

LIVING LAB: CONSTRUCTING THE COMMONS

a project curated by Tom Avermaete (TU Delft/ ETH Zürich)
Lisa Schmidt-Colinet and Daniela Herold (IKA, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)
in cooperation with IBA Vienna,
The International Building Exhibition For New Social Housing, 2022



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LIVING LAB CONSTRUCTING THE COMMONS comprises an exhibition, a workshop and a debate. It takes as its point of departure the question of what is to be considered as common in the city. More specifically, questions are raised about how commonality can be defined in relation to housing and the urban environment.

The Commons are intensively discussed in the contemporary debate on the city. New social, economic and political perspectives on urban life have emerged. However, it is less clear what role the architecture of the city - as a common resource par excellence - can play in processes of commoning. This LIVING LAB wants to explicitly address the role of architecture and architects in creating urban commons. It wants to explore how architectural interventions can play a role in unlocking common grounds in our contemporary cities and how new theoretical concepts to think the commons in relation to the contemporary city might emerge from this.

The Exhibition *Constructing the Commons* is based upon the results of three research and design studios, which took place at the Institute for Art and Architecture, Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna between 2016 and 2018. It brings together current and historic architectural projects, exploring in a broad way the question of what we can share in the contemporary city: What can be held common between different neighbourhoods and between different citizens? How can architecture and spatial design contribute to the unlocking of spaces and to its maintenance on a long term?

The workshop, entitled *Ambiguous Edges* extends the knowledge presented in the exhibition through artistic interventions in the urban space. During a one week workshop real-life scenarios for recognising, marking and enhancing potentials of the commons along Sonnwendgasse and Gudrunstrasse in Vienna's 10th district got developed: Those streets mark the rupture of two distinct areas, the recently accomplished

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housing development of Sonnwendviertel and the existing bloc structure of Inner-Favoriten. Students explored points of transitions, ruptures and connections between those two differently shaped urban environments.

The debate *The Role of Architecture for the Urban Commons* wants to explicitly address the role of architecture and architects in creating an urban commons. Relying on experiences in the Netherlands and Austria the debate wants to explore how architectural interventions can play a role in unlocking common resources (spatial, practical, material) in our contemporary cities.

Participants: Simonetta Ferfoglia, artist (gangart), Wolfgang Förster (initiator of IBA_Wien 2022), Kristian Koreman (landscape architect, ZUS, Rotterdam), Marthijn Pool (architect, Space&Matter, Amsterdam), Bernd Vlay, architect (StudioVlayStreeruwitz), students of the workshop, Tom Avermaete, Daniela Herold, Lisa Schmidt-Colinet.

Ambiguous Edges, 18.09—24.09.2018

Workshop taught by: Tom Avermaete, Daniela Herold, Lisa Schmidt-Colinet.

Input lectures: Karoline Streeruwitz (StudioVlayStreeruwitz), Hannes Gröblacher, Tamara Brajovic (Gebietsbetreuung GB*10). Guest critics: Simonetta Ferfoglia (gangart, Vienna), Marthijn Pool (Space&Matters, Amsterdam), Kristian Koreman (ZUS, Amsterdam).

24.09.MONDAY

13:00- 17:00

Final presentation of the workshop
Ambiguous Edges, Walk along
Sonnwendgasse.

18:00

Opening of the Exhibition
Constructing the Commons

19:00

Debate: *The Role of Architecture for the Urban Common*

Location:
GB*, Stadtteilbüro
Ost, Quellenstrasse
149, 1100 Vienna

Exhibition on view
25.09.-04.10.2018
Mo.-Fri. 14:00-18:00h
guided tour:
sat.29.09.2018 14:00-
16:00h