

REGION AS CITY

Uncovering Spatial Interdependencies Between Rural Places

#perception #cultural practice #identity #visualisation &
representation #scale #participation

A series of design studios, workshops and symposia on new
concepts and visual representations of the region

since 2011

with various ANCB Visiting Universities

INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

Just as cities mean far more to their inhabitants than the sum of their physical parts, places outside of cities similarly unite communities and individuals through meanings assigned to their built and natural landscapes. Arguably, more than in the city, the everyday life that assigns these meanings is lived out in multiple settlements and in the landscapes that connect them, at scales as large as the region.

This Region As City project focuses on fresh concepts, new analytical tools, and rethought design approaches with which to understand, plan and make decisions about such regions outside the city.

PLANNED EVENTS

Representing Everyday Life 2017/18

Returning to the representation and participation foci, the next stage of this project intends to redescribe the region. From observations on daily life, the spatial interdependencies between places will be described afresh. Corresponding visual depictions – of this revised and realistic understanding of the internal workings of regions – will be explored as tools for engaging citizens in co-determining future development. This stage would involve workshops/summer schools, semester-long design studios and symposia.

PAST EVENTS

April 2013 - May 2014

A catalogue of bespoke typologies for buildings, spaces and mobility modes were prepared for a constellation of four small villages located one hour to the east of Berlin, in a project initiated by local resident and journalist Anita Wünschmann. The basis for these proposals was semester-long studies by the various universities that focused on the functional and experiential ties between the four places and the wider region. A shared-design studio and symposium at ANCB began this project phase.

Self-made Tourism

Design Studio. Leibniz Universität Hannover: Prof. Jörg Schröder, Miriam Mlecek

Self-made Suburbia

Design Studio. HafenCity Universität Hamburg: Renée Tribble, Jakob Schmid

The Future of Periphery

Design Studio. TU Berlin: Prof. Angela Uttke, Andreas Brück, Anna Juliane Heinrich

Fallstudie Ortsverband Woltersdorf

Design Studio. Münster School of Architecture: Prof. Joachim Schultz-Granberg

Regional City – Vom Wohnort zum Lebensort.

Design Studio and Public Debate: Ton Matton, Kristien Ring, Gerhard Mahnken, Gerhard Mahnken

Edgelands and Urban Agriculture

Design Studio. Politecnico di Milano: Fabrizio Leoni, Corinna Morandi, Andrea Rolando with Matteo Paracchini and Paola Sturla

November 2012

Two parallel design studios developed visualisation-based tools; for anticipating climate change implications and for facilitating public participation on policies to address these. The Brandenburg region northwest of Berlin was the case study.

Resilience. Testing Regions Under Stress

Design Studio: TU Delft: The Why Factory. Prof. Winy Maas, Felix Madrazo, Alexander Sverdlov, Giovanni Bellotti

Shrinking Regions Growing Democracy

Design Studio: TU Delft: Design as Politics. Prof. Wouter Vanstiphout, Marta Relats, Ekim Tam, Mike Emmerik

BACKGROUND

The Region As City was initiated to give due attention to the region in its own right, rather than in terms of its hierarchical relationship to the city.

The project argues that conceptual understandings of the region as only a supportive hinterland for the city appear invalid, out of date and ineffective; as are the design and planning tools and instruments grown from this thinking. Rather, as an examination of recent generations of economic, environmental and recreational activities in the rural region can demonstrate, the region is built upon spatial interdependencies that are increasingly independent of the city 'proper'. This, combined with the pace of often-dramatic spatial transformations underway in the 'countryside', urgently demand an overhaul of the concepts and visual representations describing the region.

DOCUMENTATION

- Videos recording documenting the public debates

Part of the ANCB Theme

NO SPACE WITHOUT TRAITS: Using Interdisciplinary Perspectives to Explore Spatial Character

Space, from the scale of the room to the scale of the city and beyond, is the currency of architecture, urban design and spatial planning. Yet, both research and practice in these fields work with arguably out-of-date conceptual understandings of space. The prevailing, inherited lexicon is rarely reviewed for completeness, relevance or accuracy in describing the spatial conditions of today. Space also plays a fundamental role in the sciences and humanities, with each field using its own terminology, sometimes similarly unchallenged but often constantly evolving, as in cultural geography and the arts.

In order to evolve more a robust and up-to-date lexicon on space for contemporary urban practice, and to improve the general public's ability to recognise the character of places, this theme draws from activities – research, fieldwork, and practice – in the arts and humanities, the sciences and design, to study the characteristics of current, real-life manifestations of spatial conditions and their scales.

What do the spatial conditions of today reveal about the experience and functional scales of space? By learning from the arts, can a discourse on perception be generated, linking space to its political and social dimensions? Could the concepts evolved in cultural geography discourse stimulate new types of visualisations capable of depicting the fluid, rather than static, nature of present-day space? Can the enquiry methodologies of design be combined with those from the sciences and humanities to reveal characteristics of contemporary spatial experience?

PARTICIPANTS

May 2014 **Region As City: Spatial Interdependencies Beyond the City** **Marta Relats**, Research Director for Design as Politics Chair, TU Delft, Delft; **Frauke Hehl**, workstation Ideenwerkstatt Berlin; **Theo Deutinger**, TD/beyondplanB, Amsterdam; **Andrea Rolando**, **Corinna Morandi** and **Fabrizio Leoni**, Politecnico di Milano, Milan; **Angela Uttke**, **Andreas Brück** and **Anna Juliane Heinrich**, TU Berlin; **Joachim Schultz-Granberg**, Münster School of Architecture, Münster; **Renee Tribble** and **Jakob Schmid**, HafenCity Universität, Hamburg; **Jörg Schröder** and **Miriam Mlecek**, Leibniz Universität Hannover

About ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory

ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory is a unique cultural and educational platform focusing on the future of our cities. Building upon three decades of expertise in the communication of architecture culture - through exhibiting and publishing the work of internationally acclaimed and pioneering architects and urban planners - Aedes Architecture Forum established, in 2009, an additional urban research and workshop programme - ANCB.

It is from these foundations that ANCB positions itself as the hub at the centre of an extensive international and interdisciplinary research network, based on a structure of cultural exchange and knowledge transfer. ANCB is uniquely placed to bring together key figures from different fields to debate the most pertinent urban questions of international concern and to search for new potential to improve global urban living conditions. Through interdisciplinary idea exchanges and workshops with international university partners, ANCB brings together social, cultural and technical research with governance processes, industry products and the proposals of the urban design and planning professions, generating the cross-sector collaborations necessary to offer innovative insights, positions and visions.

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