

CfP (Call for Projects)

UdN-Studio: Live, research, work in the Neighbourhood's University

Hamburg, April 2012 to March 2013

The Neighbourhood's University is a project that is expected to last for five years. It was launched in Wilhelmsburg in Hamburg in 2008 as an autonomous, experimental project set up by the Urban Design faculty of the HafenCity University Hamburg — the University Of The Built Environment And Metropolitan Development. Throughout the project, themes and questions from the fields of education and research will be put into practice: to a scale of 1:1 a disused building that has an intermediate and residual-life use will be made operative again with a low-budget transformation.

Our main focus will be directed towards the reciprocal exchange that takes place in the processes of utilizing, programming, designing and building. However due to the dynamic character of usage and utilization such processes do not proceed in a linear manner. But how then are we able to generate such iterative and circular processes? How can we deal with the conflicting and diverging goals and interests? How is participation practiced?

With the conceptual term of "Ermöglichungsarchitektur" (enabling architecture), we attempt to reflect on these active processes, circumstances and potential and in doing so we create settings for spatial processes of change. And we also play football, run an orchestra, build tree houses with children, make films, and enjoy a succession of festivities with our neighbours....

In order to encourage the exchange of ideas through our questions, research and activities in the project The Neighbourhood's University and to expand the perspective on a thematic and contextual level, we would like to invite other urban researchers to the UdN-Studio in Hamburg Wilhelmsburg. In the period between April 2012 and March 2013 there will be an opportunity to work on an autonomous academic or artistic project that is related to the Neighbourhood's University and the local environment in the context of a three-month research and working residency.

The Neighbourhood's University will provide a 40-square-metre furnished apartment with a kitchen, bathroom and garden for the research and work residency, as well as access to a function room, a kitchen foyer and a range of exhibition and workspaces.

The periods currently planned for the three-month residencies in the UdN-Studio are:
April – June 2012, July – September 2012, October – December 2012 and January – March 2013.

Interested graduate and PhD students, Post-docs as well as freelancers from the fields of Urban Design, Architecture, Urban Planning, Design, Arts, Sociology, Geography and Cultural Sciences are requested to submit an exposé (max. 2 pages) referring to the main focus of their former and/or current work and topics for their research and work stay in the UdN-Studio.

Please send your exposé, your preferred period of stay (see above) and brief background information about yourself in the form of a pdf to stefanie.gernert@hcu-hamburg.de by 27.02.2012.

The selection will be made and the applicants will be informed of the decision by the beginning of March 2012.

The members of the UdN-Studio team of curators are: Benjamin Becker (architect), Alexa Färber (European ethnologist and specialist in Islamic sciences), Stefanie Gernert (architect), Katja Heinecke (landscape architect), Jan Holtmann (artist), Bernd Kniess (architect and urban planner), Michael Koch (architect and urban planner).

The UdN-Studio is part of the educational and research project the Neighbourhood's University at the HafenCity University Hamburg, a collaborative project with the IBA-Hamburg and Kampnagel Hamburg. For more information please see: www.udn.hcu-hamburg.de.