

KISD lecture series Summer 2017

Sensing the City: Design of the Urban

The interdisciplinary lecture series »Sensing the City. Design of the Urban« addresses the topic of the sensual experience of the city which constitutes a vital prerequisite for social and cultural action amidst urban spaces and structures. Guest speakers from the arts, from design, architecture, and sociology will illustrate the manifold interfaces between sensual experience and technological and spatial environments – in order to identify yet undetected potentials of how we can cope with present and future urban realities and in order to rethink our ideas and ideals of a city as a civilization model. Speakers will take up the idea that watching, listening, and other sensual patterns are tools and medial practices that emerge from spatial, social, and technological contexts and correlations.

Thus, the lecture series will focus on the issue on how humans, technical objects, and urban space interact and on how this interaction can be perceived, be looked upon, described and designed. Which tools are used or are to be developed in order to grasp, document, or intensify sensual and urban experiences? How can varied kinds of knowledges dealing with urban research, theories, with empirical expertise, and the challenges for design be merged and successfully displayed?

The approach of »Sensing the City« will therefore understand the term of a »city« not only as a sensualized and perceptible phenomenon, but also as a dynamic (infra-)structure for electronic patterns, sensors, and units by which perception-related data of urban space and its actors can be captured. Which new ideas on participatory means can be generated by concepts such as »Participatory Sensing« and how do kinds of data and perception alter when they are collected by civic actors and all their socio-urban counterparts?

It will be those questions that the lecture series in English and German language will talk about – on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at KISD – Köln International School of Design in KISD's conference room, Ubiering 40, 50678 Cologne.

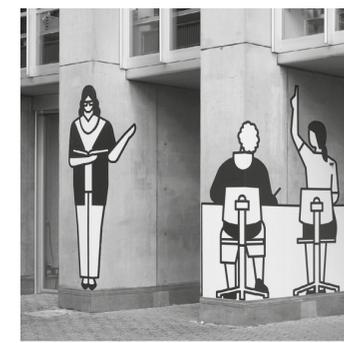
Organised by Carolin Höfler & Philipp Heidkamp

Civic Design for a Civic City

Prof. Dr. Ruedi Baur

Graphic Designer & Creative Director
of »intégral ruedi baur«, Zurich/Paris

May 16, 2017, 5:30 p.m.



»Design is not a profession, it is an attitude.« the Hungarian painter and photographer László Moholy-Nagy (1895–1946) once said in the Bauhaus time. This sentence is still true, but currently you find different attitudes on the term »design.« Today, design means to have a variety of designs, of styles, perspectives, and approaches to it. As a consequence, you now need better and suitable adjectives to state more precisely about which distinct attitude you speak. »Civic« design is just one possibility to act since the work of any designers is addressed not only to civil society, but also a response to customer demands. The Swiss designer Ruedi Baur has worked for clients as the city of Cologne or Centre Pompidou Paris, but in his work he also stresses the importance of plurality and flexibility of any design. In his talk he will present different installation works and views on the civic city.

Foto: Aurel Märki

www.irb-zurich.eu

The talk will be held in English language.

The City: Perceptions and Interpretations of Urban Spaces

Kay von Keitz

Author, Curator & Initiator of
»plan Architektur Biennale Köln«, Cologne

May 23, 2017, 5:30 p.m.



What do we actually mean when we talk about »the city«? There are various perspectives, whether chosen by ourselves or given to us by common standard, to experience and cope with the term »city« and urban life. In this talk, we hold Cologne as an example for the European city in order to elaborate on different approaches towards this idea of coming together in shared urban spaces – and in a societal unit that has been for so long encompassing both transformation, change, and perseverance. The talk of the Cologne-based author and curator Kay von Keitz will shed light on different realities, perceptions, and action patterns, invisible, visible, top-down or bottom-up, the power of architecture, time and space, images of our longings and our design ideals in the past, present, and future. Still, one issue remains: Whose ideals and what ideas of a city are we told to realize? Von Keitz will debate these topics in order to increase consciousness of the city and to work on alternative urban development strategies.

www.plan-project.com

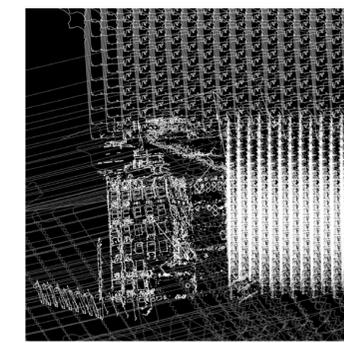
The talk will be held in English language.

Unveiled Presence (Secret Sounds)

Natalie Bewernitz & Marek Goldowski

Artists & Sound Researchers, Cologne

June 6, 2017, 5:30 p.m.



In ihrem Langzeitprojekt »UNVEILED PRESENCE (secret sounds)« erforscht das Künstlerduo Natalie Bewernitz und Marek Goldowski die individuelle Klangidentität und versteckte akustische Eigenheiten von bekannten wie unbekannt urbanen Orten. Die Erkundungen erstrecken sich von Luftschall bis in den Bereich des Körperschalls. Der Ausgangspunkt ihres Projekts ist die 1916 in New York entstandene Arbeit »À bruit secret« von Marcel Duchamp – im Deutschen übersetzt mit »Mit geheimem Geräusch« oder auch »Mit verborgenem Geräusch«. Die audiovisuelle Installation »UNVEILED PRESENCE (NYC)« verwendet Klängaufnahmen der Jahre 2006/07 aus dem Inneren der charakteristischen Hausdachwassertürme der Metropole New York City, in der das Langzeitprojekt seinen Anfang nahm und deren visuelle Ähnlichkeit zum Ready-made Marcel Duchamps unverkennbar ist. Die Hausdachwassertürme sind ein unverwechselbares Merkmal der Skyline der Stadt New York.

www.bewernitzgoldowski.com

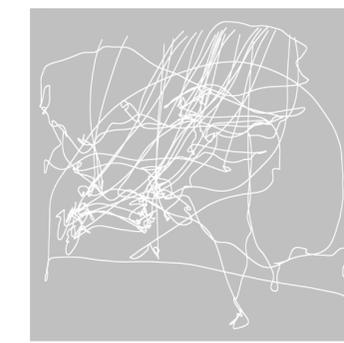
Der Vortrag findet in deutscher Sprache statt.

Algorithms in Public Space

Flora Karger

Integrated Designer, Cologne

June 13, 2017, 5:30 p.m.



»From time to time I take a chance as a pedestrian bumping into other walkers wondering what would happen if all of us tackled a route without consideration of obstacles and other passersby.« the designer and KISD alumna Flora Karger says. Some people seem to be programmed more than others, but actually we are all conditioned by distinct rules. The latitude and the tolerance being given to these daily algorithms are the crucial point. Programs are first of all just episodes of actions, following certain patterns. As they correspond to human thinking, they contain typical sequences, loops, and hierarchies. Humans once started developing algorithms to simplify processes, but ended up in being the one acting without thinking. The focus of this talk is on algorithms in space, starting with human beings as actors. It is about finding out how programs will evolve if they are constantly repeated. It is about the consequences for social actions and public spaces that result.

www.florakarger.com

The talk will be held in English language.

Öffentliche Angelegenheiten

Merlin Bauer

Konzeptkünstler, Köln

June 27, 2017, 5:30 p.m.



In den letzten 15 Jahren hat der Konzeptkünstler Merlin Bauer mit seinen Projekten »Unter dem Pflaster der Strand – Momentane Orte«, »Ihr seid Künstler und wir nicht!« oder »Mit dem Mautlir durch Köln – In öffentlichen Angelegenheiten unterwegs« Verfahren entwickelt, die eine lebendige öffentliche Diskussion über den Umgang mit gewachsenen städtebaulichen, architektonischen und kulturpolitischen Strukturen anregen. Sein Projekt »Liebe deine Stadt« entstand im Zusammenhang mit dem vom Abriss bedrohten städtischen Opern- und Schauspielhausensemble von Wilhelm Riphahn (Baujahr 1962), dem das gleiche Schicksal drohte wie anderen bedeutenden Kölner Kulturbauten der Nachkriegsmoderne. Als Folge eines Bürgerbegehrens hat der Kölner Stadtrat 2010 eine Generalsanierung des Riphahn-Ensembles beschlossen, die ursprünglich im Herbst 2015 abgeschlossen sein sollte. Ein neuer Wiedereröffnungstermin steht bislang noch nicht fest.

www.merlinbauer.de | www.liebedeinstadt.org

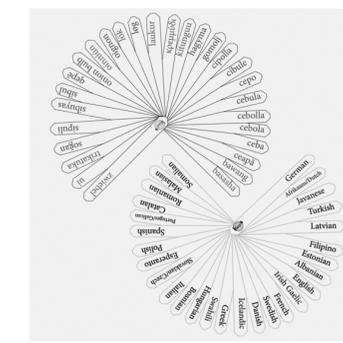
The Vortrag findet in deutscher Sprache statt.

Citizenship, Service Design and Contemporary Society: An Unholy Trinity

Prof. Dr. Gordon Hush

Sociologist, Glasgow School of Art

July 4, 2017, 5:30 p.m.



The talk will focus on the uneasy relationship between contemporary and emerging definitions of service design practice and citizenship, as two facets of the attempt to navigate our way towards a desirable vision of the future. The faultlines between the technological possibilities of contemporary service design and the politics of citizenship expose a problem at the heart of current conceptions of »social design« – who gets to determine behavior change, who designs Utopia? Gordon Hush is a recovering Sociologist hiding out in the world of design. He is interested in the politics of experience, and on how designers might seek to contribute to this political engagement. Gordon has headed up the Product Design department at the Glasgow School of Art since 2007 and helped steer the emergence of Design Innovation as a subject of academic study at Masters level incorporating Service Design, Citizenship, Environmental Design and, with the University of Glasgow, International Management.

<http://gsadesigninnovation.com>

The talk will be held in English language.

Oriental and Occidental Positions: Exploring Gendered Spaces in Design

Dr. Fred Meier-Menzel

Communication Designer & Design Researcher, Berlin

July 18, 2017, 5:30 p.m.



Which spaces are used by women and by men? How is public and how is private space defined in different cultures? How private are bodies and what happens when we interpret them as sacred spaces? How visible are the different sexes in the city? Fred Meier-Menzel lived for 6.5 years in Cairo, Egypt, and will present and discuss examples of what she experienced with images of women in the city of Cairo. She will report on historical and feminine attempts to conquest the public space by the Egyptian artist and activist scene (2011–2014). Since April 2017, Fred Meier-Menzel works with students of the Hochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft in Berlin and Egyptian exchange students to discover new communicative spaces beyond gender segregation in a multicultural society. The practical results of this course will also be displayed and discussed in the talk.

Foto: Andrea Theis

<http://meier-menzel.de>

The talk will be held in English language.