AKADEMIE DER KÜNSTE

Press Kit

urbainable – stadthaltig
Positions on the European City for the 21st Century

Exhibition, 5 September – 22 November 2020

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Information

Title urbainable – stadthaltig

Positions on the European City for the 21st Century

Venue Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin

Duration 5 September – 22 November 2020

Opening Hours Tue – Sun 11 am – 7 pm

Access restrictions due to COVID-19

Press Tickets Journalists with a valid press card are requested to book a

free online ticket at www.adk.de/tickets and to present their

press card without being asked.

Time Slot Tickets The purchase of a time slot ticket is recommended.

for Visiors Online at www.adk.de/tickets.

Website www.adk.de/urbainable

Press Conference Thursday, 3 September 2020, 11 am

with Jeanine Meerapfel, President of the Akademie der Künste, and the curators Tim Rieniets, Matthias Sauerbruch

and Jörn Walter

Opening Weekend Saturday, 5 and Sunday, 6 September 2020, 11 am – 7 pm

Free admission to the exhibition on the occasion of the

opening

Publication urbainable – stadthaltig

Positions on the European City for the 21st Century

Tim Rieniets, Matthias Sauerbruch and Jörn Walter on behalf of the Akademie der Künste, Berlin (ed.), ArchiTangle, Berlin

2020, 224 pages, 300 images

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Media Partners ARCH+, BauNetz, Bauwelt, DETAIL, Exberliner, monopol,

rbb Kultur, Yorck Kinogruppe

Team

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KUNSTWELTEN / Marion Neumann

Education Programme

Exhibition Graphics Heimann + Schwantes, Berlin

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Jeanette Gonsior, Lukas Nowak with gisela graf communications

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The Akademie der Künste is funded by the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.



Press Release

urbainable – stadthaltig. Positions on the European City for the 21st Century

Exhibition: 5 September – 22 November 2020, Akademie der Künste, Hanseatenweg 10, 10557 Berlin

Its adaptability and innovative strength have made the "European city" a successful model since ancient times. But, is it still able to meet the great challenges of the 21st century, namely climate compatibility and sustainability? The deficits of cities are obvious at first: they consume resources and fossil energy, emit climate-damaging gases, seal ground and generate waste. Cities are a burden on the environment and damaging to health, and are the scenes of social conflicts over the distribution of work, housing and wealth, for example. But would it be conceivable for the city to not only be part of the problem, but also part of the solution? In its title *urbainable – stadthaltig*, the latest exhibition by the Akademie der Künste, Berlin, follows the hypothesis that sustainability and the city cannot be seen in isolation from one other. It addresses the role of the European city in the age of global warming, digitalisation, demographic change and the breakdown of traditional social networks.

The exhibition *urbainable – stadthaltig* consists of two parts. An installation of images by Berlin photographer Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk forms an urban panorama, which – supplemented by facts from research by the Institute for Urban Design and Planning at Leibniz University Hannover – introduces the subject and illustrates the potential for sustainable development offered by our cities. In the main part of the exhibition, 34 members of the Architecture Section of the Akademie der Künste and their guests show how this potential can be used in concrete terms. Their projects, visions and initiatives in the areas of architecture, engineering, landscape architecture and urban planning demonstrate a broad range of ideas for the city of the future, from design details to urban planning vision, from building technology to political discourse. The result is a kaleidoscope of concepts, a tour d'horizon into current European architecture and urban planning and that follows the pressing issues of our time such as digitalisation, mobility, the culture of density, or relation to nature, reuse and adaptation of existing structures as well as technical innovations.

The current show was planned and designed before the coronavirus crisis, but the experience of the pandemic has been incorporated into its implementation. The immense adaptability and creative potential of our cities are already becoming apparent. To exploit this potential instead of merely trying to correct the deficits of cities – that is the leitmotif of this exhibition. *urbainable* – *stadthaltig* is curated by Tim Rieniets, Matthias Sauerbruch and Jörn Walter.

Participating members

Fritz Auer, Thomas Auer, Klaus Bollinger, Michael Bräuer, Arno Brandlhuber, Winfried Brenne, Kees Christiaanse, Annette Gigon, Almut Grüntuch-Ernst, Guido Hager, Peter Haimerl, Thomas Herzog, Regine Keller, Karla Kowalski, Anne Lacaton, Pierre Laconte, Regine Leibinger, Hilde Léon, HG Merz, Günter Nagel, Florian Nagler, Irina Raud, Ian Ritchie, Matthias Sauerbruch, Jörg Schlaich, Helmut C. Schulitz, Thomas Sieverts, Enrique Sobejano, Volker Staab, Christiane Thalgott, Kjetil T. Thorsen, Marco Venturi, Jörn Walter, Wilfried Wang

With **examples** from Berlin, Bremen, Bordeaux, Budapest, Cologne, Gelsenkirchen, Güstrow, Hamburg, Linz, London, Malta, Munich, Paris, Regensburg, Venice, Vienna, Zurich and more

An exhibition by the Akademie der Künste, sponsored by the Wüstenrot Stiftung. With the kind support of PERI Vertrieb Deutschland GmbH & Co. KG and Euroboden GmbH.

Texts in the Exhibition

Intro Text Foyer

The major challenge of the 21st century is "sustainability". Globalisation and digitalisation, as well as the climate and mobility transitions, are top priorities. At the centre of this challenge lies the city, where energy is consumed, climate-damaging gases are generated, most resources are swallowed up, ground is sealed and most waste is generated. They are the scenes of major social conflicts regarding the distribution of work, housing and wealth.

Has the "European city" model of success been exhausted or can it once again prove its adaptability and innovative power? Is it an obstacle on the way to a sustainable future or could it actually be part of the solution?

The exhibition consists of two parts: A text and photo installation on the many sustainability potentials of cities and 33 projects in the fields of architecture, engineering, landscape architecture and urban planning by members of the Architecture Section and their guests.

Tim Rieniets, Matthias Sauerbruch, Jörn Walter

Text Hall 1

Whether in the professional world, in the media or in political discourse – we are used to taking the many advantages of the city for granted, while emphasizing its shortcomings at the same time: the lack of affordable housing, the high level of dust pollution and other environmental toxins, the high cost of living, the noise, the stress, the dangers. The general opinion is that these problems have to be solved, if our cities are to have a future at all. At the same time, we easily overlook the benefits cities have to offer to its inhabitants every day, as well as the potential they provide in the development of more sustainable built and social environments.

Photographer Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk and the Institute for Urban Design and Planning at Leibniz University Hannover set out on the search. Using photographs and drawings for their intensive research they discovered a treasure trove of hidden potentials in our cities. The results of this investigation are as diverse, surprising and at times as contradictory as the cities themselves. It is a plea in favour of the urban sphere, which – despite all its deficits – already offers unexpected opportunities for change and reform today.

Text Hall 2

The members of the Architecture Section have long felt an obligation to promote sustainable architecture and urban development. Now – together with invited guests from Germany and abroad – they are presenting ideas, projects and experiences from their diverse practices for the first time in a joint exhibition. Their contributions cover the entire spectrum of sustainable design, from constructional details to urban planning, from building technology to political discourse. Some members take a critical look at the past and present, while others take a visionary look at the future. All of the projects share the continuity of change and a commitment to the common good. The exhibition is a kaleidoscope of various concepts, a tour d'horizon of the studios of European architects at the beginning of the 2020s.

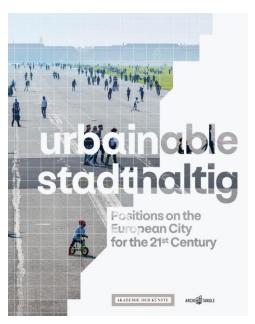
This diversity is also reflected in the exhibition architecture, which was developed in collaboration with the members. It resembles a city – full of unexpected pathways and surprising discoveries. It resists the temptation to present patent remedies and simple messages, but instead hopes to encourage the visitor to engage with the future of our cities. As in the past, the renewal of the European city will be less driven by ideal concepts "from above" but more by the wide array of initiatives of its citizens.

Publication

urbainable - stadthaltig. Positions on the European City for the 21st Century

The European city has been an engine of civilisation since its creation. Today, however, fundamental challenges such as climate change mean it is facing changes that cast doubt on the continuity and sustainability of the ethical foundations of urban life.

On the basis of projects, visions and manifestos, the members of the Architecture Section and their guests from all over Europe present their positions for a new direction in this publication. With essays by Matthias Sauerbruch, Tim Rieniets, Christoph Grafe, Hans Joachim Schellnhuber, Marc Weissgerber, Britta Peters, Anh-Linh Ngo, Harald Welzer, Steffen Braun, Jenny Erpenbeck and an interview with Edzard Reuter. Foreword by Jeanine Meerapfel.



urbainable – stadthaltig

Positions on the European City for the 21st Century

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The City, Our Ultimate Habitat

Introduction by Matthias Sauerbruch from the accompanying publication *urbainable* – *stadthaltig. Positions on the European City for the 21st Century*

Over the past ten years, the Architectural Section of the Akademie der Künste has presented three major exhibitions that were all concerned with the current state of the European city. They dealt with the difficult balance between populated and natural or agricultural areas. They explored the loss of social cohesion in the community and the attempt to counteract it through architectural interventions. And they documented and questioned the commercialization of public space.

urbainable – stadthaltig now continues the series: this exhibition focuses the visitor's attention on the fundamental changes to which we are already exposed, and to which we will continue to be exposed in the future – especially those shifts due to climate change and the extinction of species. The neologism 'urbainable' suggests that sustainability and the city cannot be seen independently, that the mechanisms of the city also hold the key to a more responsible existence. This is not to say that the problems mentioned above have now been 'resolved'; on the contrary, they have become even more visible in the past decade and are just as much a part of the sustainability issue as are all of the other desired and undesired consequences of global megatrends such as digitalization, the exponential growth and changing demography of the global population, and the social gap between rich and poor. The fact that the preparations for this catalogue are now also falling within a time when the coronavirus pandemic is spreading exponentially across Europe and America does not add to the clarity of the picture.

I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is.' This call for a review and possible revolution of all our CO2-producing habits was hurled by activist Greta Thunberg, fifteen years old at the time, at the world public during the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2018. Thunberg accused the middle and older generations of having sacrificed the future of the younger generations for the benefit of their own prosperity and comfort. In her analysis of the current situation, she merely repeats what scientists have been predicting, with ever greater precision, at least since the 1967 Club of Rome report on the limits of growth. Climate change is man-made and can only be stopped or alleviated by humans – if at all. If these efforts are unsuccessful, then our current handling of the planet's resources will directly lead to disaster. And although the entire population of the world is currently preoccupied with the daily reality of the pandemic, it must be remembered that while the spread of the novel coronavirus and the resulting consequences will cause great human suffering and enormous economic damage, the fact of global warming and all the problems that are associated with it will still be here when the medical emergency has subsided.

On the other hand, the experience of the pandemic seems to increase people's willingness to engage quasi spontaneously in social changes that, under normal circumstances, would have required lengthy discussion and negotiation processes. The current situation therefore seems to hold the potential for accelerated and radical reform. It could offer just the opportunity for visions and their determined implementation.

urbainable – stadthaltig is a group exhibition, comparable to the format of a biennial. The seventy or so members of the Architecture Section were invited to explain to the public those proposals with which they have, in recent years, already reacted or with which they are currently reacting to the state of the European city, and how they have derived a vision for the future from this activity. Approximately half of the members have submitted a contribution, and since these authors are of

varying gender, age, and nationality, and in addition are immersed in different fields of activity and interest, the result is inevitably diverse. The exhibition documents (not without intention) an interest in a policy of small steps. While on the one hand this holds the risk of a certain level of confusion, on the other hand one should remember that our ever-changing cities emerged over time from a somewhat unpredictable patchwork of individual projects and initiatives. The exhibition offers a cross-section through the active studios of the participants, and therefore presents a more or less random snapshot of the state of mind of European architecture at the beginning of the twenties of the twenty-first century.

As an initiative of the Architecture Section, this exhibition quite naturally comes with the conviction that concrete interventions in the built environment also have concrete consequences on the quality of our lives. This is easy to understand on a small scale: everyone appreciates a well-designed flat; everyone is happy to have a nicely laid out and well-maintained park (even if it is surrounded by dense development); everyone likes to spend time on a street that not only serves traffic but, more importantly, offers spaces for a café or similar social activities; and everyone likes to share infrastructure, such as public transport or a municipal swimming pool. The city offers many opportunities to make life fairer, more pleasant, and more interesting, and its architecture plays a crucial role in this.

However, it remains to be seen how building interventions can actually contribute to mitigating the climate crisis or how they can deal with it in an adequate way. The last thirty years have produced many remarkable attempts to create more sustainable architecture. However, it must now be stated in all humility that, overall, we have not been able to contain climate-changing emissions sufficiently — whether at a national, European, or even global level. So there is an urgent need for action, and if one compares the individual 'ecological footprint' of a single citizen from various countries around the world, then it is quite obvious that the industrial societies of Europe and North America have a greater debt to pay than the emerging economies of Africa, Asia, or South America. In the extreme, the difference in resource consumption can be quantified by a factor of ten.* Here, the rich countries are actually benefitting from the more modest lifestyles of the poorer ones, while — with their excessive consumption — they are destroying the livelihood for future generations on a global scale, at least for the time being.

How can we interrupt this vicious cycle and curb the resource-intensive status quo of our lifestyles? The answer to this question is undoubtedly to be found in the continued development of new technologies. A rapid transition to the exclusive use of renewable energies, the avoidance of demand, and the maximization of efficiency in consumption will bring us closer to our goal. But real change will not come about without a parallel reconsideration of our lifestyles. We have seen that a large part of the technical optimizations of recent decades has been cancelled out by the so-called 'rebound effect', i.e. by our increasingly expansive consumer behavior. Technical progress is indispensable, but without a broad change in awareness and behaviour, we will not achieve the desired goal. From the point of view of architecture, therefore, we need integrated strategies and a place where all aspects of the problem are actually manifest and able to be tackled. This place can only be the city, because here the simultaneity of manageable spaces, rehearsed social and political rituals, as well as the potential for innovation due to mere scaling effects can possibly be condensed into the type of solidarity that can bring about change. In addition, cities offer an economic and institutional infrastructure that enables the individual actor or organization to contribute their own intellectual and practical input in a meaningful way. How such a contribution might look in detail, what scale and what

means of intervention are available, and how these means could be invested in individual projects are explored by the various contributions to this exhibition.

In our everyday lives at the moment, we are constantly being reminded to keep our distance in order to reduce the danger of infection from person to person as much as possible. Schools, colleges, theatres, concert halls, football stadiums, restaurants, and clubs have been closed down by law. And while we sit at home alone with the family and (quasi undercover) watch recordings of concerts and theatre evenings available on the Internet, the longing grows for the power of the city, which inspires and nourishes us with its almost endless possibilities, its social and cultural diversity. Perhaps this can already be seen as a consequence of the current pandemic: the (more or less) voluntary self-restraint teaches us once again to appreciate a quality that we have taken for granted for far too long: the beauty and the wealth of big cities.

This catalogue and the exhibition are the result of intensive preparation and, together with Jörn Walter, I would like to thank all the people who have helped to conduct this experiment. I am grateful and would like to thank all those members of the section who have put their work up for discussion. Our collegial gratitude extends to Tim Rieniets for his curatorial work and for his design of the exhibition. Many thanks are also due to the exhibition and catalogue team, Carolin Schönemann, the secretary of the section, Karin Lelonek, and Denise Baumeister.

My special thanks go to the various authors who, through their essays, have offered their contributions to the dense and varied discussion in this catalogue. My gratitude is also extended to Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk, who, with his telling images, has been able to give expression to the complexity of our subject matter in a most exemplary way.

Last but certainly not least, our thanks go to our supporters, the Wüstenrot Foundation, the property developer Euroboden, and PERI, who, with their fully recyclable formwork elements, have significantly contributed to the fact that we were able to set up the exhibition in a way that is coherent with its content.

* World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Living Planet Report 2018, https://www.wwf.de/living-planet-report/ (accessed in June 2020).

Short Biographies of the Curators

Tim Rieniets, born 1972, studied architecture and is involved as a curator and publicist. His activities include time as a lecturer at ETH Zurich (2011), as a visiting professor at the Technical University of Munich (2012), and as the managing director of the state initiative StadtBauKultur NRW (2013–18). Since 2018 he has been a professor of urban and spatial development in a diversified society at the Leibniz University of Hannover.

Matthias Sauerbruch is an architect and partner of Sauerbruch Hutton. In addition to his work as a practising architect, he was a professor at several universities. He is a founding member of the German Sustainable Building Council. He has been a member of the Akademie der Künste since 2006, and the director of the Architecture Section since 2018. Sauerbruch Hutton are among the most important and experienced representatives of sustainable construction. Their integrated planning approach combines functionality and ecological performance with sensuality and intuition. www.sauerbruchhutton.de

Jörn Walter was the senior building director of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg for eighteen years and previously led the city planning office in Dresden. He also taught at universities in Vienna, Dresden, Hamburg, and Düsseldorf. Member of the Akademie der Künste since 2000, and deputy director of the Architecture Section since 2018.

List of Participants

(Numbering as in exhibition)

01 09 Annette Gigon HG Merz

Mike Guyer Wolfgang Lorch

Arend Kölsch

Lars Müller 10

Arno Schlüter Marco Venturi

Gigon/Guyer Architekten, Zurich • D-ARCH, ETH

Zurich 11

Volker Staab

02 Staab Architekten, Berlin Thomas Auer

Stefano Boeri 12

Ata Chokhachian Ian Ritchie

Bilge Kobas Ian Ritchie Architects, London

13

Alessandro Melis
Daniele Santucci

Transsolar, Stuttgart • TU Munich Jörn Walter
Andreas Heller

03 Jürgen Bruns-Berentelg

Jörg Schlaich

Mike Schlaich

14

Knut Stockhusen

schlaich bergermann partner, Berlin/Stuttgart

Martin Düchs

Stefan Niese

04 Sigi Ramoser
Regine Keller Auer Weber, Munich/Stuttgart

Christiane Thalgott

Auer Weber,

15 05 Günter Nagel

Thomas Sieverts SMAQ MML

06 gruppeomp Helmut C. Schulitz nsp

Schulitz Architekten, Braunschweig

16

07 Hilde Léon

Irina Raud R-KONSULT Tatsuya Kawahara
Mark Grimitliht Ellen Kristina Krause

Maria Schneider léonwohlhage Gesellschaft von Architekten, Berlin

Arhitektuuribüroo R-Konsult, Tallinn Kawahara Krause Architects, Hamburg

08 17
Enrique Sobejano Kees Christiaanse

(Associate Architects), Paris

Fuensanta Nieto KCAP Architects & Planners, Zurich • Future Cities

Nieto Sobejano Arquitectos, Madrid/Berlin Laboratory (ETH), Singapore Périphériques Marin + Trottin Architectes

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Pierre Laconte Andreas Krüger

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Wilfried Wang Barbara Hoidn

Hoidn Wang Partner, Berlin

20

Brandlhuber+
Olaf Grawert
Christopher Roth
Brandlhuber+, Berlin

21

Peter Haimerl

Peter Haimerl. Architektur, Munich

22

Regine Leibinger Frank Barkow Werner Sobek

Barkow Leibinger, Berlin

23

Almut Grüntuch-Ernst Armand Grüntuch

Grüntuch Ernst Architekten, Berlin

24

Michael Bräuer Hathumar Drost

25

Klaus Bollinger Ragunath Vasudevan

Bollinger+Grohmann, Frankfurt am Main

26

Guido Hager Isabel Zintl

27

Winfried Brenne Ekhart Hahn

Brenne Architekten, Berlin

28

Karla Kowalski Michael Szyszkowitz

Szyszkowitz-Kowalski Architekten, Graz

29

Matthias Sauerbruch Sauerbruch Hutton, Berlin

30

Thomas Herzog

31

Florian Nagler Roger Boltshauser

Florian Nagler Architekten, Munich Boltshauser Architekten, Zurich

32

Kjetil Trædal Thorsen

Patrick Lüth Thomas J. Tait

Snøhetta, Oslo/Innsbruck

33

Anne Lacaton

Jean-Philippe Vassal Lacaton & Vassal, Paris

Events

Programme on the Opening Weekend

Sat 5 Sept and Sun 6 Sept, 11 am - 7 pm, exhibition halls 1-3, free admission to the exhibition

Sat 5 Sept, 4 pm, studio

Film screening *The Watson's Hotel* (India, 2019, 82 min), film by Ragunath Vasudevan, Nathaniel Knop, Peter Rippl. To complement the exhibition contribution by Klaus Bollinger and Ragunath Vasudevan.

Sat 5 Sept, 7 pm, studio

Discussion with the members and participants of the exhibition Kees Christiaanse, Regine Keller, Hilde Léon and Wilfried Wang. Moderation: Jörn Walter, deputy director of the architecture section, curator of the exhibition

Sun 6 Sept., 11:30 am, studio

Film screening *Wünsdorf* (Germany, 2020), photo film by Elfi Mikesch, followed by a discussion with the director, Winfried Brenne and Ekhart Hahn

Sun 6 Sept., 4 pm, studio

Film screening *Architecting after Politics* (Berlin version, 2020), film by Brandlhuber+, Olaf Grawert and Christopher Roth

Accompanying Events

Thur 10 Sept, noon to midnight, studio, studio foyer, club rooms, exhibition open (admission with exhibition ticket)

EC(centri)CITY - The Eccentric City

Talks, Films, Performance, Installation

The event programme curated by Nadim Samman (KUNSTWERKE BERLIN e.V.) invites visual artists, architects and scientists to discuss the European city of the 21st century as a compressor and centrifuge for the visual arts. With audio contributions, podium discussions and a select programme of films, the actors react to the themes of the *urbainable – stadthaltig* exhibition. They broaden the spectrum to include interfaces between the visual arts and show visions for a new – global – urban life.

In cooperation with Berlin Art Week, Innogy Stiftung and MONOPOL

Tue 29 Sept, 7 pm, studio, € 6/4

Where, Please, is the Sustainable City? Ideas and Concepts for an Urban Future

Tim Rieniets in discussion with participants of the exhibition

Tue 13 Oct, 7 pm, studio, € 6/4

Corona, Public Space and the Mobility Turn

Jörn Walter in discussion with participants of the exhibition and politicians

Tue 17 Nov, 7 pm, studio, € 6/4

Sustainability in Construction - Greenwashing or Progress?

Matthias Sauerbruch in conversation with politicians and participants of the exhibition

Education Programme KUNSTWELTEN

In addition to the regular programme of guided tours every Tuesday, 5 pm, KUNSTWELTEN offers special tours in English and guided tours for school classes and visually impaired, blind or deaf visitors (subject to registration).

Architects at School Regine Leibinger, Matthias Sauerbruch, Wilfried Wang and others will discuss their contributions to the exhibition with Berlin school pupils.

Dates and further information: www.adk.de/kunstwelten

Press Photos urbainable – stadthaltig

4 September – 22 November 2020

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urbainable – stadthaltig Former runway at Tempelhof Field, Berlin, 2017 Photo © Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk



urbainable – stadthaltig Niederbaumbrücke (Niederbaum Bridge), Hamburg, 2010 Photo © Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk



urbainable – stadthaltig Nothing to see here, Berlin, 2007 Photo © Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk



urbainable – stadthaltig Fox on the doorstep, Berlin, 2017 Photo © Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk



urbainable – stadthaltig Cash machine at Hallesches Tor underground station, Berlin, 2017 Photo © Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk

Press Photos

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4 September – 22 November 2020

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urbainable – stadthaltig Paris, 2017 Photo © Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk



urbainable – stadthaltig Fridays for Future demonstration outside the Federal Chancellery, Berlin, 2019 Photo © Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk



urbainable – stadthaltig Estação do Oriente railway station, Lisbon, 2016 Photo © Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk



urbainable – stadthaltig Wrinkles of the City street art by JR on the corner of Breite Straße and Leipziger Straße (former Ministry of Building of the GDR), Berlin, 2014 Photo © Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk



urbainable – stadthaltig Tree in front of firewall, Berlin, 2007 Photo © Erik-Jan Ouwerkerk