

ONE YES WE CAN REINVENT PUBLIC SPACES!



IFHP

International
Federation for
Housing and
Planning

Foreword
By IFHP CEO Anette Galskjøt

The Yes we can! Reinvent public space is IFHP's participation to the third Biennale of Public Space in Rome 2015. Two initiatives combined have formed this cooperation: The International Laboratory on Self-Built Community Spaces and the Exhibition "Co-creation of Public Spaces".

These interventions form an important part of the IFHP Community activities for 2015 and we have been thrilled with the engagement and enthusiasm of our partners during the development of both interventions.

In our minds co-creation and community engagement are key words to the success of future city development and we hope that you will find it inspiring to read about the findings of these actions .

This activity has been supported by



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Co-creation of public space by Giulia Maci, IFHP

Can we make our own public space? It is the question that lingers in the institutional vacuum, in the silence of urban planning. Of course, we reply, we can. Can we make it cheap? And we reply, yes we can. Can we make it adaptable? Yes we can. And it continues.

This typical “yes we can” culture is showing great vitality and creativity in the times of unclear urban policies and economic instability, but still the potentials of this energy are not being fully utilised, partly because of a lack of a strong platform to showcase local knowledge and offer support in finding the common ground with the institutions.

Cities do not rise all by themselves. No, they are created by virtue of the fact that opposites coinverge; that is what leads to the emergence of new qualities of urban spaces. Accordingly, an interdisciplinary approach to urban planning is needed to enhance diversity. Most places really do contain an interesting and relevant story and we believe that the less-known spaces in the city can be inspiring.

The Yes we can! Reinvent public spaces lab aims to compare different experiences of neglected neighbourhoods’ reactivation to underline potentials and limites to these approaches and to encourage a full range of stakeholders (citizens, international professionals, policy

makers etc.) to engage in the process of shaping interventions in their cities. It is strange.

Never have we experienced so much interest in public space as today. In times of widespread and changeable needs, fluid and light human relations, there is, maybe as a reaction, an increasing demand for public spaces where we can re-discover and re-create a democratic and social dimension in our often impersonal cities.

On the one hand, we witness to the standardization, ‘museumification’, privatization and homologation of public space as a result of the decline of public engagement and common actions.

On the other hand, new individuals, new creative groups, and new collaborative networks get organized to “reconquer” public spaces –

spatially, physically and politically.

These initiatives can be temporary or permanent, physical or immaterial, spontaneous or organized.

A factor of importance is that they are initiated by actors who are not part of the institutions, but are trying to invent, experiment, stimulate certain processes, programmes, usages, and social interactions within public spaces.

Co-created projects could be considered an immediate answer to the loss of sense of open spaces, defining itself as a process of identification between the people and the place where they live.

Self-built projects are practices by means of which the users can modify and interact with the environment and re-appropriate urban spaces through direct and common actions.



The Biennale of Public Space 2015 **21-23 May 2015, Rome, Italy**

As with its previous editions, the Biennale of Public Space has drawn inspiration from dozens of local, national and international events promoted by local authorities, universities, citizens' associations, professional and cultural organizations, and international organizations to share challenges, experiences and good practices.

Their outcomes, together with parallel laboratories and plenary sessions, formed a concluding event hosted by the School of Architecture of Roma Tre University (located in the ex-mattatoio (abattoir) in Testaccio) in Rome, Italy.

Over 2000 people attended the third edition of the Biennale of Public Space that ended on May 23. 45 seminars and workshops involving representatives of municipalities, universities, cultural associations, professionals of various disciplines, citizens, college students and primary school pupils, created an interdisciplinary and intergenerational event.

The main focus of this year's Biennale is the regeneration of existing urban fabric, with a particular attention to city inequalities and social imbalance between center and periphery. More than 700 speakers from Asia, Latin America and Africa were present. The three day event has built its success on the capacity to engage and commit all the actors around the search of understanding and innovative practices of use and valorization of the Public Space.



IFHP in Rome at the Biennale of Public Space

The Yes we can! Reinvent public space is the IFHP participation to the third Biennale of Public Space. Two interventions combined have formed this cooperation: The international laboratory on self-built community spaces and the Exhibition “co-creation of public spaces”.

EXHIBITION “CO-CREATION OF PUBLIC SPACES”

The panel exhibition gathered 5 experiences covering the globe: from Latin America, to the Balkans, Western Europe and Kenya. All these experiences suggest a reflection on the role of the co-creation of public space through the valuable reactivation of the community’s engagement, redefining the sense of belonging of residents to their neighbourhoods and reinventing their relationship with the cities they are part of.

INTERNATIONAL LABORATORY ON SELF-BUILT COMMUNITY SPACES

The international laboratory on self-built community spaces aimed at comparing different experiences of reactivation of neglected urban neighbourhoods, underlining the potentials and limits of these approaches and encouraging a full range of local stakeholders (citizens, international professionals, policy makers etc.) to engage in the process of shaping interventions in their cities.

How can public spaces become part of the urban society and turn these local and spontaneous initiatives into long term policies bridging the gap between informal and formal development? What do self-organizing networks need to do to get their ideas realized? And vice versa: how can institutions use this cultural phenomenon as a legitimate and valuable city making instrument?



YES WE CAN!...

Towards a new model of governance?

New individuals, new creative groups, and new collaborative networks get organized to “reconquer” public spaces – spatially, physically and politically.

They can be temporary or permanent, physical or immaterial, spontaneous or organized. A factor of importance is that they are initiated by non-institutional actors who are trying to invent, experiment, stimulate processes, programmes, uses, and social interactions within public spaces.

These co-created projects could be considered an answer to the loss of identification between the people and the place where they live. Through self-built projects users can modify and interact with the environment and re-appropriate urban spaces through direct and common actions.

The workshop addressed the question of whether co-creation can represent a method for creating better public spaces.

Co-design is an alternative to involve all the stakeholders in the design discussion and to make sure that the final product will meet the public’s needs according to the values, the history of the place and the time it is used.

At the same time, co-design actions pose questions about long-term sustainability and the effects of the shift of roles that the actors are used to play. We discovered various projects that are quite different in terms of setting and time span but all focus on fostering community participation, transforming urban spaces and involving different stakeholders and improving the links between citizens and their city.

The objective is to identify the common steps in the process in the form of key words and key Placemaking challenges.

This work has definitely given us the opportunity to rethink the city as a work in progress made of spontaneous and virtuous processes of transformation, where local resources and needs are combined and brought together to trigger virtuous processes of renewal and enhance the reconquering and re-appropriation of urban territories all over the world.

From Rome to Porto Alegre

The results of this exploration and comparison on the limits and potentials of actions of co-creation and self-built community spaces, are presented by IFHP at the 1st International Congress on Public Spaces that will be held in October 2015 in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

The Congress is organised by the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism of the PUCRS University (FAU-PUCRS). Among the main reasons, the dimensions of Brazilian cities, the great inequalities, car-domination and the strong influence of the market, resulted in poor quality or absence of public spaces. Accessibility, maintenance, security, and real publicness for all socio-economic layers of the society, all are important topics of discussion. And of future action. This is true for cities in the entire world, all with their specific challenges.

The congress aims to collect people and experience from all over the world, to interchange ideas, knowledge, and experiences. It wants to teach and inspire academics, policymakers, entrepreneurs and citizens.

More information: http://www.pucrs.br/eventos/espacospublicos/index_eng.php.

A black and white photograph of a crowd of people walking, overlaid with white geometric shapes and lines. The image is a poster for a congress. The background shows a dense crowd of people from a high-angle perspective. Overlaid on the image are several white elements: a solid horizontal bar at the top left, a solid vertical bar at the top right, a solid horizontal bar at the bottom left, and a solid horizontal bar at the bottom right. A solid white line curves from the bottom left towards the center. A dashed white line curves from the top right towards the center. A dotted white line forms a circular path on the left side. The text '1º CONGRESSO INTERNACIONAL' is positioned in the middle left, and 'ESPAÇOS PÚBLICOS' is in the bottom right.

1º CONGRESSO INTERNACIONAL

ESPAÇOS
PÚBLICOS

The Speakers the LAB

Moreno Baccichet, Professor at University of Venice (IUAV)

Bernardina Borra, Founder and partner at SPcitl.org and MILKTrain.eu

Silvia Cama, Architect at Zerozone

Francesco Careri, Founder of Stalker/Osservatorio Nomade,
Researcher at DIPSU-Roma Tre

Antonia Di Lauro, Post-doc at Mediterranean University
of Reggio Calabria

Simona Dobrescu, Urbego Co-founder

Marco Giovannone, Architect and Interior designer

Naomi Hoogervorst, Architect at FREEM open architecture
and Placemakers

Paulo Horn Regal, Professor at Pontifical University of Rio Grande

Giulia Maci, Architect, Project manager at IFHP and Urbego founder

Farah Makki, Architect, PhD candidate at EHESS in Paris,
Urbego Co-founder

Francesco Moccia, Professor at University of Naples, “Federico the 2nd”

Giuseppe Roccasalva, Arch. PhD, School of Architecture and Urban
Planning, Polytechnic of Turin

Marichela Sepe, Professor at University of Naples, “Federico the 2nd”

Emma Viviani, Director at Tuscany Department of ANS
(National Association of Sociologists) and Founder of Araba Fenice

The contributors of the Exhibition

With the exhibition “Co-creation of public spaces” IFHP, together with its partners and working groups, shares recent projects and researches on the topic of co-creation of public space showing possibilities, limits and effects of this approach. The exhibition has been an occasion to rethink the city as an open laboratory where, from local initiatives of transformation of the public spaces, needs and resources are shared to catalyse processes to enhance the territory at different scales.

IFHP’s heartfelt thanks to:

Latin American Field Office in Porto Alegre, Brazil

FAU-PUCRS, Porto Alegre; Brazil

Spontaneous City International, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Urbego, Antwerp, Belgium

INTI, Almere, The Netherlands

Placemakers, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The Urban Incubator, Belgrade, Serbia

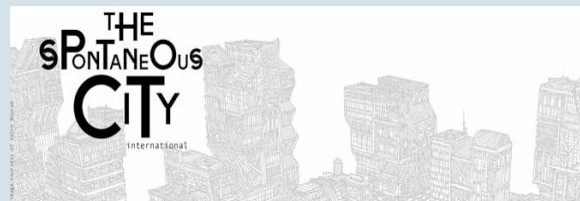
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International Federation for Housing and Planning

The International Federation for Housing and Planning is a worldwide Community of professionals, researchers, academics and civil servants representing the broad field of housing and planning. The Community organizes a wide range of activities across the globe with the aim to foster cross-sectorial knowledge exchanges and "test" new solutions in response to the most pressing urban development challenges.

Biennale Spazio Pubblico 2015

As in previous editions, Biennial of Public Space will build on dozens of events Local, national and international, promoted by Public Administrations, University, Associations of citizens, Professional organizations and cultural, International Organizations, with the aim of comparing experiences, problems and good practices. The results will feed, together with parallel workshops and plenary sessions, in a final event hosted at the headquarters of Architecture of Rome (former slaughterhouse).





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