

HOW DO WE AGGLO?

DESIGNING URBAN ECOTONES

18.08.2023 to 09.09.2023

feldfünf - Projekträume in Metropolenhaus,
Fromet-und-Moses-Mendelssohn-Platz 7-8, 10969 Berlin

This exhibition brings together 5 approaches, 4 universities, 3 disciplines to suggest ideas for agglomerating the atomised urban landscapes where we live. Experimental designs for 3 sites in Berlin kickstart a discussion about how to address global urbanisation tendencies site-specifically, across the hemispheres, across the professions, and across academia and practice.



A collaboration between:



READING SITES!

DESIGNING URBAN ECOTONES

EDITING

ACTIVATING

DETAILING



A collaboration between:



ACROSS

DESIGNING URBAN ECOTONES



Initiators:

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with

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coordinated by

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Urbanism

Architecture

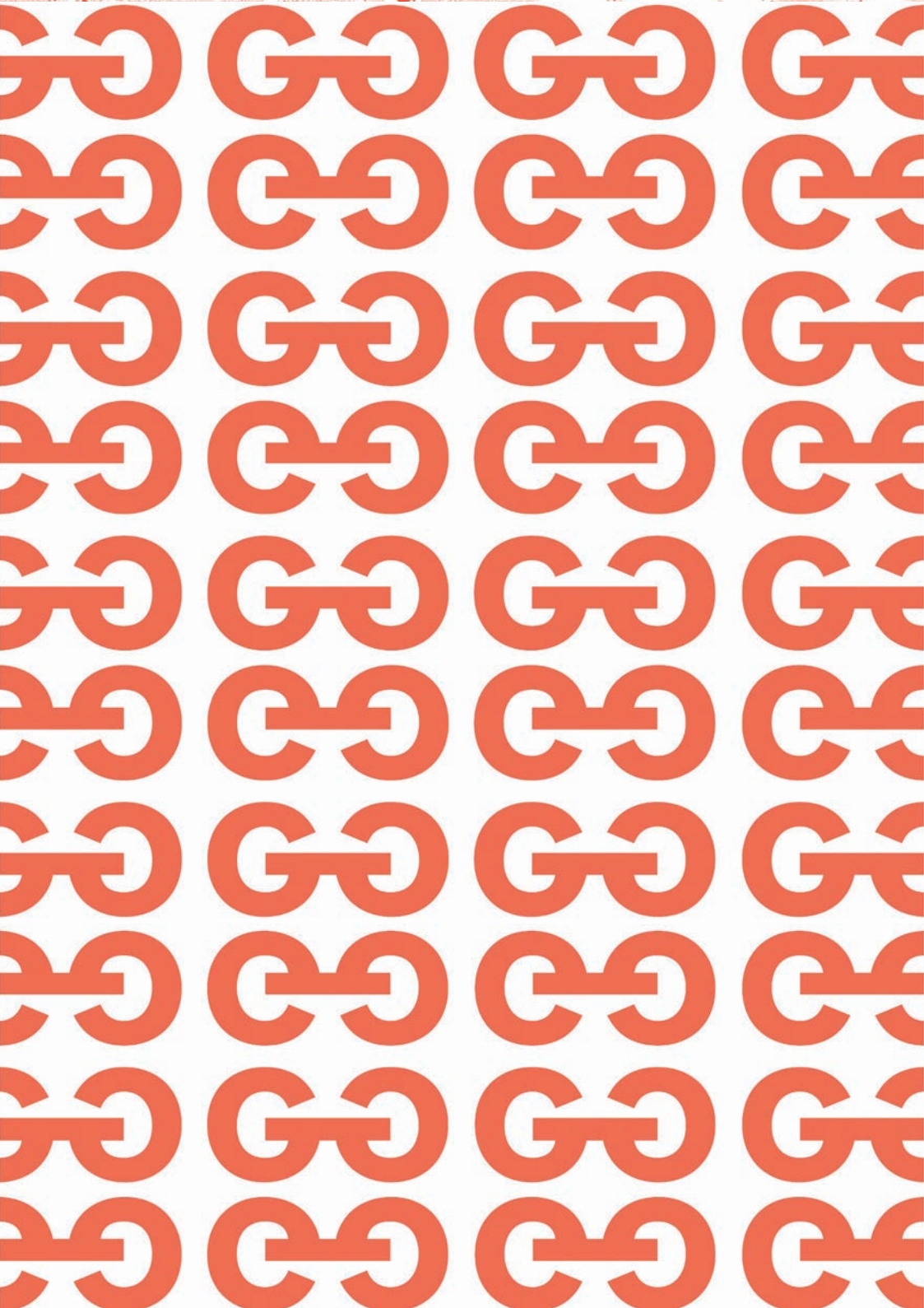
Landscape Architecture

Research

Practice



A collaboration between:



AGGLO?

Faceless, fragmented, forgotten – this was the condition of the neighbourhood just in front of the door at feldfünf, in the area around the former Flower Market, called Southern Friedrichstadt. During almost 3 decades the city was divided into East and West, this area laid idle and devoid of social cohesion in the shadow of the Berlin Wall, then an edge condition. When the Wall came down, it turned central, and the Senate of Berlin soon launched an urban experiment:

How to activate this AGGLOmeration of neglected urban spaces as a place of local living and global encounters?

The urban development of the former Flower Market was granted the German Urbanism Award in 2020 for its socio-spatial commitment to counter the atomisation of space and society. The Metropolenhaus, locus of this exhibition, contributed with the approach of an 'active' ground floor for hosting creative activities, international exchange, and the co-design of space as a common good.

Today, Berlin experiences massive international investment into real estate, with the effect that rents have been skyrocketing, people pushed to the edge of town, ground floors emptied from small shops and services. And Berlin is only one case in point, financialisation and its effects on urban living are global, they affect half of the globe's population.

Can we transfer lessons from the former Flower Market and the Metropolenhaus to other places in need of AGGLOmeration?

How do we AGGLO where we live today?

HOW DO WE AGGLO?

We introduce AGGLOmeration as a design activity. In departing from the common understanding of agglomeration as description of problematic disjuncted urban spaces, we can activate hitherto neglected urban areas and make use of their undiscovered potentialities.

- An exhibition about global urban conditions and how to tackle them locally in collaboration
- Agglomerating approaches from architecture, urbanism and landscape architecture
- Crossing the cultures of teams from Buenos Aires, Cairo, Malmö, and Erfurt
- Based on built work and theoretical positions

5 approaches

- AGGLO activates urban spaces
- AGGLO starts from socio-spatial exploration
- An AGGLO-house to animate the centre of the edge
- To AGGLO is to reassemble existing urban fragments
- AGGLO relies on residential architecture in context

4 universities

- Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Malmö, Sweden
- German International University in Berlin with German University in Cairo, Egypt
- University of Applied Sciences, Erfurt, Germany
- University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

3 disciplines

- Landscape architecture
- Urbanism
- Architecture

SITES

To agglomerate is to respect what is already there. Gone the times it made sense to build cities from scratch. The urban development offers the opportunity to work with existing bits and pieces and to turn this former edge of town into an 'urban ecotone', a zone of encounter where people and other beings discover and eventually co-inhabit buildings, open spaces, urban systems, and atmospheres. Architecture plays a key role in agglomerating the urban puzzle around, locally and globally, as a space and as a social catalyst. To work with the existent requires site-specific design: to take stock of the resources in place (*site reading*), to decide where to intervene and with whom (*site editing*), to enact new uses (*site activating*) and to shape the details in space and in dynamic social contexts (*site detailing*).

How to AGGLO site-specifically?

ACROSS

Test it out together! A collaboration took shape among design professionals teaching and researching at universities worldwide. Partly on site, partly remote, teams from Malmö, Cairo, Erfurt, and Buenos Aires worked on three AGGLO-prone areas in Berlin, deploying landscape architectural, urbanism and architecture perspectives to explore, interpret and design urban neighbourhoods. Challenging the absurdity of real estate and space policies as the only engines for shaping cities, the design results and emerging principles propose new game rules, across the hemispheres, across the professions, across academia and practice.

AGGLOmerating, a way to shape togetherness in a disintegrated city?

CREDITS

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Acknowledgments

feldfünf im Metropolenhaus

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