

## Prefaces

Heike Biechteler, Johannes Käferstein  
*Teaching Urbanism*  
9

Stefan Kurath  
*Architecture Now!*  
*Thinking About and Acting in Space Is Needed to Bring Sustainability into the Real World!*  
12

Jonathan Sergison  
*Teaching the Urban*  
16

## Content

### left side

Marcel Bächtiger  
*Invitingly Designed Doors*  
26

Federica Betti  
*Reflections from a Recent Graduate*  
28

Heike Biechteler  
*Our Hope Lies in the Gray*  
32

Dieter Dietz  
*CITY STREETS / A Note from Tokyo*  
*Reclaim the Architecture of the Street*  
36

Caspar Schärer  
*Learning from Each Other*  
42

Holger Schurk  
*Multiple Perspectives!*  
*On Spatial and Thematic Opening of Maps*  
46

Stefan Wülser  
*The Revolution Will Not Be Televised*  
50

### right side

Tom Avermaete  
21

.  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .

*Reciprocal Urban Design:*  
*The Prospect of Another History*

.  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .  
. .

43

Peter Althaus <i>Staging of Uncertainty</i> 60	P o l i t i c s	Gabu Heindl, Drehli Robnik 47	Ludovica Molo <i>Not How, But Why Teach the Territorial Project in Architecture Schools</i> 112	P a r t i c i p a t i o n s	.
Gabriela Christen <i>Making Urban Spaces Visible and Imaginable</i> 64		.	Cristina Roiz de la Parra Solano <i>The Room for Living Architectural Solutions to Demographic and Climate Challenges</i> 118		.
Alicia Escolar <i>Innovation Rooted in Archetypes</i> 68		.	Caroline Ting <i>Examining Urban Potentials</i> 122		113
Angelika Jupprien <i>Reading and Exploring Urban Spaces: A Design Challenge</i> 72		.	Hilke Marit Berger, Rico Henri Herzog, Annika Kühn <i>Serious Gaming for Resilient Cities: Collaborative Learning and Radical Urban Imagination</i> 132		.
Stefan Kurath <i>We Need to Become Political to Bring Architecture into the Real World!</i> 76		.	Mosè Cometta <i>The Role of Social Sciences for a Better Urban Design Education</i> 136		.
Séréna Vanbutsele, Estela Schaffner <i>Teaching Urbanism Through the Lens of Urban Voids Redefining Architectural Practice and Education</i> 82		.	Christina Doumpiotti <i>Agency of Co-Creation: Shared Intelligence</i> 140		.
Roland Züger <i>Design the Process</i> 86		.	Leticia de Andrade Perin <i>Bridging Communities</i> 144		.
Mark Ammann <i>Learning from the City</i> 96		.	Sven Reber <i>Weaving the City</i> 148		149
Anna Jessen <i>StadtRAUM Right From the Start</i> 100		.	Tim Schwander <i>Towards Transdisciplinary Understanding</i> 152		.
Niklaus Graber <i>Unprogrammed Spaces</i> 104		C o m p l e x i t i v e	Frédéric Bonnet 81		Werner Weibel <i>Coexistence</i> 156
Joachim Huber <i>Architecture amid Urban Crises: Contextualizing Urban Diversity</i> 108	s	<i>Hybridization and Intertwined Scales, a Way to Teach Contemporary Urbanism</i> .	.	.	

Predrag Bekcic <i>Learn—Act—Learn—Repeat</i> 166	O b s e r v a t i o n s	Julian Lewis 153
Yves Dusseiller <i>Bar Installation with Veli &amp; Amos</i> 170		.
Vera Kaps <i>Learning Urbanism as a Societal Practice</i> 172		.
Reto Pfenninger <i>walking, talking, drawing</i> 176		.
Jonathan Sergison <i>Reflections on Teaching the Urban</i> 180		.
Felix Wettstein <i>Let's Plant Trees</i> 184		195
Maxime Zaugg <i>City in Dialogue: Engaging Architects in Public Discourses and Societal Interaction</i> 188		

## Biographies

## Imprint & Image Credits

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## Teaching Urbanism

The fifth edition of the *Lucerne Talks—Symposium for Architectural Pedagogies* series deals with current urban planning challenges in relation to practice, teaching, and research in architecture education and practice from different vantage points.

The present positions, texts, and essays emerged from the latest *Symposium for Architectural Pedagogies*, which was held in November 2023 under the theme of “Teaching Urbanism” and took place at the Institute of Architecture (IAR) at the Lucerne School of Engineering and Architecture. The Lucerne Talks see themselves primarily as a cross-institutional platform that initiates an exchange on an eye-to-eye level from different positions. However, a so-called equal exchange is only possible to a limited extent at a symposium. This is one of the reasons why this book was created. It aims to give all participants in the symposium a voice and offers them an opportunity to contribute to the discourse on contemporary urbanism.

This book is therefore an urgent call for everyone to take on responsibility and position themselves politically, socially, and culturally, here and now. Planning policy requires participation from stakeholders in the city, countryside, and periphery. After all, the planning of living environments and the design of buildings cannot be thought of separately, but only together.

In this sense, these collections of texts are being understood as a kind of collective, a shared written dialogue. Although the contributions consist of different concepts and narrative styles, they testify to a common understanding of the need to apply different, multidisciplinary approaches, attitudes, and methods to be able to cope with ecological and social challenges in urban planning.

Recent experience has taught us that we must conceive new approaches for built environments. In all cases, it is necessary to ensure that everyone and every member of society is included in the shaping of cities and in regard to our shared habitat.

“The lasting effects of the economic and financial crisis, the fourth industrial revolution, accelerated urbanisation, the shrinking of peripheral regions, migration and social change, increasing inequality, climate change and environmental damage are having a major impact [...] on our living environment.”<sup>1</sup>

These underlying conditions have far-reaching consequences for the planning of cities and urban situations at a more general level. They demand that we “carefully and sustainably think about all the resources available to us. Careful consideration must be given to the use of resources such as open space, green and forest areas, cultivated land and materials such as stone and brick, and natural elements such as water and fresh air [...] therefore it seems necessary that we rethink the city as a whole.”<sup>2</sup>

For architects, the overall notion of urbanism is concerned with two important issues: Firstly, the need to develop an understanding of cities and environments, which are the result of complex sociotechnical processes. And secondly, both general and specific approaches are required in which design plays a key role in developing solutions. We must therefore begin to understand that the processes of planning cities and environments are interconnected. The discipline of architecture cannot be addressed separately and alone, but only in collaboration with all the stakeholders involved. Arguably, we can only serve the collective needs of the common

<sup>1</sup> Swiss Confederation, Davos Declaration 2018, p. 8.

<sup>2</sup> Tom Avermaete, “Grosse Pläne, grosse Herausforderungen,” in *Du: Die Rückkehr des Städtebaus*, vol. 910 (2021), p. 17.