

# Urban Design

Christopher Dell, Bernd Kniess, Dominique Peck and Anna Richter, 2017

## COLUMN A

<https://podcampus.de/nodes/wPPYV/res0720.mp4>

Momic, Maja, Bernd Kniess, Dominique Peck, Christopher Dell, and Marko Mijatovic. 2016. "Begegnen." Basics: Project Management in Urban Design. Hamburg. CC BY-SA 4.0.

<https://podcampus.de/nodes/wkYyA/res0480.mp4>

Kniess, Bernd, Dominique Peck, Christopher Dell, and Malte Rollbühler. 2016. "Introduction for Susanne Heiss – IfaU." Basics: Project Management in Urban Design. Hamburg. CC BY-SA 4.0.

<https://podcampus.de/nodes/pVVKW/res0720.mp4>

Römer, Alexander, Bernd Kniess, Dominique Peck, Christopher Dell, and Marko Mijatovic. 2016. "Display." Basics: Project Management in Urban Design. Hamburg. CC BY-SA 4.0.

## ABOUT COLUMN A

Allow me to introduce you to four aspects we think are crucial to realize when doing urban design. These four aspects have been developed to communicate the position of the research and teaching program Urban Design at the HafenCity University Hamburg at a glance. Those of you who are interested in comprehending these four aspects are invited to engage with the linked material in this E-Learning arrangement.

UD is concerned with the urban: Its object is the contemporary-future urban society in the practice(d) forms of its co- and constant re-production. To understand the city as historically developed and produced involves turning to its uses through very diverse users and ways of use – it is from within this assemblage of practices of humans and things that the interdependencies of the urban emerge.

UD is pro-discipline: Urban Design re-assembles heterogeneous motifs and disciplinary knowledges of the city. Such co-production of different actors with various disciplinary

backgrounds aims at relationally unlocking the potentials of the urban. UD assembles all those disciplines that are concerned with urban and spatial production, for instance architecture, urban planning, sociology, anthropology, philosophy, geography, landscape planning, interior design, cultural studies, landscape architecture, ethnology, tbc.

UD knows what it does: What is at stake is to develop, test and convey an appropriate methodology and form of knowledge for the interaction with the city in terms of research and design. To this end, studying and designing procedures are linked together, so as to combine knowledge originating in theoretical conceptualizations of and empirical experiences with the urban with knowledge that derives from practicing design methods. The analysis of the existing is the foundation of this approach.

UD mobilizes the urban: When we talk about design, we refer to the design(ing) of the urban. UD makes visible and negotiable the knowledge of/about urban situations so as to unlock and demonstrate potentialities hidden therein. What emerges are lenses, dispositifs and perspectives of reading the city as quintessential products of Urban Design. These products provide the material with which new ways of producing the urban can be developed.

Our time calls for a re-institutionalization of Urban Design in the sense of the German notion *Städtebau*, which brings us to the question of its role: Is it to optimize built environments in urban space; does it offer a qualitative relevance for specific cities? Research directions emerge accordingly: If the aim is to better contextualize built objects and environments, what comes into play are materialities, scales and correspondences in various forms. If *Städtebau* is understood as a contribution to urban production overall (including social and economic aspects of its production), questions about the history and theory of cities and their differences come to fore. This entails a much richer body of knowledge grounded in inter- and transdisciplinarity. Urban Design is an integrative expansion of *Städtebau*: it builds onto it and simultaneously enriches it from within.