

16:30 Dialogue: Declaration of a “CEU New Urban Agenda”

17:30 End

19:00–20:30 Walking tour through northern Neukölln (city quarter with thriving night life) and finish with dinner and/or drinks

with Aljoscha Hofmann

Meeting point: ‚Brixbox‘ at Alfred Scholz Platz (formerly: Platz der Stadt Hof), Neukölln, between U Karl-Marx-Str. and U Rathaus Neukölln

20:30 Dinner

Restaurant Fuchs und Elster, Weserstraße 207, 12047 Berlin (Basement)

Sunday, 29 November: Walking tours

7:30 Train/Walking Tour 1: Potsdam

with Joanna Alimanestianu (6.5 hours)

10:00 Walking tour 2: Mediaspree

with Aljoscha Hofmann (2.5 hours)

Meeting point: Just outside U Schlesisches Tor

10:00 Walking tour 3: Construction in the core, from 1950 to the present

with Duane Phillips (2 hours)

Meeting point: U Hallesches Tor, Ground level on Brigde

12:30 Walking tour 4: The Historic Center of Berlin

with Harald Bodenschatz (1.5 hour)

Meeting Point: In front of „Altes Museum“ Am Lustgarten, 10178 Berlin

14:00 Lunch, CEU Board Meeting (Open to all)

Location „Löwenbräu“ Leipziger Straße 57

15:00 Depart (approx.)

Conference Venue:

Center for Metropolitan Studies, Room HBS 103, first floor
Hardenbergstraße 16–18, 10623 Berlin

COP21 AND BEYOND: Defining the “New Urban Agenda” in a Changing Climate Berlin, November 27–29, 2015

a council for european urbanism conference conseil pour l'urbanisme européen

The world is increasingly recognizing the dimensions of a deep environmental and social crisis, and urgent action is now necessary. Cities, their structure, and their development, are increasingly at the center of the agenda, which Habitat III has termed the “New Urban Agenda.”

What is the role of architects and urbanists in this urgent agenda? Is it to continue to build the same kinds of buildings and urban settlements we have been building for a century, only now festooned with new “green” high-technology gadgets? Is it to continue as visionary artists, dutifully serving – or sometimes ignoring – the agents of modernization, sprawl and global capital? Or must we confront the need for a deeper, more radical model of urbanization and urban life – one more centered around human dynamics and well-being? What would this entail, in concept, strategy, detailed practice? What are the lessons we must now share and act upon?

The Council for European Urbanism has long explored these questions, and championed new answers. In particular, the CEU has advanced the radical proposition that the allegedly “modern” post-war model of cities is actually antiquated, and profoundly destructive of long-term sustainability; and that real advancement now lies in recognizing the evolutionary “collective intelligence” embodied in the patterns of centuries of urban dynamics and patterns of human experience.

But many questions remain in filling out this “new urban agenda.” What is the role of urban morphology? How does “genetic” information (patterns, types, etc) translate into built structures and environments? What are the elements of the “operating system for growth” – e.g. codes, laws, models, standards, incentives etc. – and how must (can) they be changed? How do global patterns express themselves in local form? What lessons can we learn from local case studies – particularly the lessons of European urbanism, which for better or worse – has played such a central role in shaping global settlement?

We will explore all these questions, with the aim of concluding on our own version of a “new urban agenda” – with concrete next steps. What must we do? How can the CEU as an organization facilitate the actions needed?

in cooperation with:



Friday, 27 November: Keynotes and Opening

18:00 Welcome

Aljoscha Hofmann, DFG Fellow, Center for Metropolitan Studies, TU Berlin; Board Member, Council for European Urbanism and Director, CEU Germany.

18:15 Defining the New Urban Agenda for COP21 and Beyond

Michael Mehaffy, COP21 Participant/Presenter; Academic Chair, Future of Places Forum (partnership of UN-Habitat, Project for Public Spaces and Ax:son Johnson Foundation); Architecture Faculty Member and Researcher on climate change and urban form, TU Delft; Board Member, Council for European Urbanism, and Chair, INTBAU College of Chapters.

18:45 The Role of the Architect-Urbanist: Toward a Hippocratic Oath for the Built Environment

Joanna Alimanestianu, Co-founder, CEU; Visiting Professor, University of Notre Dame; Architect and Urbanist based in Brussels and New York.

19:15 Panel Discussion (with audience)

20:00 End

20:15 Conference Dinner

Ristorante Brunello, Knesebeckstraße 18, 10623 Berlin

Saturday, 28 November: Symposium

SESSION ONE: BEYOND THE AUTOMOBILE-BASED CITY

9:00 Whatever Happened to Urbanism? The Greater Berlin Story

Harald Bodenschatz, Professor, Technical University Berlin and President, CEU Germany

9:30 Main Streets: Key to a Sustainable and Just Greater Berlin?

Aljoscha Hofmann, Director, CEU Germany

9:45 The Bundesplatz: Model for Transforming an Automobile-Dependent Main Street

Christian von Oppen, TU Berlin, CEU Germany

10:00 Dialogue: Building the Post-Automobile-Based City Region

10:45 (Break)

SESSION TWO: LEARNING FROM – AND REGENERATING – URBAN MORPHOLOGY

11:00 Good City Form: Formal, Informal and Picturesque

Peter Kellow, UK-France architect, regular author with *American Arts Quarterly*, and member, RIBA, AWG, TAG, and INTBAU.

11:15 Understanding the “Urban Genome” and its Generative Effects

Hillel Schocken, Professor, Tel Aviv University and architect; Co-founder, *Movement for Israeli Urbanism*

11:30 Retrofitting Existing Morphologies: What Are The Opportunities and Challenges?

Alessandra Fianza, Architect, Environmental Advisor, Researcher at TU Berlin

11:45 Dialogue: Urban Morphology in the New Urban Agenda: From Global to Local (And Back)

12:45 (Break for lunch)

SESSION THREE: REFORMING THE “OPERATING SYSTEM FOR GROWTH”

14:00 Changing Urban Codes: Case Study in Transforming Modern Arab Cities

Duane Phillips, DPZ-Europe

14:15 Involving the Public: Places for People, BY People

Arne Sødal, Sødal Architects, Oslo

14:30 Economics Lessons: Getting Good Projects Built

Christian Lasserre, Developer, Brussels, Belgium

14:45 Dialogue: Toward an Agenda for Reform

15:45 Break

SESSION FOUR: THE CEU AND THE “NEW URBAN AGENDA”

16:00 The Revival of European Urbanism: How Far We’ve Come, How Far We Still Have To Go

Liam O’Connor, Architect-Urbanist, UK

16:15 The Stockholm Charter, The Oslo Declaration and Beyond

Audun Engh, Board Member, CEU and Secretary, INTBAU