

*Piotr Lorens
Izabela Mironowicz*

WATERFRONT FOR ALL SUMMARY OF THE EUSS 2015

Bremen – as a perfect example of the post-industrial city – can be regarded as a laboratory for an urban transformation. Once playing extremely important role in the maritime transportation network, today can be seen as a place looking for the new concepts for its previously vibrant waterfront areas. With no doubts, these places represent a huge development potential. But at the same time the areas in question are becoming a great problem for the city – as their development capacity (measured – in the simplest way – by the amount of square kilometers awaiting redevelopment) is way too big for the needs and opportunities of the “traditional” model of the urban waterfront renewal. In fact, one project of this kind is more than enough for the needs of the local market – the “Übersee-Stadt”, once completed, will become an excellent extension of the existing city center, representing the example of well-established tradition of high-profile redevelopment waterfront site.

But the set of waterfront sites awaiting redevelopment is much bigger and this “traditional” model – represented by above mentioned “Übersee-Stadt” – cannot be applied to all of those. Furthermore, one can argue that applying this model to remaining sites can become a serious mistake. This comes from a number of reasons. The main ones are associated with the limits of local real estate market potential and a nature of the community needs. The others are based on the spatial context of the Bremen waterfront sites. They are indeed located within the working class housing neighborhoods, and therefore associated with the specific needs of people living and working in these areas for decades. And finally, as the future of global megalopolis is not in store for this beautiful urban environment, it seems necessary to identify site-specific and appropriate for them models of transformation. Therefore, one can say that the workshop teams

working on the selected sites were challenged with the “typical” problem definition (in regard to location, scale, type of degradation), but – due to the special socio-economic and cultural site contexts – they were supposed to deliver original and innovative proposals. Therefore, the results of European Urban Summer School can become one of the first steps in reinventing Bremen waterfront, taking into account the need of innovative thinking for the area, as they allow suggesting redevelopment models which respond to the real needs of the community.

As discussed in the introduction to this book, the concept of the EUSS tries to introduce thinking “outside the box”. This relates not only to the approach to planning and types of planning solutions, but also to the composition of the planning group and mode of work. In result, the approach to planning task, which was employed during EUSS exercise, was not based on “grand visions” or “market research” as it usually is the case in this kind of research. Planning groups preferred to look carefully at the contexts of each of the selected sites. They did study the problem not only from the spatial but also from the social, economic and cultural perspective. Developing such the approach was made possible due to the fact that EUSS participants represented various cultural backgrounds, which allowed them better understand the site context and needs of the local community. Also, previous experience gained by the team members in various places in the world allowed them to develop original solution of the old problems.

The projects developed by the EUSS participants clearly stated that the needs and demands of the local community are very different to the ones usually preferred by politicians and private sector representatives. Moreover, they were not only focused on providing understanding of the site profile, but also allowed

to develop frequently forgotten link between different components of the planning process. These included observation and analysis of the site specifics, conceptualizing future development vision and – finally – providing more detailed design solutions. Such an approach, while linking all parts of the planning and design process, allowed to overcome characteristic present practice of division between “planning” and “urban design”. It also allowed to internalize that all elements of this process matter and that planning and design can be successfully linked not only in case of typical large-scale projects, like the above mentioned “Übersee-Stadt”.

Proposals developed by EUSS teams – besides providing the more comprehensive approach to the analysis of the site and underlining interdependencies between planning and design components of the project – also contributed to the development of the new vision of the “green, not grey waterfront for all”. It seems that – in the age of the “post-speculative” and “post-global” cities – this kind of solutions will be more frequently developed, especially in the cases of the less privileged cities and places. Also, these can mark the beginning of the new era – era of “planning for all” and not “planning for a few”. Therefore, although provided for the Bremen waterfront, the approach developed by the EUSS teams can become a sort of toolkit for other places demanding innovative, community-oriented planning and design.

PARTICIPANTS

TEAM

© flickr.com, Peter Georges | <https://www.flickr.com/photos/steffiandhobbyphotographie/15376441184/>

PATRICIA CHAN LOK HEI

Patricia Chan Lok Hei (China) is a year 4 undergraduate student currently studying Urban Studies at the University of Hong Kong. In her four-year courses of Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies, she found the aspects of sustainable urban environment, local art, cultural and historic elements that reinforce the richness of physical and intellectual outlook of urban environment in Hong Kong most interesting and inspiring. During her university studies, she interned at Governmental bodies such as Civil Engineering and Development Department and also Home Affairs Department Race Relations Unit to explore urban dynamics in terms of infrastructural and societal aspects. “The European Urban Summer School for Young Professionals had been a wonderful experience for me to further extend my knowledge about urban development from Hong Kong to Bremen.”

EVELINA KNYZELYTE

Evelina Knyzelyte (Lithuania) has graduated as an architect in Kaunas University of Technology (Lithuania) and successfully expanded the scale of projects while studying International Master of Landscape Architecture in Nürtingen-Geislingen, University of Applied Sciences (Germany). Currently, she is working with international projects in an architecture company based in Vilnius, Lithuania.

MARIE KÖTTERHEINRICH

Marie Kötterheinrich (Germany) is a Bachelor Student in Urban Planning at the Faculty of Architecture, Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. This four-year programme focusses on theory and politics of the city and planning as well as on socio-scientific urban research. During her Bachelor degree she did several projects about the history of the city and how to deal with urban heritage nowadays and worked in addition as a research assistant for the scientific network „Urbanism of European Dictatorships of the 20th Century“ for the Chair of Spatial Planning at her faculty. In the beginning of 2015 she did a semester abroad at the Faculty of Architecture at the Universidade de Lisboa. There she worked on an urban design located at the waterfront of Belém and became interested in the topic of planning with and near by the water.

MRUDHULA KOSHY

Mrudhula Koshy (India) is an Architect and Urban Designer based in The Netherlands for the past three years. She did her 5 year bachelor's degree in Architecture and thereafter did her post – masters in European Masters in Urbanism from Delft Institute of Technology, The Netherlands. She is now a Young Planning Professional (YPP) representing the city of Maastricht, The Netherlands for the urban theme ‘How to overcome National Borders?’ for the ISOCARP Congress 2015. Her core interests and skills involve mediating between theory and practice for multi – scalar spatial strategies in diverse contexts, scenario construction, and collaborative planning and frameworks in the face of uncertainty in metropolitan cities in the Global South.

GIULIA MOTTA ZANIN

Giulia Motta Zanin (Italy) was born in Bolzano/Bozen in 1990. She studied Planning and Policies for the City, Environment and Landscape at the IUAV University of Venice and graduated in April 2015 with the master thesis “The cultures of living with water, from historical heritage towards climate change adaptation. A comparative analysis between Hamburg and the Venetian Lagoon”. She is interested in adaptive governance, especially in coastal areas and estuaries particularly affected by the problem of flooding.

OLIVIA O’CONNOR

Olivia O’Connor (Ireland) was born in the popular tourist town of Killarney, County Kerry. It is located in the South-west of Ireland. Currently studying a masters in Planning and Sustainable Development at University College Cork. Currently holds an undergraduate degree in Social Science, also from UCC. In the first year of masters took part in an urban renewal and rejuvenation project of an inner city community to renew derelict buildings and assist with antisocial issues through planning practices. This was an excellent real world example of public participation. The topic of my research project will be around the area of women and the affect they have on planning, focusing on gender proofing of development plans in Ireland.

KATARZYNA REMBARZ

Katarzyna Rembarz (Poland) graduated from the Faculty of Architecture at the Gdańsk University of Technology. Actually she is a graduate member at the same faculty and works as a freelance architect in Gdansk (www.katarzynarembarz.pl). She is a member of the Polish Republic Chamber of Architects.

BRITTA RESTEMEYER

Britta Restemeyer (Germany) works as PhD researcher at the Faculty of Spatial Sciences, University of Groningen. She obtained her Bachelor’s degree in Urban Planning at the HafenCity University, Hamburg. Afterwards, she successfully completed the double degree Master Water and Coastal Management at the Universities of Oldenburg (Germany) and Groningen (Netherlands). Her key interest is how to deal with flood risk in urban regions. Already during her studies, and later on in her professional career, she participated in German as well as European research projects, such as RIMAX, Climate Proof Areas, KLIFF and MARE. Since 2012 she pursues her research interests in a PhD project called ‘flood resilient cities’. Since 2015 she is also working as a lecturer at the University of Groningen, with the integration of spatial planning and water management at the core of her teaching tasks.

HEEWAN SHIN

Heewan Shin (South Korea) is a master student of urban design at the Technical University Berlin (Germany). In 2010 he graduated in Urban Planning (Bachelor of Science) from the Hanyang University, South Korea. After graduation, he started to work as an urban designer in Space Group, architecture and urban design office, in Seoul, South Korea. His biggest concern is an affordable living in a city area and involved in several affordable housing projects during his master programme. He has been passionately writing an article about cities, especially focused on the city of Berlin and its challenges in recent years.

TEACHING STAFF

VERENA ANDREAS

Verena Andreas graduated 2012 from the Faculty of Spatial Planning at the Technical University of Dortmund and worked as a project manager in a consultancy office for urban development and planning afterwards. Today she is a Scientific Staff Member at the Institute of Geography and the Institute of Labor and Economy at the University of Bremen. Her research interests lie in the fields of urban development, planning and regeneration as well as processes of urban transformation in old industrial cities. Planning and adaption strategies in Bremen, the Ruhr Area and Manchester, England are key topics in her work, besides that she shares special interests in the fields of international urban development strategies. Her PhD-Project deals with "Urban Regeneration and Planning Culture in the Entrepreneurial City".

CAROLA HEIN

Carola Hein is Professor and Head of the Chair History of Architecture and Urban Planning at TU Delft. She has published widely on topics in contemporary and historical architectural and urban planning – notably in Europe and Japan. Among other major grants, she received a Guggenheim Fellowship to pursue research on The Global Architecture of Oil and an Alexander von Humboldt fellowship to investigate large-scale urban transformation in Hamburg in international context between 1842 and 2008. Her current research interests include transmission of architectural and urban ideas along international networks, focusing specifically on port cities and the global architecture of oil. She serves as Editor for the Americas for the journal Planning Perspectives and as Asia book review editor for the Journal of Urban History. Her books include: The Capital of Europe (2004), Port Cities: Dynamic Landscapes and Global Networks (2011), Brussels: Perspectives on a European Capital (2007), European Brussels. Whose capital? Whose city? (2006), Rebuilding Urban Japan after 1945 (2003), and Cities, Autonomy and Decentralisation in Japan (2006), Hauptstadt Berlin 1957-58 (1991).

PIOTR LORENS

Piotr Lorens - PhD, DSc., Prof., urban planner. Head, Department of Urban Design and Regional Planning, Faculty of Architecture, Gdansk University of Technology, Poland; Vice President, International Society of City and Regional Planners ISOCARP. His scientific interests include urban development and regeneration processes, with a special focus on comprehensive planning and waterfront redevelopment.

TEAM

JULIA LOSSAU

Julia Lossau is professor of urban geography in the Department of Geography at the University of Bremen. Her research focuses on the symbolic production of places and spaces, particularly in the context of postcolonial discourses. Previous research examined the uses of art in public spaces as well as representations of nature in urban ecology. Books include *The Uses of Art in Public Space* (London, New York: Routledge, 2014, co-edited with Quentin Stevens) and *Perspectives in Urban Ecology. Studies of ecosystems and interactions between humans and nature in the metropolis of Berlin* (Berlin, Heidelberg, New York: Springer, 2011, co-edited with Wilfried Endlicher et al.).

ULRIKE MANSFELD

Ulrike Mansfeld (Dipl. Ing., Architect BDA) is professor for urban design at the School of Architecture in the University of Applied Sciences Bremen. Before she worked and studied in at the Academy of Fine Arts Stuttgart and at the Bartlett School, University College London. She is teaching design and concepts of interiors, architectural and urban planning. Her special interest aims at real life experiences “on site”.

IZABELA MIRONOWICZ

Izabela Mironowicz is an associate professor at the Faculty of Architecture, Department of Spatial Planning and director for the studies in spatial planning, at the Wrocław University of Technology (Poland). In 2010 she launched the European Urban Summer Schools under the auspices of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP). During her terms of office as Secretary General of AESOP (2011-2015), she helped to develop EUSS as one of the AESOP flagship projects. Now in AESOP structures Izabela is responsible for the EUSS and also she represents AESOP in Brussels European Liaison Office (BELO). She sits in the national board of the Society of Town Planners in Poland. She is a member of the Commission on Architecture and Town Planning in Wrocław, an advisory body in urban matters for the Mayor of Wrocław. She sits in the scientific boards of: Wrocław Contemporary Museum and international planning journals: *International Planning Studies* (Cardiff University), *Revue Internationale d'Urbanisme* (Université de Lyon) and *MEGARON* (Yildiz Technical University, Istanbul). Her research focuses on urban transformation and advanced modelling methods in urban development. She is also an expert in planning education.

ANNA-LISA MÜLLER

Anna-Lisa Müller is a senior researcher at the Department of Geography at the University of Bremen, Germany. Her main research interests include the interrelation of materiality and sociality in postmodern societies, urban developments and international processes of transmigration. She obtained her PhD in 2013 at Bielefeld University, Germany. In 2012 and 2013, Anna-Lisa Müller was a fellow of the residency program *Scholars in Residence* organised by the German Goethe-Institute and the Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities (KWI). Her most recent books are *Green Creative City* (2013) and *Architecture, Materiality and Society* (2015, with Werner Reichmann).

GÜNTER WARSEWA

Günter Warsewa (Dr. rer. pol.; Dipl. Sow; Bremen Senior Researcher) is Director of the IAW (Research Institute Labour and Economy) at the University of Bremen. Recent professional activities are research works and publications in urban and regional sociology, in labour- and industrial sociology and about governance and institutional change; consulting and expert reports on urban development and governance; teaching in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Bremen. G. Warsewa is a member of the German Sociological Association (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie) and the DGS-Sections „Environmental Ecology“ and „Urban and Regional Sociology“.