

RESPONSIVE CITY

Combining Human Knowledge with Digital Systems

#digitaltools #resilience&sustainability #climatechange #connectivity
#behaviour #materials&products

This theme explores the innovative use of digital tools and materials to adapt living habits and behaviours, in order for cities to respond better to the challenges of today.

INTRODUCTION AND AIMS

The climate emergency, rapid population fluctuations and the increasing social segregation require a behaviour-changing responsiveness based on awareness and responsibility rather than on convenience. We need to reduce the impact of everyday urban life on resources, from the scale of the individual home to the global network of connectivity.

If the use of space, services and resources are to be modified, value sets need to change. Human behaviour and knowledge need to inform digital tools to achieve an integrated approach.

How can digital tools support the design of new living and working typologies that limit material wastage and are more affordable? What role can prototyping play in digitally fabricating efficient building components? How can traditional materials and knowledge be transformed into the digital age?

ANCB FORMATS

Public Debates

Concise presentations jumpstart an interdisciplinary exchange between peers, involving a public audience. Our public debates are not about showcasing portfolios. Instead, key figures from architecture, planning, research, governance, industry, civil society and the arts take on topics ranging from climate change to the social fragmentation of our societies, anchored in the discussion of the built environment. ANCB's public debates aim at generating an understanding of the complex issues our cities and regions are facing today.

Lab Talk	Two-hour evening talks – as one-off events or a series – consisting of three to four short presentations and a moderated discussion with an interdisciplinary panel
Symposium	All-day events consisting of several panels
Exhibition Talk	Lectures and discussions in conjunction with Aedes exhibitions
Book Presentation	Book launches with talks involving the protagonists of the publication and a book sale

Workshops

University Design Studio	Students from ANCB's international partner universities and their teachers explore a globally relevant topic through specific case study sites and/or building typologies in Berlin over a two to eight-week period. The studios are enriched with lectures and urban tours tailored to the specific topic and the outcomes are presented to our local network.
Round Table	Closed expert colloquia accompanying public debates to prepare them or deepen their outcomes
Metro Lab	Workshops with students or young professionals lasting up to a week in combination with a public debate
Junior Campus	Workshops to introduce children and youth to the perception of architecture and urban space and to foster an interest in design through cultural education and aesthetic development

Collaborative Projects

ANCB and a partner from industry, governance or research collaboratively explore a particular architectural or urban question over a one to three-year period with bespoke enquiry formats including a combination of lab talks, symposia, design studios, round tables and publications.

Publications & Outputs

ANCB collects, edits and shares the processes, ideas and proposals created in its programme and invites others to contribute their experience. A unique knowledge resource, the ANCB archive includes publications, research reports and video recordings.

PROJECTS SO FAR

2021

Collaborative Project: **LIVING PROTOTYPES. Digital Fabrication Processes and Prototypes for Resource-Conscious Living Spaces** with German Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development (BBSR), Zukunft Bau Innovation Programme, Royal Danish Academy, Copenhagen; University of Stuttgart; Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia, Barcelona

2020

Policy Dialogue: **ALL GOOD(S) - CIRCULAR FASHION. New Materials in Architecture, Design and Fashion for a Future Circular Economy** with the Netherlands Embassy in Berlin

Lab Talk: **ALL GOOD(S). New Materials in Architecture, Design and Fashion for a Future Circular Economy** with the Netherlands Embassy in Berlin

Lab Talk Series: **Towards a Healthy City #2: The Building Scale** with UNStudio, Amsterdam

2019

Exhibition Talk Series: **Dialogabende Holzgeschichten** with weberbrunner architekten, Zurich/Berlin

Lab Talk Series: **Towards a Healthy City #1: The Urban Approach** with UNStudio, Amsterdam

International Symposium in Shanghai: **Designed for Humans. From Álvaro Siza's Modernism into the Digital Future** with CAMERICH, Beijing

Lab Talk: **OSLO: Small City, Big Ideas. Green Leadership and People-Centred Development** with the Royal Norwegian Embassy in Berlin

Exhibition Talk: **Precision, Prototyping & Prefabrication. Don't Tell Me It Can't Be Done** with Architectonics, New York

2018

Exhibition Talk: **Shape of the Future - Urbanism and Architecture in the Age of Industry 4.0**

Exhibition Talk: **Der Holzmodulbau - Ein Modell für den Hochbau der Zukunft** with NKBAK Architekten, Frankfurt/Main

2017

Collaborative Project: **Craftsmanship in the Digital Age. Architecture, Values and Digital Fabrication** with the Netherlands Embassy in Berlin; NowLab, Berlin and Forschungsinitiative Zukunft Bau (BBSR), Bonn

Lab Talk and Round Table: **New Functions of the Surface. Pushing the Urban Envelope** with Schüco, Bielefeld

Book Presentation: **Infrastructure Space** with Ruby Press, Berlin and LafargeHolcim Awards, Zurich

2016

Book Presentation: **WOHA. Garden City Mega City. Rethinking Cities for the Age of Global Warming**

Lab Talk: **To BIM or not to BIM** with the American Institute of Architects (AIA) Europe Chapter

Book Presentation: **From a Vertical Forest to a Forest City.** Almut Grüntuch-Ernst in conversation with Stefano Boeri

2014

Lecture: **Yves Bréchet. Materials and Process Selection: A Compass in a Jungle**

Collaborative Project: **Lighting the Global Workspace (2014 - 2015)** with Zumtobel, Dornbirn

Lab Talk Series: **ReTooling the Trades # 3 Extending Smartness** with the Netherlands Embassy in Berlin

2013

Lab Talk: **Materialien für smartes Licht** with TSB Technologiestiftung Berlin and Haute Innovation, Berlin

Conference: **Transmaterial Aesthetics: Experiments with Timber in Architecture and Technology** with Hochschule Wismar and University of Technology Sydney

Lab Talk: **Design Process – Negotiation Between Form and Function**

Conference: **Smart City: The Next Generation. Focus Southeast Asia**

Lab Talk: **Energy Materials in Design and Architecture** with TSB Technologiestiftung Berlin and Haute Innovation, Berlin

Collaborative Project: **The City Lights Project** with Zumtobel, Dornbirn

2012

Book Presentation: **InForming a Smarter Urban - Helsinki** with the City of Helsinki and DOM Publishers, Berlin

Lab Talk: **From Research to Design - Mobility** with Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin and Universidad de Buenos Aires

2012

Exhibition Talk Series: **MACHEN! Die deutschen Gewinner der Holcim Awards 2011/12** with Holcim Foundation for Sustainable Construction, Zurich

2011

Metro Lab: **TouchHouse. Smart Living - Communicating Surfaces** with Busch-Jaeger, Lüdenscheid

ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory in Berlin is a unique interdisciplinary platform for urban discourse, exploring the interplay between built environment and social life for the future of our human habitat at an international level. Since 2009, ANCB has curated an internationally renowned discussion and enquiry programme, complementing Aedes Architecture Forum. At the centre of a global network, ANCB initiates interdisciplinary processes into critical issues facing the built environment. By bringing together proposals from architecture and spatial practice with societal and cultural discourses, technical research, political considerations and industry products, ANCB generates collaborations across conventional boundaries and facilitates exchange to explore potentials for improved sustainable living conditions around the world. Through its programme, ANCB contributes substantially to the discourse of space making in its changing political, societal and cultural frameworks. The outcomes and ideas thus generated have been captured in a series of ANCB publications and are documented in an open-access video archive.

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