

# CEU – Council for European Urbanism Symposium

COP21 AND BEYOND:  
Defining the “New Urban Agenda”  
in a Changing Climate

November 27-29, 2015

## Conference Focus:

The world is increasingly recognising the dimensions of a deep environmental crisis, and urgent action is now necessary. Several seminal international events are occurring this autumn:

- The United Nations is hosting Habitat III on the rapid (and too often sprawling) growth of cities in 2016
- The UN Sustainable Development Goals have been adopted at the October UN summit and general assembly in New York City
- The UN conference on climate change, COP21, is taking place in Paris in December.

Cities, their structure, and their development, are increasingly at the center of the agenda, which Habitat III has termed the “New Urban Agenda.”

What is the role of architects and urbanists in this urgent agenda? Is it to continue to build the same kinds of buildings and urban settlements we have been building for a century, only now festooned with new “green” high-technology gadgets? Is it to continue as visionary artists, dutifully serving – or sometimes ignoring – the agents of modernization, sprawl and global capital? Or must we confront the need for a deeper, more radical model of urbanization and urban life – one more centred around human dynamics and well-being? What would this entail, in concept, strategy, detailed practice? What are the lessons we must now share and act upon?

The Council for European Urbanism has long explored these questions, and championed new answers. In particular, the CEU has advanced the radical proposition that the allegedly “modern” post-war model of cities is actually antiquated, and profoundly destructive of long-term sustainability; and that real advancement now lies in recognising the evolutionary “collective intelligence” embodied in the patterns of centuries of urban dynamics and patterns of human experience.

But many questions remain in filling out this “new urban agenda.” What is the role of urban morphology? How does “genetic” information (patterns, types, etc) translate into built structures and environments? What are the elements of the “operating system for growth” – e.g. codes, laws, models, standards, incentives etc. – and how must (can) they be changed? How do global patterns express themselves in local form? What lessons can we learn from local case studies – particularly the lessons of European urbanism, which for better or worse, has played such a central role in shaping global settlement?

We will explore all these questions, with the aim of concluding on our own version of a “new urban agenda” – with concrete next steps. What must we do? How can the CEU as an organisation facilitate the actions needed?

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

### Friday, 27 November

18:00 Welcome

Aljoscha Hofmann, DFG Fellow, Center for Metropolitan Studies, TU Berlin and Director,  
CEU Germany

18:10 Keynote: Defining the New Urban Agenda for COP21 and Beyond  
Michael Mehaffy, COP21 Participant/Presenter; Academic Chair, Future of Places Forum (partnership of UN-Habitat, Project for Public Spaces and Ax:son Johnson Foundation); Architecture Faculty Member and Researcher on climate change and urban form, TU Delft; Board Member, Council for European Urbanism, and Chair, INTBAU College of Chapters.

What is the “New Urban Agenda” as the UN defines it? What is the role of cities, and of those who shape them? What are our core premises (theories, practices, suppositions) for “good city form,” and how do we achieve it? Michael Mehaffy will give a briefing of current UN activities, the current needs, and the opportunity (and need) for the CEU to help to shape the agenda.

18:40 Keynote: The Role of the Architect-Urbanist: Toward a Hippocratic Oath for the Built Environment

Joanna Alimanestianu, Co-founder, CEU; Visiting Professor, University of Notre Dame; Architect and Urbanist based in Brussels and New York.

Architects and urbanists are awakening to a new level of responsibility for the built environment. The current status quo is increasingly untenable, and we need a new dedication to rigorous professionalism and “duty of care.” We can start with our own “hippocratic oath for the built environment.”

19:00 Panel Discussion (with audience)

19:30 End

20:00 Dinner

**Saturday, 28 November: Symposium**

**SESSION ONE: COLLABORATIVE ORGANISATION**

9:00 Morning Welcome

Harald Bodenschatz, Professor, Technical University Berlin

9:10 The Agenda of a “New Urbanism”

Stefanos Polyzoïdes, co-founder of the CNU and European-American practitioner

9:25 European Urbanism: From Global to Local

TBD

9:40 Dialogue: The Place of European Urbanism Within an International “New Urban Agenda”

10:30 Break

**SESSION TWO: THE QUESTION OF MORPHOLOGY**

11:00 Urban Morphology in Berlin and Its Lessons

Harald Bodenschatz, Professor, TU Berlin

11:15 Good City Form: Formal, Informal and Picturesque

Peter Kellow, UK-France architect, regular author with American Arts Quarterly, and member, RIBA, AWG, TAG, and INTBAU.

11:30 Understanding the “Urban Genome” and its Generative Effects

Hillel Schocken, Professor, Tel Aviv University and architect  
Co-founder, Movement for Israeli Urbanism

11:45 Dialogue: Urban Form in the New Urban Agenda: From Global to Local (And Back)

12:45 (Break for lunch)

**SESSION THREE: CASE STUDIES**

13:45 Main Streets: Key to a Sustainable and Just City Region?

Aljoscha Hofmann, Director, CEU Germany

14:00 Case study of the Bundesplatz: Transforming the Automobile-Dependent City  
Christian von Oppen, TU Berlin

14:30 Case Study of Urban Codes in Kuwait: Transforming Modern Arab Cities  
Duane Phillips

14:45 Case Study on Valuing the Needs of the People: Building and Renovating in Brussels  
Christian Lasserre, Brussels, Belgium

14:45 Dialogue: Lessons of the Case Studies

15:45 Break

#### **SESSION FOUR: TOWARD A NEW URBAN AGENDA**

16:00 The Stockholm Charter, The Oslo Declaration and Beyond  
Audun Engh, Board Member, Council for European Urbanism and Secretary, INTBAU

16:15 The State of a “New Urbanism” Today  
Liam O’Connor, Architect

16:30 Presentation TBD  
Speaker TBD

16:45 Dialogue: Declaration of a “CEU New Urban Agenda”

18:00 END

19:00-21:00 Walking tour through northern Neukölln (city quarter with thriving night life) and finish with dinner and/or drinks

#### **Sunday, 29 November: Walking tours**

NOTE: Tour 1 and 2 are 2.5-hour tours operating simultaneously. Tour 3 follows as a 1.5-hour tour and can be combined with one of the other tours. Meeting places will be announced at the conference.

10:00 Walking tour 1: Mediaspree, with Aljoscha Hofmann  
Mediaspree is a new urban development district with large developments of media companies and other new projects, featuring traditional urban patterns with new Modernist architectural expressions. See e.g. <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mediaspree>. (3 hours)

10:00 Walking tour 2: Construction in the core, from 1950 to the present, with Duane Phillips

A walk through the different urban planning phases 1950s-today along where the Wall used to be (Hallesches Tor-Ritterstrasse-Checkpoint Charlie-Potsdamer Platz- Brandenburg Gate- Regierungsviertel) with photos of before-and-now. Ending at a place where they have excellent Apfel Strüdel! (3 hours)

12:30 Walking tour 3: The Historic Center of Berlin, with Harald Bodenschatz

Explore the historic core of Berlin, including its distinctive block structure and urban fabric.

Tour starts at Alexanderplatz and from there continues along the new Berlin castle to the Friedrichswerder district (1.5 hour)

14:00 Lunch, CEU Board Meeting (Open to all)  
Location TBA

15:00 Depart (approx.)

JOIN to BERLIN 25. To 30. November. I organize a six-day study tour to Berlin, with a certain amount of flexibility in arrival and departure days. In addition to Berlin there will be day trips to Dresden and Potsdam, we'll look at historical monuments and urban areas that eventually are being rebuilt after the destruction during World War II and the cold war.

Those who want it can also attend a one-day Conference on urban development based on the classic European urban planning.

In Berlin's classic city streets, not least the recreated the old downtown areas in East Berlin, around the main street Unter den Linden. It is listed in the new City Classic style. The reconstruction of the City Castle is well underway.

We also seek out places in Berlin related to important parts of the city's history: the wall, the Führerbunker, DDR-regime, Holocaust memorials, etc.

In Dresden the entire reconstructed the historical city-centre, now the settlement Neumarkt with Baroque architecture, around the already rebuilt Frauenkirche. We travel on the day trip to Dresden Thursday 26.11.

Potsdam is an old Royal residence by 30 minutes by train from Berlin. We have a day trip there Monday Nov 30. Bismarck Castle was blown up by the Communists, but is now complete reconstructed.

Read more on the website and contact me if you are interested.  
audun.engh@gmail.com, mobile 92,622,626