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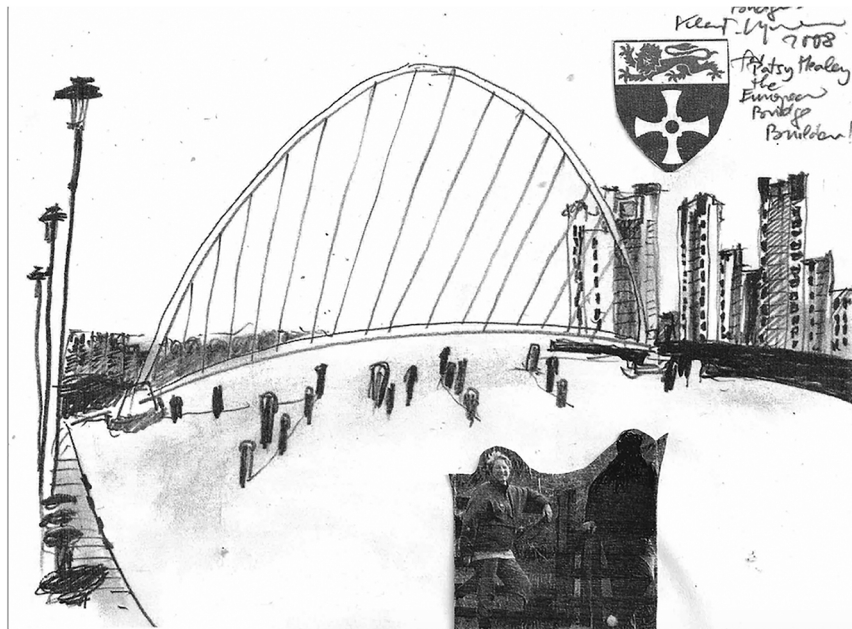
COMMENT



Places Matter. Memories of Places Where I Met Patsy Healey

Klaus R. Kunzmann

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Patsy was one of the few British planners who looked over the hedges of parochial churchyards. She always built bridges to other countries even though she was mainly oriented to the Anglo-American school of planning theory. Planners around the world have benefitted significantly from her contributions. During our long professional lives, Patsy and I met at various places. Making better places was Patsy's lifetime passion and the legacy she left to future generations of planners. She has often been praised for her manifold connections to the planning community. Instead of adding another eulogy – this time, from a German perspective – I have instead produced a series of collages representing selected places where Patsy and I met during our long professional association. These works are inspired by the Dada movement (represented by Kurt Schwitters) and by Max Ernst, Robert Rauschenberg and Saul Steinberg.

Atlanta 1985

I do not remember where I met Patsy first, but we made an important connection in Atlanta in 1985 (Figure 1). On the occasion of the annual ACSP Conference in Atlanta, Carl Goldschmidt, a planner with German roots, who was then president of the Association of American Schools of Planning, invited me to give a luncheon talk on the state-of-the-art of planning education in Germany. My talk did not raise much interest among the mainly American audience, but happily it caused Patsy to ask me to join her for dinner that evening. Our conversation, over a delicious juicy steak dinner, revolved around our admiration that planning schools in America had an annual occasion to exchange their experiences, celebrate their achievements, and express their concerns and challenges. Jointly we lamented that European planning schools did not have such an institution.

We decided to explore the possibility that the US example could travel to Europe, despite the different socio-political and cultural context of a continent with more than 25 languages, educational traditions and university systems (Healey, 2017). Selfies were not yet a mainstream practice that year. Hence, I have no image to prove that we were together in Atlanta in person – but it happened!

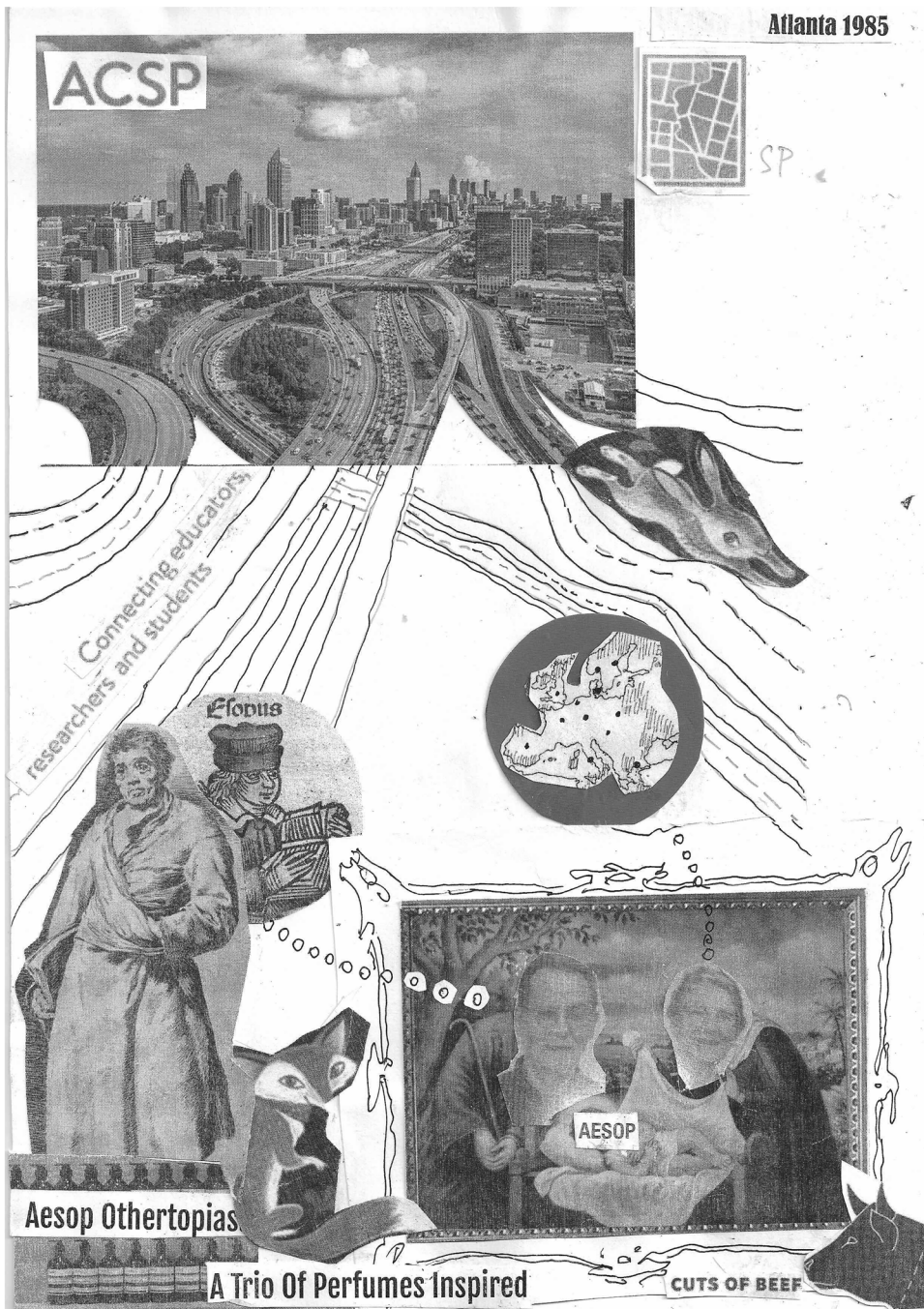


Figure 1. Atlanta/USA.

Cappenberg 1987

Returning home to my University in Dortmund, I immediately set about to find the means to establish such an institution. First, I had to determine if there was real interest among European planning schools to pursue such a venture. With Patsy's help I sent invitation letters to key figures we thought might react positively to such a project. And, as a passionate believer in *genius loci* (spirit of a place) we bypassed the industrial context and sterile conference rooms of the University, heading instead to *Schloss Cappenberg* on the urban fringe of Dortmund. I selected this historic place for two reasons.

First, from 1816 to his death in 1831, the former Baroque monastery had been the last home of the Franconian *Baron Heinrich Friedrich Karl vom und zum Stein*, a renowned visionary Prussian statesman. Baron vom Stein introduced numerous reforms that paved the way for the later unification of Germany. These included the abolition of serfdom; rejection of the Prussian caste system; and, most important for today's German planning system, a modern municipal system, which granted Prussian towns the power of local self-government (Fenske, 2017).

The second reason I selected the place was that during these years I was involved with a local civil society group fighting to end coal mining under Schloss Cappenberg, which threatened to demolish the place. (Coal mining ceased under Schloss Cappenberg in 2001, soon thereafter throughout the Ruhr. The Schloss Cappenberg now serves as a County Museum of Arts and Culture.)

During the meeting, Patsy was extremely helpful in convincing the invited participants that the ambitious project made sense and would be successful. The proposal to establish a European association found unanimous support among the international group of planners present at this attractive place. AESOP, I thought, would be a perfect acronym for the new association. It would remind planners to learn from the rich fables of the Greek philosopher Aesop (2005). I was convinced that planning education should follow the Dortmund model of a full-time, five-year curriculum independent from traditional disciplines such as architecture and geography. I imagined that the proposed network of planning schools would follow and support that concept. I soon I learned this was unrealistic.

The first Congress of AESOP, organized by Andreas Faludi, took place in Amsterdam in 1987 at the Polytechnic di Milano. The collage (Figure 2) shows Patsy among the founding members of AESOP on the terrace of Cappenberg. In 2012 we met again in that unforgettable place. Together with Patsy, we celebrated the 25th jubilee of the founding of AESOP. Regrettably, three other founders pictured in the collage have also passed away: Willy Schmid of ETH Zürich; Luigi Mazza (who died soon after the first Congress); and Michael Wegener of TU Dortmund.

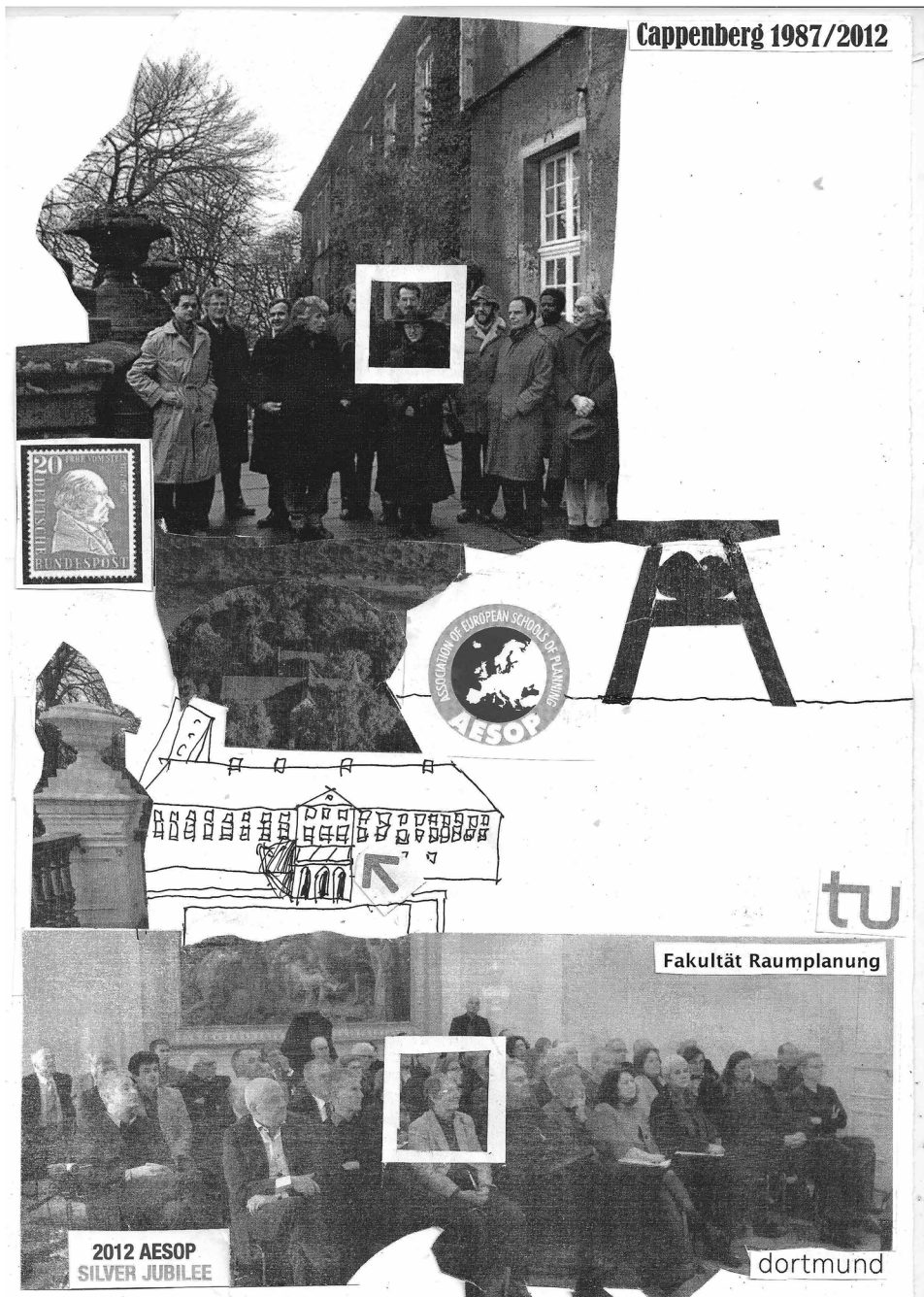


Figure 2. Cappenberg/Dortmund/Germany.

Newcastle-Upon-Tyne 1996

I have been many times to Newcastle, the place Patsy made an intellectual hotspot for the global planning community. The opportunity to contribute a German dimension to their international projects on knowledge and urban development gave me several opportunities to learn more about the city, its many impressive bridges (including a modern one designed by Santiago Calatrava), the impressive Baltic Centre of Contemporary Arts, and efforts to turn Newcastle's inner city into a knowledge center ([Figure 3](#)). The amazing sculpture "*Angel of the North*" by Antony Gromley has become a powerful symbol of the successful revival of this industrial city into a hub of knowledge. Patsy and John Goddard generously nominated me for an honorary doctorate: that day, I learned what ceremonial tradition means for British universities.

Newcastle 1996

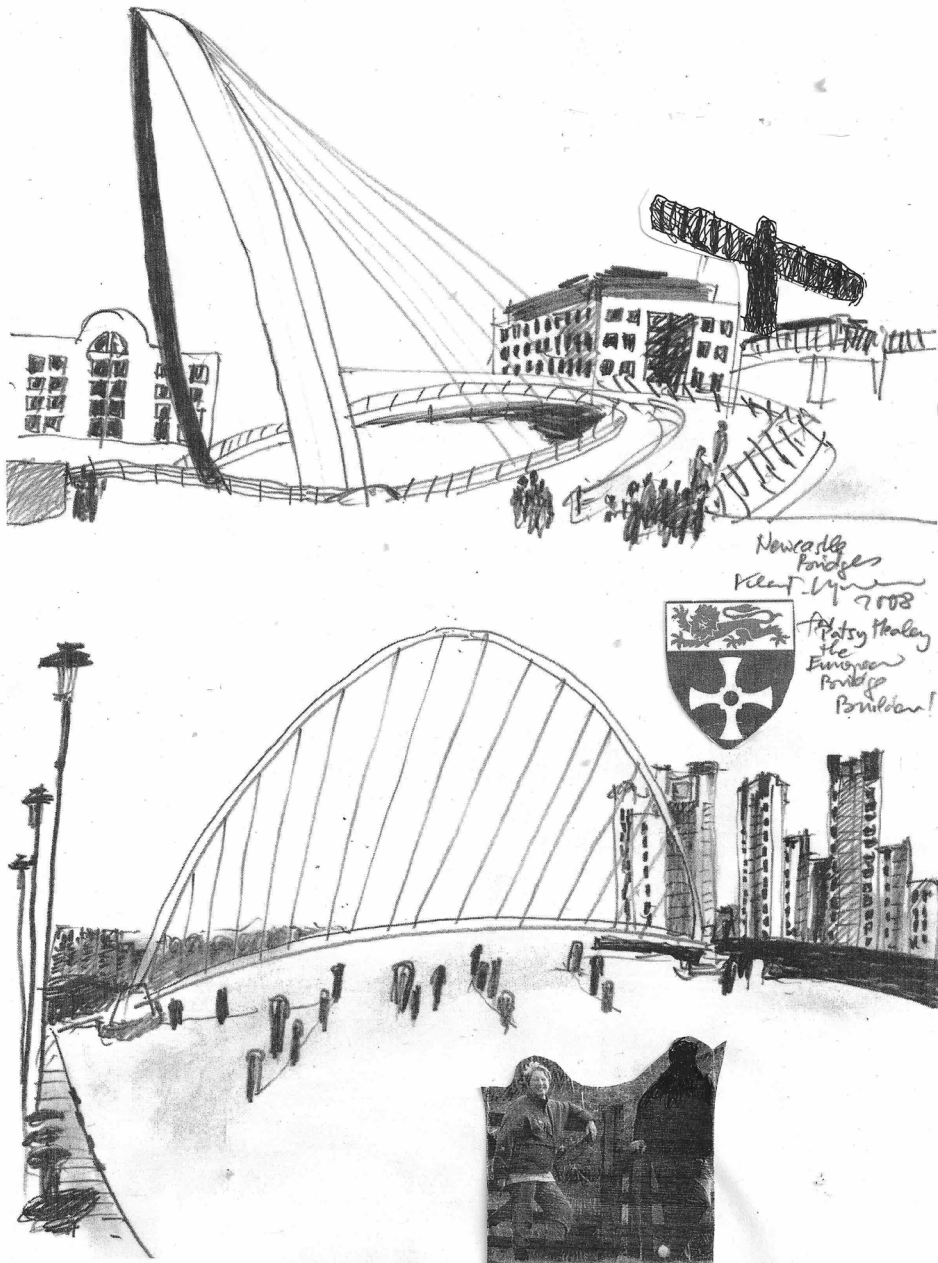


Figure 3. Newcastle-upon-Tyne/ United Kingdom.

Aveiro, Portugal 1998

Over the years, Patsy and I met at many AESOP Congresses. The Aveiro meeting, brilliantly managed by Joao Cabral and Rosa de Pirez, has a particular place in my memory (Figure 4). This small Portuguese town, with an active university, was a unique place for a meeting of the AESOP community. In the warm summer evening, scholars met in restaurants around town, eating Bacalhau (Nordic cod) and drinking Portuguese wine.

Aveiro 1998

XII AESOP CONGRESS
22/25 JULY 1998
AVEIRO PORTUGAL

Departamento
de Ambiente
e Ordenamento
Universidade de Aveiro
3810 Aveiro
Telf. +351 34 370 200
Fax. +351 34 292 90
e-mail: aesop98@dao.ua.pt

XII AESOP Congress

Planning, Professionals and Public Expectations
-25 July, 1998 - Aveiro, Portugal

The main theme of the 1998 Congress is Planning, Professionals and Public Expectations. The objective is to debate the practice of planning professional activity, in the presence of rising public expectations and conditions for a more participatory society. Thus, other themes to be discussed will relate, on the one hand, to the issue of professional instruments and, on the other hand, to the adequate planning instruments in the context of the

Topic Sessions

- The Future of National Planning Systems
- The State, Contemporary Society and the Design of Planning Instruments
- Planning Education, Professional Institutions and the Internationalisation of Planning
- The Challenge of the Social Legitimation of Planning
- Professional Accountability and the Effectiveness of Planning Instruments
- Consensus Building in Planning Practice

Figure 4. Aveiro/Portugal.

Villa Vigoni, Italy 2002 and 2004

Villa Vigoni, set at Lago di Como in Lombardy in Northern Italy, was the site of two of my later meetings with Patsy ([Figure 5](#)). Heinrich Mylius (1769–1854), a Frankfurt businessman, made his fortune in Italy and acquired the Villa Vigoni in 1829. He was acquainted with Friedrich Schiller, Johann Wolfgang von Goethe und Johann Gottfried Herder. Mylius founded and financed the *Società d'Incoraggiamento d'Arti e Mestieri (SIAM)* – the first technical University in Italy and still respected. The location of the Villa makes it a place where participants can stay onsite, enjoy conviviality and being together while gazing across the lake at the US-supported Rockefeller Foundation. In 2002, I put together a conference on Creativity, Culture and Urban Development to which I invited Patsy, together with John Friedmann, Leonie Sandercock, Alessandro Balducci and Louis Albrechts, among others. Inspired by the intensive debates in this superb setting Patsy wrote about creativity and collaborative forms of urban governance (Healey, [2004](#)).

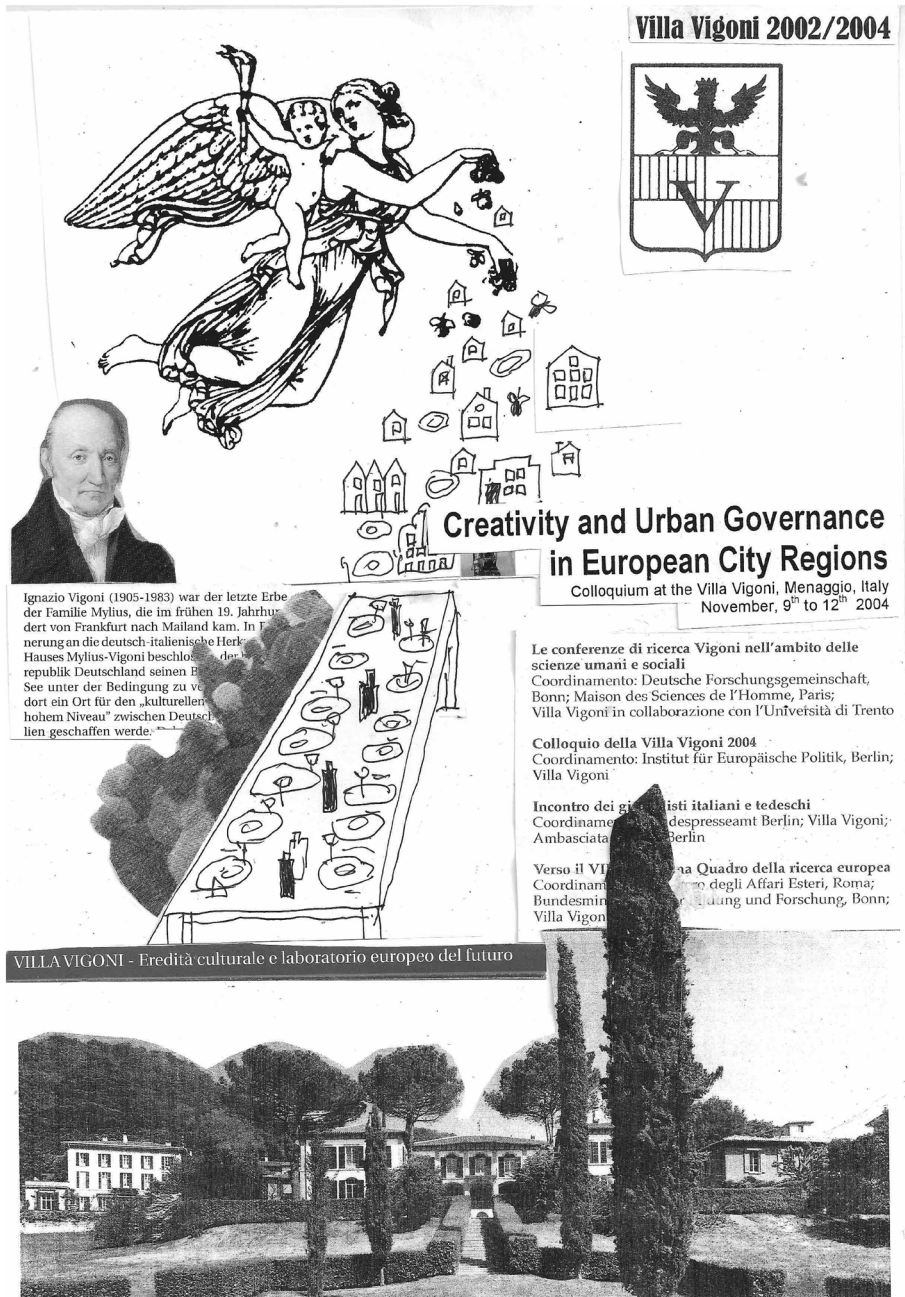


Figure 5. Villa Vigoni/Italy.

Leuven 2007

Louis Albrechts invited heads of the European planning schools to visit him at the Castle of Arenberg. Patsy and I met there once again, near the University of Leuven, built in the beginning of the 16th century in the Renaissance style. In the 19th century, it was extensively renovated and transformed into a neo-Gothic style. In 1916 the Duke of Arenberg donated it to the university. Today this picturesque green domain on the outskirts of Leuven is owned by KU Leuven as its Science and Technology Campus ([Figure 6](#)).

Leuven 2007.

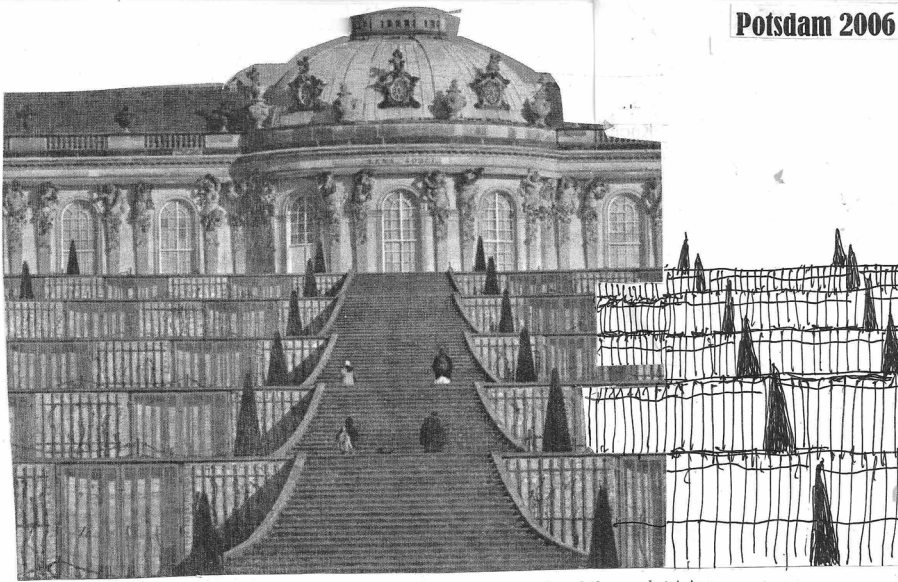


Figure 6. Arenberg/Leuven/Belgium.

Potsdam 2006/2009

Two times Patsy came to visit me in Potsdam. We talked of how history shapes the context of planning, while strolling around the Parc of Sans Souci and the reconstructed city center of Potsdam. We enjoyed tea and cake in my home, which is listed as a historical monument with Italian wall paintings dating to 1780 ([Figure 7](#)).

Potsdam 2006



" We both recognize different strands, while emphasizing the focus on place and spatial relations, on urban and regional dynamics and environmental qualities. Both of us understood the planning field as about the interaction of people and places, and how to enhance place qualities for the benefit of ordinary citizens"-

Patsy Healey (2017) Creating AESOP disP - The Planning Review, 53:2, 30-31

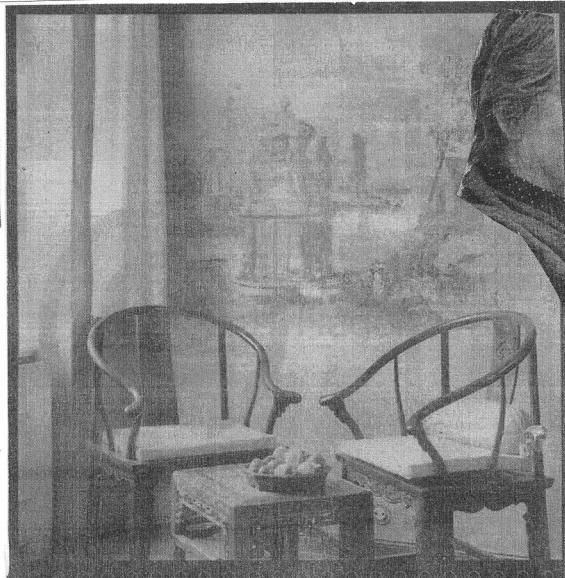
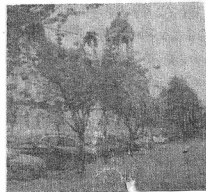


Figure 7. Potsdam/Germany.

Vienna 2014

Beatrix Haselsberger from architecture and spatial planning at the TU Vienna, invited prominent academic planners from around the world to the university. These scholars reflected on their contributions to planning theory on the 200th anniversary of the Technical University. Patsy Healey was one of 14 invitees from the US, Great Britain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Israel, Germany and Austria. Each participant was asked to briefly present their life story. The two-day event in Vienna took place in the newly renovated assembly hall in the impressive cupola of the university building, opened in 1818 and designed by the architect Joseph Schemerl von Leythenbach, an architect-engineer-planner, who made plans to modernize the infrastructure of the city, including a new system of water canals for delivering goods. The contributions to the event were published in an edited volume (Haselsberger, 2017).

The Vienna event was a unique opportunity for planners who were well known in the international community, but rarely met together in one place. They communed over coffee breaks and Viennese dinners (Figure 8). I picture Patsy taking the time to enjoy the famous Sacher chocolate cake nearby, walking along the Ring Strasse and exploring the strange flak towers (anti-aircraft gun blockhouse towers) designed by Friedrichs Tamm (an aid to Albert Speer), who was chief engineer of the German motorway system and post-war chief city planner of Dusseldorf.

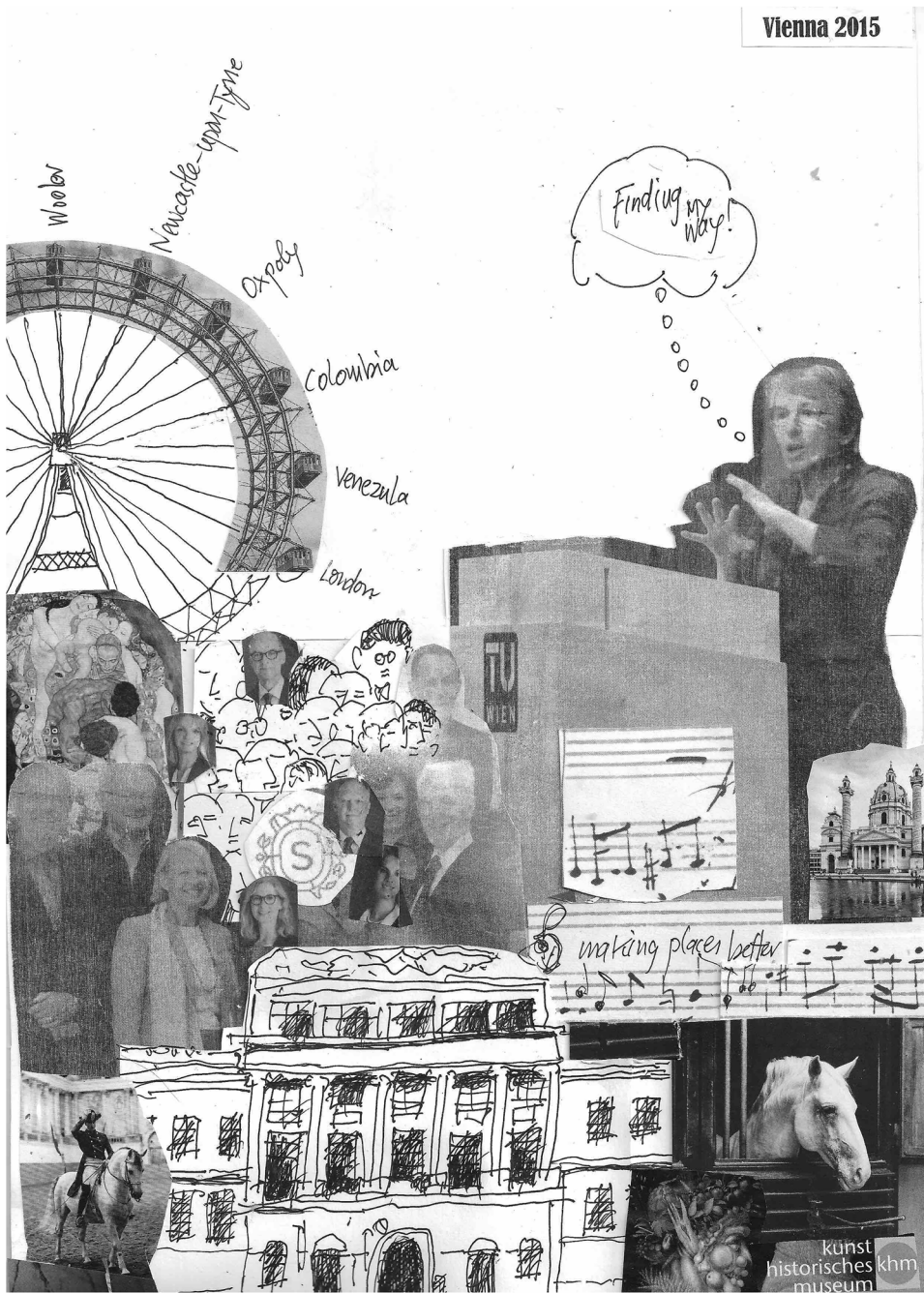



Figure 8. Vienna.

Berlin 2022

The last time I met Patsy in person was at an event in Berlin initiated by ARL, the German Academy for Territorial Development. The event, a project to document ARL's controversial history from Fascist Germany to today, brought together planners from France, Austria, Luxemburg and the Netherlands. The event aimed to assess the evolution of German spatial planning after 1945 through 1975 (Strubelt & Briesen, 2023). At this occasion Patsy presented her view of the evolution of British planning, which has influenced many planners on the continent (Healey, 2022a). I am not sure if Patsy used the occasion to explore the changes Berlin has experienced since the long-divided city became again the capital of reunited Germany in 1991. I can envision that her perpetual curiosity for place certainly inspired her to use some of her time to stroll around the city center of Berlin (Figure 9).

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Berlin 2022





Panel 4: 1945/1975 – Balances and perspectives

Keynote lectures by ...

- > Andreas Faludi (Deftt University of Technology)
- > Roberto Camagni (Politecnico di Milano)
- > Patsy Healey (Newcastle University)

Moderation:
Klaus R. Kunzmann (Potsdam/Templin)



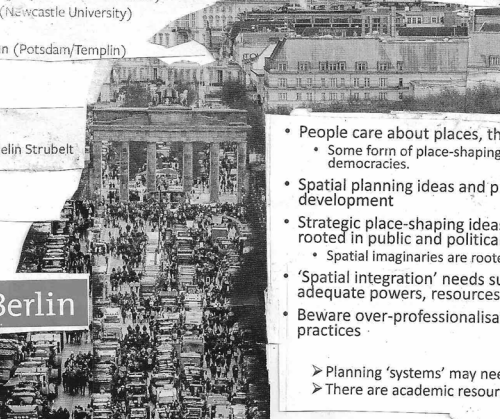


Some lessons

- People care about places, their qualities and spatial connectivities
 - Some form of place-shaping initiative inevitable in complex urbanised democracies.
- Spatial planning ideas and practices only one factor in shaping development
- Strategic place-shaping ideas which carry influence need to be rooted in public and political imaginations
 - Spatial imaginaries are rooted in long histories and take time to shift
- ‘Spatial integration’ needs sub-national and local arenas with adequate powers, resources and political capacity
- Beware over-professionalisation of planning systems and practices

> Planning ‘systems’ may need complete **Rethinking**, not just Reform
 > There are academic resources which can help with this!

Summary and outlook
Detlef Briesen and Wendelin Strubelt






Figure 9. Berlin/Germany.

Wooler 2020

In 2020, Patsy moved to Wooler, 80km north of Newcastle, built a home, and cultivated her garden (Figure 10). We did not meet there, but Patsy sent me a picture of her home and a list of books she was reading. Not surprisingly she did not stop writing. In her last book, *Caring for places*, she shared her practical experience of planning with local communities (Healey, 2023). It perfectly reflects her commitment to collaborative activities of the civil society, her efforts to cope with the challenges of dealing with the established centralized bureaucracy in England and the mobilization of residents to care for their small town (Kunzmann, 2023).



Figure 10. Wooler/United Kingdom.

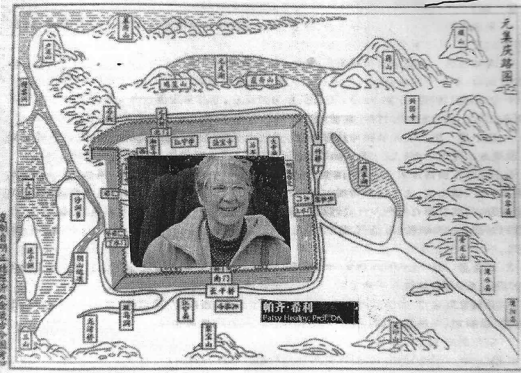
Nanjing 2022

In 2022 we met again, online, at an event Professor Xi Xin of the Southeast University of Nanjing organized to celebrate my 80th birthday. The theme of the event was the challenges of transferring planning knowledge to other countries with different planning cultures. Patsy contributed a narrative, which memorialized her experience as a young planner in Venezuela and Columbia (Healey, [2022b](#)). Together with Robert Upton, she had published a book on this theme (Healey & Upton, [2020](#)) ([Figure 11](#)).

Nanjing 2022



Yangtze River Bridge



TRANSFERRING PLANNING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE: PLANNING CULTURES DIALOGUE BETWEEN CHINA AND EUROPE

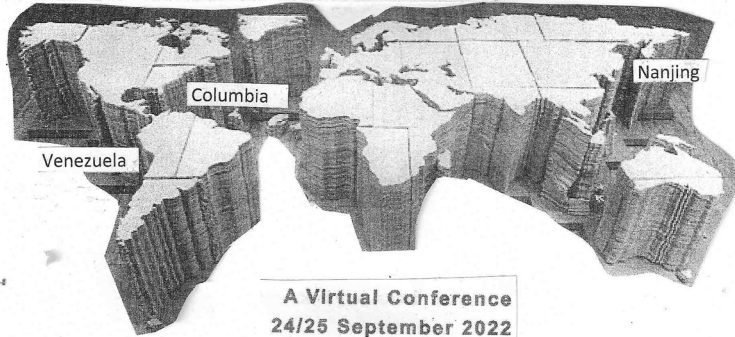
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我邀请
王凯 王凯教授
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王凯 王凯教授

主办单位: 东南大学
承办单位: 东南大学建筑学院
举办时间: 2022年9月24日-9月25日
(会议期间线上同步直播)
会议地点: <http://live.bilibili.com/22621424>
直播ID: 22621424

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A Virtual Conference
24/25 September 2022



东南大学建筑学院 (SEU-ARCH)
School of Architecture Southeast University



Figure 11. Nanjing/China.

Acknowledgements

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Disclosure Statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

Notes on contributor

Klaus R. Kunzmann (born 1942) studied architecture and urban planning at the Technische Hochschule in Munich. He received his PhD in urban planning from the Technische Universität in Vienna, Austria in 1971. From 1974 to 1993 he was Director of Research of the Institute of Spatial Planning and from 1993 until his retirement in 2006, Jean Monnet Professor of Spatial Planning in Europe at the School of Planning of the Technische Universität Dortmund. He is Honorary professor of the Bartlett School of Planning at UCL in London. As visiting professor he had been invited, among others, by the MIT, UCLA in USA, the ETH in Zurich, the Université Paris VIII, the Technical University of Wroclaw/Poland, and the South East University of Nanjing. He is a member of the German Academy for Territorial Development in the Leibniz Association, a Honorary member of the Royal Town Planning Institute in Britain and the Association of European Schools of Planning. In 1996 he received a honorary PhD from the University of Newcastle in the UK. Since 1998 Klaus R. Kunzmann has frequently been in China invited by numerous universities in the country. He has written and edited more than 20 books and published more than 200 articles in German, English, French, Italian and Chinese journals. He is still tirelessly writing on spatial development trends in Europe and China.

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