

# ACTORS AND AGENCY

## Co-producing the Built Future

**#participation #governance #political engagement  
#inclusion & diversity #the just city #local knowledge # safety  
& security #affordable housing**

This theme investigates the spatial design and planning toolkit needed to co-envision, co-decide and co-produce the future of the city, and to overcome the 'expert-lay' divide in decision-making about places and cities.

## INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

**Although their triggers may be global, the defining economic, socio-political and environmental challenges of today are manifest locally rather than at the scale of the nation state. This localisation makes the challenges conceptually tangible and their responses imaginable, as both policies and concrete projects for spaces. Hence, urban discourse promotes political city autonomy on the one hand, and participation beyond a mere meeting of top-down and bottom-up on the other, as the most effective and appropriate response framework for these challenges and for urban development in general.**

Such an 'opening-up' of decision-making will not only require the encouragement of engagement – from newcomers and transient inhabitants as much as from those long-committed to a place but also expert facilitation and synthesis of this engagement into co-produced visions for the future of that place.

*This theme explores the accompanying spatial design and planning toolkit, with which to co-envision, co-decide and co-produce the future of the city, and overcome the established 'expert-lay' divide in decision-making about places and cities. Not alone the divide between government authorities and citizens, but importantly, also the divide between design and planning professionals and city inhabitants. Which tools can replace the static, abstract, and mistrusted masterplan, which participation instruments can carry the process of commissioning public buildings and spaces or awarding industry contracts, which set of urban indicators assists decision-making and awarding of contracts? Can architects and planners be educated as facilitators and co-conceivers of such new tools and processes? How can room for experimentation (and failure) be afforded – in terms of time, space and budget?*

## ANCB FORMATS

### **Public Debates**

Key figures from a range of disciplines take on questions within the framework of the theme. Short and provocative presentations jumpstart the discussion between peers, involving a public audience.

### **Symposia and Workshops**

Thematic focal points are brought together and reflected upon in a symposium. Defined questions are then drawn out as a basis for closed and intensive professional workshops.

### **Design Studios**

University tutors and their students explore an aspect of the theme through case study sites. The studios are enriched with tailored lectures and urban tours.

### **Publications and Archive**

All outcomes are collated by theme in the ANCB archive and in project publications.

## NEXT EVENTS AND PROJECTS

In preparation. To be announced shortly.

## COMPLETED PROJECTS AND PAST EVENTS

### 2018

Podium Discussion: **FUTURE OF LIVING - URBAN AGRICULTURE - CULTURAL MEMORY: How to learn, act and innovate together across cultures and continents?**

Book Launch: **Reinier de Graaf: 4 Walls and 1 Roof**

### 2017

Bucerius Summer School Workshop: **The Perfect City Block: How do we want to live together (in the future)?** with ANCB Partner Dr. Nadine Godehardt, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)

Podium Discussion: **Future Urbanism, Genetic Cities**

Exhibition Talk: **Neues Wohnen für Berlin! Projekten der HOWOGE Wohnungsbaugesellschaft**

Podium Discussion: **Urban (in)securities. #2 Defending the City.** Part of the Collaborative Research **Urban (in)securities. The Interplay between City Planning, Securitization and International Politics** with ANCB Partner Dr. Nadine Godehardt, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)

### 2016

Red Carpet Event: **Peter Cook Enjoys Being Silly**

Discussion and Exhibition: **Hoffnung bauen. Ein Haus für geflüchtete Waisenkinder im Nord-Irak**

Bucerius Summer School Workshop: **Urban (in)securities, Science. Fiction. International Politics.** Part of the Collaborative Research **Urban (in)securities. The Interplay between City Planning, Securitization and International Politics** with ANCB Partner Dr. Nadine Godehardt, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)

Podium Discussion: **Urban (in)securities. #1 The City as target.** Part of the Collaborative Research **Urban (in)securities. The Interplay between City Planning, Securitization and International Politics** with ANCB Partner Dr. Nadine Godehardt, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP)

### 2015

Collaborative Research with ANCB Partner Dr. Nadine Godehardt, Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP): **Taksim, Tahrir, Occupy & Co. Interdependencies between Urban Space, Society and International Politics in Time of Crisis**

Dialogue: **Das Kulturforum. Baukultur ohne Verfahrenskultur?** Public Debate Critical Dialogue Series: **The New Urban Agenda on the 'ground' #2 Different Urbanisation**

Aedes Exhibition Talk: **Medellín: Topography of Knowledge. Urban Transformation Through Collective Processes**

Lectures and Round Table Discussion: **The Politics of Practice-Oriented**

Public Debate Critical Dialogue Series: **The New Urban Agenda on the 'ground' #1 Overriding the Urban / Non Urban Divide**

Book Presentation: **Partizipation macht Architektur. Potentiale und Grenzen**

Lecture: **Architecture - Urban Planning - Social Diversity: A Transatlantic Dialogue with Roberta Washington**

### 2014

Book Presentation: **Transforming Cities. Urban Interventions in Public Space**

Aedes Exhibition Talk: **Inflexión / Turning Point. The Transformation Process in Spanish Architecture**

Book Presentation: **Make\_Shift City. Die Neuverhandlung des Urbanen**

### 2013

Public Debate: **Hardt-Waltherr Hämer – Streitbarer Geist und Stadtvisionär Weichenstellungen der Stadterneuerung in der IBA Alt 1984/1987 und heute**

Symposium: **3rd International Architectural Education Summit (IAES)**

Aedes Exhibition Talk: **Bogotá - Caracas - São Paulo: Bottom-Up Urbanism to Design the City of the Future**

Collaborative Research with ANCB Partner Wüstenrot Stiftung: **Zu Hause in der Stadt**

### 2012

Symposium: **Migration and City**

## 2011

Round Table Discussion and Exhibition: **Creative, Informal, Temporary, Berlin**

Podium Discussion: **Who Activates Cultural Space Today? A Seoul-Berlin Dialogue**

Symposium: **Sensible Materie: Junge katalanische Architekten / Matèria sensible: arquitectes joves catalanes**

Collaborative Research with ANCB Partner Henk Ovink, The Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment: **Design and Politics: The Next Phase (2011-2013)**

## 2010

Symposium: **Weniger ist Zukunft. Sachsen-Anhalt: Ein Labor für die Stadt von morgen**

Podium Discussion: **Baukultur Salon NRW. RUHR.2010: Metropole gestalten**

Book Presentation: **Improvisations on Urbanity. Trendy Pragmatism in a Climate of Change** by **Ton Matton and Christopher Dell**; **Of People and Houses: Architecture of Styria** by **Andreas Ruby, Ilka Ruby, photography by Livia Corona**

Film Screening and Discussion: **Denk mal Berlin - Wer baut die Stadt? With Regula Lüscher and Georgia Tornow**

## 2009

Symposium: **What makes India urban? In Cooperation with Aedes East e.V.**

ANCB Inaugural Symposium: **Educating the Global Architect**

## ABOUT ANCB

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.