yam City Hall, the Heinz-Galinski-Schule in Berlin, and the Palmach Museum in Tel Aviv. At The Sooner Now, the original generation modernist will reflect on "Futures of the Past".

Zara Pfeifer

Photographer, Vienna

Originally trained as an architect, Zara Pfeifer's photographic work shows a profound interest in spatial and social phenomena. Recently she published *Du, meine konkrete Utopie*, a photo book about Harry Glück's housing project Alterlaa on the outskirts of Vienna—one of the few utopias that fulfills its promise to this day.

Lisa Tiedje

Architect, Berlin

After working with OMA/Rex (New York), Staab Architekten (Berlin), and Studio Olafur Eliasson (Berlin) for many years, Lisa Tiedje turned her attention to independent work. She currently directs a major residential project in Detroit, teaches at UdK Berlin, and works on her PhD researching the topic of "Dreamed Spaces".

N O R M A L S

Paris & Berlin

Drawing on design and fiction to speculate about the future, N O R M A L S is a French artist collective known for prescient provocations in graphic novels, games, and social simulations. At The Sooner Now, they set up CCCC.city (Foresee City), an urban utopia for us all to shape.

Maike Mia Höhne

Filmmaker & Curator, Hamburg

Self-described "cinematographic cluster lady" Maike Mia Höhne watches up to 2,000 short films a year. Since 2007 she is in charge of the Berlinale shorts selection, an unparalleled showcase of current international art house cinema. A filmmaker herself, Höhne is currently working on her second feature film.

OSTKREUZ

Agency of Photographers, Berlin

Germany's most successful photographer-run agency was founded in the post-wall Berlin of 1990. Though working across a wide thematic spectrum, its 21 members are linked by their genuine approach to photography and deep understanding of the medium's entanglement with the (urban) realities around us.

Satellites

CCCC.city – An Urban Utopia for You to Shape designed by N O R M A L S

If you could dream up the city of the future, what would it look like? A green welfare paradise of shared goods and public services? A technological haven of automation and free enterprise? A city at all? Future connoisseurs N O R M A L S invite you to collectively reflect and build an urban utopia—CCCC.city (Foresee City)—from scratch.

The City: Becoming and Decaying – Photo Projection

by OSTKREUZ Agency of Photographers

Boom, bust, repeat? Few exhibitions have captured urban life cycles better than *The City: Becoming and Decaying*, in which 18 OSTKREUZ photographers showed select moments they'd captured around the world. Revisiting 20 years of urban documentation, OSTKREUZ invites you to see the city through the photographer's eye.

Urbanism Futurism Reality – Short Film Program

curated by Maïke Mia Höhne

History written into architecture, bodies confronting the built environment, identity in a constant state of flux—the city often needs to be read between the lines.

Maïke Mia Höhne has selected five short films that reveal the many layers of the cities that have been and are yet to come.

CAIROGRAPHY

Dalia Naous, Kinda Hassan, 2013, 19'

AVANT L'ENVOL

Laurence Bonvin, 2016, 20'

RUSSA

João Salaviza, Ricardo Alves Jr., 2018, 20'

SYMBOLIC THREATS

Wermke / Henke / Leinkauf, 2015, 15'

Courtyard & Garage – Eat, Drink, Shake a Leg

In our courtyard, Son Kitchen will serve Korean street food from lunchtime to late night, while our garage transforms into a bar once the main program in the FvF Friends Space concludes. DJ Set by Josa Peit, drinks by Roe & Co, Stone Brewing, and Weingut Baumberger.

Further Reading

by Soda Books & Fundamental.Berlin

Take a breather between talks in our contextual comfort zone near the coffee station. Browse selected reads or unleash your creative side by coloring in some architectural sketches (with or without your kids).