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inura
 International Network for
 Urban Research and Action



Photo: Gertrud Vogler, Zürich

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We would like to express our special gratitude to PONTE Foundation Zurich for funding the activities of INURA.

Editors and publishers of INURA Bulletin 2:
Hansruedi Hitz, Christian Schmid, Richard Wolff (INURA Zurich)

INURA Bulletin 3 will be published in February 1992 by INURA Rostock. Deadline for contributions, announcements etc.: December 31, 1991.

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EDITORIAL

INURA is proceeding, everybody is networking. Letters are being sent all over the world, fax machines and telephones are running hot, people are asking for information or contacts (see "Pin Board"). Mutual visits and discussions are being cultivated, too. The Londoners were invited to a conference in Rostock, the group from Geneva came to Zurich for public debates, and the Zurichers visited Frankfurt. One aim of our network seems to be achieved. The basic structure of INURA has been established and it works, INURA is living.

With some delay, due to a wide range of activities, some of which have already been mentioned, we are now sending INURA Bulletin 2 to you. It contains the proceedings of the first INURA conference in Salecina, i.e. the summaries of the contributions and discussions as far as they have not already been published in Bulletin 1. At the same time, INURA Rostock is preparing the next conference to be held at the end of May 1992 (see "Conference Announcement"). The programme is not yet fixed in detail, your suggestions for debates are welcome as well as proposals for INURA working groups (see "How to start an INURA working group"). A detailed programme, additional information and an inscription form for the next conference will be published in Bulletin 3 of February 1992.

In the present situation, where the initial enthusiasm of having founded INURA is giving place to business as usual like organizing conferences and publishing bulletins, it should be stimulating to focus the next steps of building up INURA as a powerful and active network. To motivate further discussions in Rostock, in this issue we submit some ideas for a common INURA project combining research and action (see "Suggestion for a common INURA project").

With this Bulletin the Zurich group is quitting its jobs of editing the Bulletin and coordinating INURA activities. Once again, we would like to thank everybody for contributing to the success of the first year of our network. It has been a great pleasure to get into contact with so many interested and interesting people and we are looking forward to staying in touch with you. In December, the INURA secretariate will pass to Rostock, INURA's 1992 headquarter.

Hansruedi Hitz
Christian Schmid
Richard Wolff

INURA Zurich

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INURA CONFERENCE 1991 IN SALECINA

Half a year plus some difficult hours of summarizing the contributions and debates have elapsed since the Salecina conference. The proceedings reflect a selection of some of the most interesting points made by participants and corresponding sympathisers. We apologize and, at the same time, say thank you to all others whose contributions have not been mentioned in this brief review, but, which nevertheless have been carefully read and considered and thus have influenced the discussions, too. The proceedings are divided in three sections: A) Critique of the INURA Paper; B) Workshops; C) Contributions.

A) Critique of the INURA Paper

In November 1990, SAU Zurich took the initiative to propose INURA by distributing the paper "Proposal for the Foundation of an International Network for Urban Research and Action" together with an invitation for the founding conference in Salecina. This paper has three parts. In the first part it outlines a general framework for theoretical analysis based on three analytical pillars: Urban development as the spatial aspect of the predominant mode of production; Spatial division of labour and the hierarchy of world-centres; Urban space and the reproduction of labour-force. In the second part the paper deals with the relation between theory and practice as well as between scientists and practitioners/activists. The third part contains the actual proposal for the foundation of INURA.

This paper was sent to about 120 persons around the globe. About 60 responded with constructive criticism and suggestions. A review of these critiques stood at the beginning of the conference in Salecina. In summary, the debate dealt with three fundamental aspects: the criticism of the theoretical framework, the identification of blind spots omitted in the paper, and the discussion of the relation between theory and practice.

Theoretical Framework

Peter Marcuse (New York) attested the paper "a quite good and succinct analysis of the present situation, summarizing a good bit of research and theory over the last fifteen years." Nevertheless, for various critics this theoretical framework is too narrow, too deterministic, too economic, and even too dogmatic. As an example Alain Lipietz (Paris) censured: "I am a bit reluctant in the acceptance of the 'Flex Spec' dogma in the Manifesto project. I insist that your manifesto is too narrow. There are many people (like me) who agree with the regulation approach but are critical against the idea that there exists one 'Flexible Accumulation' model."

On the one side, this statement refers to the actual debate between the advocates of the French regulation approach and the exponents of an approach of flexible specialisation/accumulation. On the other side, it criticises a kind of oversimplification inherent in the paper, which is not appropriate to the complexity of the actual social and economic processes. The same reproach is repeated in various comments, for instance, by Anna Marson (Vicenza): "I cannot see in the phases you identify heuristic properties, then they appear to me just a schematization which reduces a much more complex reality". Fred Robinson (Durham) argues: "In general, the theoretisation is probably sound but there is a danger of the theory obscuring reality: we still have a considerable amount of Fordist

production, for example, which should not be overlooked by the concern with finding examples conforming to post-Fordist models. (...) From my perspective in the North of England, I would like to see more emphasis on old areas, places left behind - 'redundant spaces'. Provincial cities in older industrial areas may seek to emulate the 'world cities' - and that may be one of their problems, using policies which are irrelevant to their situation. Even within Europe there are such big contrasts, between, for instance, top cities experiencing gentrification; some provincial cities with few gentrifiers still losing population; and cities still witnessing in-migration from rural areas."

Another point of criticism towards the paper is the bias on economic aspects. Virginie Mamadouh (Amsterdam) writes: "Economic processes dominate completely your theoretical framework, particularly the development of the financial world market. You pay no attention to sociocultural processes (emancipation, gender, race, cultural minorities, demography...) and to political processes, including forms of collective resistance to the restructuring processes you named. (...) We could debate at length about the dominance of the economy and the relative autonomy of culture and politics, but it has to be done again and again. It is your purpose to communicate with activists and to help them understand things they want to change and processes they want to stop. Certainly economic developments should be discussed to enlarge their understanding of the influence of world wide processes in local situations, but activists have to use cultural and political potentials to resist the negative consequences of the economic processes that you described as almost necessary developments in the transition to a new mode of production. Activists are probably eager to understand why activists succeed in a particular city at a particular time, and why others failed; they want to understand the strategies of other activists as well as the reactions of state agencies and powerful economic actors." The same point is stressed by Peter Marcuse (New York), saying that "... more attention needs to be paid to the intra-city spatial patterns developed and the conflicts within cities rather than the almost exclusive focus on national and international developments. Most conflicts will, in reality, take place on the local scene, between local groups and interests."

Blind Spots

Apart from these general considerations, several blind spots have been identified, processes and developments which have been omitted or have not received deserved attention: The production of the built environment and the analysis of the land market and the real estate market; the role of trade unions and labour organization in general in the restructuring of the production process; the role of racism and fascistic tendencies as well as their continuous growth in some parts of Europe.

Dina Vaiou (Athens) criticizes even our concept of "blind spots", arguing that it is not a question of simply including additional issues, but of changing the general perspective of the paper: "The type of metropolis that underlies the argument is very much Central/North European. It has little to do with experiences of urban development in other parts of Europe - let alone other parts of the world. Note that the 'Charter of Athens' has never been implemented in Athens!

The same 'view from the North' underlies your discussion of the regime of flexible accumulation. To the extent that such clear cut distinctions can be useful, restructuring and flexibility include technological innovation and large scale computerisation but also sweated labour and informal putting out of industrial production. In this process women and minorities are drawn in the labour market in increasing numbers. The 'social groups'

that you mention do have gender and ethnic identities.

Last but not least (at least for me) 'questions of gender' cannot be included as easily as you seem to imply in your 'Remarks concerning the paper'. The paper is written in a particular way that excludes gender (and social hierarchies other than class). Including it requires, to my view, a more general shift of emphasis, less universalising categories and more acknowledgement of differences within categories such as 'class', the 'industrial proletariat', etc. But that would, of necessity, lead to different priorities and issues in the research agenda."

Theory and Practice

The first question to be answered about cooperation between scientists and activists is, "what kind of political activism should be supported?" The answer, if given, is usually a negative-list of groups or activities, which should not be supported as for instance: "There are collective mobilizations struggling against some superficial phenomena of the restructuring processes, that I certainly do not want to support, such as mobilizations against immigrants in many European cities" (Virginie Mamadouh, Amsterdam). It will be one of the challenges for INURA, to find positive answers on this question. The discussions and contributions in Salecina defined at least a starting point for this debate (see "Workshops"/"Contributions").

In a more general way, Dimitri Kotsakis (Thessaloniki) discussed the relation between theory and practice, recurring to the original sense of the Greek word "praxis": "Trying, for sixteen years now, to be both a university teacher and an active citizen, I had to catch up with scientists as well as activists. The result was not to become both a scientist and an activist but to become neither. If I learned anything at all it is that scientism and activism are equidistant from theory and praxis. In theory there is action and in praxis there is science. Scientism and activism are the result of a bilateral deprivation - a segregation of the two. And we do nothing against this by making the segregated agents collaborate. Because it is part of their professional duty that they will do so. True, amateur activists do not feel the obligation to be scientifically informed. But professionals do, activating the scientists who, as professionals themselves, are bound to respond. I am talking about the present society - the one emerging from the present crisis. In this society scientists and activists are complementary in their professional capacities. But this complementarity presupposes and reinforces their deprived nature as 'human subjectivities'. (...) Certainly the problem is not one of 'translating scientific reports into easily comprehensible articles' but I would not pose it either as 'coming from an abstract analysis to practical perspectives'. For any abstract analysis, which deserves a place in whatever scientism stands for in modern times, has built-in a practical perspective. Disinterested contemplation is not the ambience of scientism. The problem is rather to transform the inherited scientific abstractions to fit different practical perspectives. And further the problem is that this difference in practical perspectives transforms not one scientific theory into another but science itself in its relation to action."

Paper -> Hansruedi Hitz/Christian Schmid/Richard Wolff: Proposal for the Foundation of an International Network for Urban Research and Action (English/German, Zurich 1990). Obtainable from INURA Zurich, Nordstr. 151, CH-8037 Zurich, Switzerland.

B) Workshops

Workshop I: Research - Urban Movements

This group discussed questions like: How to connect theory with practice? Does "analysing" mean being outside the struggle? Whom are we working for? For which action groups? For the local state, in a consultancy-function? What type of town are we interested in? Should we work in the social fabric of neighbourhoods adopting the views of the residents? Or should we work on the whole city with a city-wide perspective? What could be the possible outcome of a comparison between different cities?

For example, comparing Frankfurt and Zurich many similarities have been detected in the ways finance-capital is restructuring the cities. The same problems and questions arise in both cities: e.g. the "nimby" (not in my backyard) attitude of many residents, the importance of the social and cultural fabric for the struggle, the left as gentrifier of the first stage, the use of cooperation with the red-green administration, which possibly abuses our work.

Workshop II: Scientism - Activism

Starting from the question whether or not it is possible to learn from other experiences, people in this workshop stated that local activities - contrary to the internationally organized capital - are determined by the local situation, for example the community culture which is thriving in the UK, but non-existent in Germany or Switzerland. How to motivate people to get involved? The successful fights of the former Greater London Council represent, to some extent, only a very useful myth, but they also show that in a certain historical context it is possible for the local state - the radicals in the town hall together with the activists - to succeed in blocking a big project. The group also discussed about the history of New York's Central Park: In the last century the left was opposing it as an infrastructure for the rich and now mostly the poor are benefiting from it. To go beyond prevention, to propose alternatives, to bargain and to demand for planning gains, extra-benefits and linked developments is sometimes more effective than fundamental opposition, but not in every case: The discussion about resistance against the allocation of an incinerator in the plain of Florence led to the statement that it can also make sense just to say no. If nobody wants to take the waste (nimby!), the pressure on the capitalistic system to change its logic will increase - to avoid the production of waste, for example. The group then identified a lack of strategic visions and discussed about two possibilities: lobbying the policy makers vs. developing alternative strategies. A proposal for a policy charter stood at the end of this workshop: (1) social and environmental costs should be internalized and (2) no community/neighbourhood should have to accept anything they don't want. (3) The enrichment of human personality was proposed as a criterion for the assessment of future developments.

Workshop III: Politically Relevant Research

This group started with a critique of the academic enterprise: all this "something-is-happening-ism", e.g. creating p-words like postfordism, postmodernism and postindustrial, is first of all conducive to academic careers. Second, the relationship between scientists and activists is mostly hierarchical: the main problems lie in the different languages, in the difficulty of mutual understanding and in the instrumentalizing of people, e.g. action groups, only to prove theories and to legitimize (left) academics. Research is becoming a part of social control. Another problem of hierarchy is the secrecy and the mystification of the production of scientific knowledge, like guilds

keeping their secrets. Third, research often serves to cool the mark while important things are happening: "We do some research work now, and in three years we'll tell you what should happen". All these problems are usually not recognized by theorists.

On the other hand, useful theories are needed to avoid setting to work at zero, to forecast rather than only react, and to show new ways of resistance. "Nothing is so practical as a good theory!" For example, Despite TV needs research as an entry into a new subject and researchers as interview partners. This workshop also discussed the possible role of INURA: to close the gap between researchers and activists, to diffuse research and information, to counter misinformation/disinformation (as we are in a privileged position in the information business), and to divide up the fund raising.

C) Contributions

Hansruedi Hitz, Christian Schmid, Richard Wolff (SAU):

City Tour of Zurich (Excursion)

In the 1860s, the Bahnhofstrasse was built just along the border of the medieval town. For more than a hundred years it represented the central axis of urbanization. This connection between the heart of the Swiss financial centre (Paradeplatz) and the traffic centre of Zurich (main railway station), remained the economic centre of Zurich until today.

After World War II, the capacity of the relatively small CBD to create new office-space along the Bahnhofstrasse was exhausted and the inner city began to expand into the adjacent housing areas. But this expansion proceeded only slowly mainly because, in the early seventies, plans to improve private and public transport to the centre of Zurich were blocked by political opposition. Nevertheless, these plans have been partly realized, in the meantime, with the creation of a metropolitan railway system. As a consequence the attractiveness of the traffic centre for commercial activities increased dramatically: A massive development called "HB Südwest" with more than 200'000 sqm floorspace is being planned above the rails of the main station.

In the seventies, the limited possibilities of expansion of the inner city did not prevent the gentrification of the adjacent former working-class areas. Development of office-space shifted to the secondary centres of Zurich (Altstetten and Oerlikon), and, in the eighties, also to the large suburban areas in the urban fringe north of Zurich. This area was opened for a new city boom by the first part of a circular motorway around Zurich, finished in 1985. Due to its proximity to the airport, a belt of business districts is developing very quickly. Several large office developments are under construction or projected on derelict industrial land (Oerlikon, Wallisellen) or on open space (Oberhauser Ried, Stettbach-Dübendorf).

Paper -> Scenter for Applied Urbanism (SAU): Urbanization in Zurich: City Belt and Selective Housing Crisis (English, 6 pages, Zurich 1989). Obtainable from INURA Zurich, Nordstr. 151, CH-8037 Zürich, Switzerland.

Louanne Tranchell:

Two Examples of Urban Practice (Statement)

Louanne criticized the separation between theory and practice proposed in the SAU-paper and that the paper is not for practitioners. She explained her view of the relation theory - urban practice with two examples: A new initiative called "Vision for London" has been formed in an attempt to create a network of communities, architects, planners, local authorities, developers, business, the media, the arts, research and education - sharing information, learning from each other, accumulating experience, and finding common ground. In March 1991, the initiative launched the Vision for London Festival, a banner under which 60 events and initiatives are being organised over the following 18 months. The second example of a positive experience is the Coin Street project. For years, the local community in London's Waterloo campaigned for housing development and against office and hotel proposals for the Coin Street sites on the South Bank and finally succeeded. It is an outstanding example for the community areas policy of the former Greater London Council using alternative models of community organization and participation combined with a "from below"-approach.

Special report -> A vision for London - a new approach to civic design in the metropolis (in: The Architects' Journal, 14.3.1990, p. 28 - 87, MBC London).

Special issue -> Designing London - new approaches to putting design on the capital's civic agenda (in: The Architects' Journal, 17.4.1991, p. 26 - 65, MBC London).

Roger Keil and Petra Unterwerner:

Towards an Environmental Perspective (Statement)

Roger Keil and Petra Unterwerner shared the conviction that environmental issues need to be located at a central position in the research agenda to be drawn up by INURA, but they did not claim a special research area separated from other areas. Rather, they suggested that the realm of ecology and the environment be viewed as central to the current phase of urban restructuring as identified by the INURA-paper.

They illustrated their point of view with some experiences from the Los Angeles region: For example, they stressed that the "clean technology" of Silicon valley is pure ideology. For the production of semi-conductors poisonous materials are widely employed. In the environmental business it is often the case that the same firms responsible for the worst waste-production do also draw large profits out of the cleaning up. On the other hand, the example of an incinerator in the middle of the ghetto of L.A. and the question of air pollution showed very clearly that social and environmental peripheralization are linked together. The poor are most affected by environmental destruction because they have no other choice than to stay in the polluted areas. Good environmental conditions are also a question of social justice.

Paper -> Roger Keil & Petra Unterwerner: Towards an Environmental Perspective in the Discourse on Restructuring: Some Preliminary Remarks (English, 2 pages, Frankfurt, May 1991). Obtainable from Petra Unterwerner, Oberweg 56, D-6000 Frankfurt am Main, Germany, or from Roger Keil (see below).

Dissertation (German) -> Roger Keil: WeltStadt - Stadt der Welt, Internationalisierung und lokale Politik in Los Angeles (unpublished, Frankfurt 1991). Obtainable from Roger Keil, 529 Logan Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4K 1B2, Canada.

Shiobhan Cleary and Mark Saunders (Despite TV):

Why work? (Video Trailer)

The subject of this pilot programme is the relation between work and leisure and the quality of life in both areas. It deals with the happy workforce and the leisure atmosphere at work as well as with do-it-yourself work at home, e.g. home improvement, promoted by Thatcher's campaign "Leisure & Pleasure" to reduce the costs of collective consumption.

Despite the City (video)

This tape is a frontal attack against the financial metropolis of London. It is an east side story about power, corruption and big deals in London's docklands where the old neighbourhoods of the working class were destroyed for profit reasons. In a series of interviews people of the area present their own version of this "success" story.

The Battle of Trafalgar (video)

After the introduction of the poll tax by the Thatcher government in 1990, a wave of protest and riots rolled over the entire United Kingdom. The biggest manifestation took place on March 31 in London. More than a hundred thousand people were already on Trafalgar Square waiting for the arrival of the rest of the protest march and shouting: "Maggie, Maggie, Maggie, go, go, go!" when the riot broke out in front of Downing Street provoked by the intervention of the police. This tape shows the perfidy of the police strategy as well as the brutality of police action against the demonstrators. The testimonies of witnesses are absolutely shocking.

Video -> Despite TV: Why work? (VHS, 11 mins., London 1991).

Video -> Despite the City (VHS, 52 mins., London 1988).

Video -> The Battle of Trafalgar (VHS, 53 mins., London 1990).

Contact: Despite TV, 178 Whitechapel Road, London E1 1BJ, GB.

Frank Mueller (Despite TV):

Mahnwache Frankfurt and **Canary Wharf** (slides)

Slides and comments on a silent protest during the Gulf War in Frankfurt and on "Canary Wharf", a massive office development in London's docklands.

Ssenter for Applied Urbanism (SAU):

5 Finger hat die Hand - Baustopp im Kreis 5! (The Hand Has 5 Fingers - Stop Building in Borough 5!, slide show)

Two speculators enter the borough looking for new speculative deals, but they do not expect resistance from the inhabitants: They are put to flight by a big black hand.

Slide Show -> 5 Finger hat die Hand - Baustopp im Kreis 5! (slides, 4 mins., Zurich 1988). Contact: INURA Zurich.

Giancarlo Paba and Raffaele Paloscia:

The Plain of Florence (slides and comments)

The analysis of the breakdown of the Fordist model of mass production which dominated the "industrial triangle" of northwestern Italy (Milan - Turin - Genoa) and the identification of a new territorial formation emerging in central-northeastern Italy, the so-called "Third Italy", were the starting points for the activities of the research group in Florence. "Third Italy" is characterized by a production system with a de-centralized structure based on small manufacturing enterprises scattered over the territory, the "fabbrica diffusa": For example, the production of one shoe is split up between 10 or 20 home-workshops, each one of them employing only one or a few persons under precarious conditions. The transport of raw materials and semi-finished products between all these home-workshops induces a lot of mobility and environmental problems.

The quality of living in the territory represents another area of theoretical research, field investigation and didactic activity of the group. Two elements seem to be essential for the quality of living in the territory: the environmental quality (of biological space, landscape, built environment, socio-cultural space) and the possibility of identification (identity of places, sense of belonging, autodetermination of settled communities).

In 1990, the workshop for ecological planning and design of human settlements was founded in Florence. It aims at

- the creation of an analytical methodology of urban and territorial transformations;
- the experimentation of the ecological planning and design method in the Florentine area and in Tuscany;
- the comparison with similar experiments, both theoretical and experimental, in Italy and abroad.

The main experimental field is the plain of the river Arno northwest of Florence which is threatened by the growth of the "fabbrica diffusa", the superimposition of a huge infrastructural network, the enlargement of the airport, an unsafe incinerator, the redevelopment of derelict land of FIAT and a huge speculative project of Fondiaria, a big national building and insurance company. The workshop wants to act as catalyst for action groups opposing this destructive urbanization process and to co-ordinate their activities as most of them are temporarily and precariously organized. A collectively elaborated "Charter of the Plain" marks a first step from protest to proposals.

Paper -> Raffaele Paloscia: Agriculture and diffused manufacturing in the Terza Italia: A Tuscan case-study (English, 29 pages, 6 figures, Florence).

Paper -> Giancarlo Paba/Raffaele Paloscia: Synthesis of the Work Hypotheses and the Experimental Activity of the Research Group of Florence (English, 4 pages, Florence 1991).

Paper -> Giancarlo Paba/Raffaele Paloscia: Florence, the Plain, the City and Community System: Towards an Ecological Transformation of the Human Settlements (English, draft, 5 pages, Salecina 1991). All obtainable from Gian Carlo Paba/Raffaele Paloscia, Faculta di Architettura, Via Michelli 2, I-50121 Firenze, Italy.

Ute Lehrer:

Westway: Urban Development Wrong or Right? (presentation/slides)

This report on a big development project on the westside waterfront of Manhattan, which was stopped in 1985, showed very clearly that the era of inner city highways is definitely over and that monstrous projects, even if they are well prepared, can be blocked by the opposition because they are easy to attack. In the early seventies, the idea of the New York State Urban Development Corporation was to combine westside redevelopment with a replacement of the decaying West Side Highway in order to get subsidies from the Highway Trust Fund. Furthermore, the relocation of the West Side Highway in a tunnel under the derelict piers on the Hudson river would have allowed to reclaim new land for an extended housing and commercial development scheme and a park. The "West Siders Against Westway" and various environmental organizations were finally successful because politicians of other states did not want to spend federal money on a "housing project" of notoriously insolvent New York City and therefore voted against it in Congress. At the same time, the U.S. Appeal Court refused permission for the embankment of the Hudson river to preserve the spawning grounds of the striped bass.

Master's thesis (German) -> Ute Lehrer: Westway - No Way! Das Zusammenspiel zwischen Autobahn, Park und Stadtentwicklung in Manhattan seit Ende des 19. Jahrhunderts bis hin zum Projekt "Westway" von Venturi, Rauch & Scott Brown (1978 - 1985) (Lizentiatsarbeit, Universität Zürich 1989).

Article (German) -> Ute Lehrer: Westway - No Way! Über das Scheitern der Stadtentwicklung via Autobahnbau in New York City (8 pages, in: DISP No. 106/1991 published by ORL-Institut, ETH Zürich, 8093 Zürich, Switzerland). Obtainable from Ute Lehrer, Quellenstr. 49, CH-8005 Zürich, Switzerland.

Karl-Otto Richter:

GDR - Past and Present (statement)

Karl-Otto Richter outlined his view of the recent changes in the GDR, of the present situation and of the actual conditions for science and daily life in this region of Germany.

Marvi Maggio:

The Wilhelmina Gasthuis in Amsterdam: An Example of an Urban Redevelopment Responding to Social Needs

The aim of Marvi Maggio's research is to analyse and to compare the processes of decision-making in three cases of redevelopment of decayed areas in European cities: (1) the King's Cross railway land in London, (2) the no more used factory of Venchi Unica in Turin and (3) the Wilhelmina Gasthuis in Amsterdam. All of them are characterized by a joint venture of public and private bodies, a mixed use of land and a response to social needs such as housing and urban quality for people with low income. The study shows the importance of the presence of community and neighbourhood organizations to secure this response to social needs. In each of the three cases the study also looks for useful practices which could be extended to other contexts.

The analysis of plans and projects, publications and brochures produced by the involved public administrations, investors in real estate, developers, building contractors, land owners, and the affected neighbourhoods as well as interviews with decision-makers and other people makes it possible to understand the roles, aims and values of the different

actors. The example presented, the redevelopment of the Wilhelmina Gasthuis, a previous hospital in Amsterdam, shows a strong influence of the local inhabitants on the plan guaranteed by the planning practice and the laws.

Paper -> Marvi Maggio: Renewal Projects in the Urban Decayed Areas: Urban Transformation and Social Equity in the Public-Private Partnership (English, Turin 1991). Obtainable from Marvi Maggio, Via Crissolo 12, I-10138 Torino, Italy.

Isabelle Raeber:

10 Years of Housing Policy in Mexico: The FONHAPO Program (presentation)

Isabelle Raeber presented one of the housing programs of the Mexican government: the National Housing Fund Trust (FONHAPO), which was established in 1981 to subsidize the large-scale construction of working-class housing for families with low income. One of the first projects with the direct participation of a government agency was the FONHAPO-project "El Molino", located in Ixtapalapa, the fastest growing district of Mexico City. The Molino project was started by the grass-roots movement "Cananea" in 1983 and stands out for its democratic and self-managing structure and its comprehensiveness as it dealt not only with housing but also with shopping and health facilities. 1087 housing units on 22 hectares have been constructed in three stages until 1990. The presentation concluded with the remark that in spite of such efforts the housing crisis is far from being solved: 1.5 million dwellings are lacking in Mexico City.

Paper -> Beatriz Garcia Peralta/Isabelle Raeber: 10 Years of Housing Policy in Mexico: The FONHAPO Program (English, 17 pages, Mexico 1991). Obtainable from Isabelle Raeber, Amores 39/20, Col. del Valle, 03100 México D.F., México.
Music Cassette -> Music from the local band "Superbarrio". Contact: Isabelle Raeber, México.

Bob Colenutt:

Docklands (slides and comments)

Bob Colenutt showed slides of "Canary Wharf" and commented the newest developments in the docklands, London, from a critical point of view.

Documentation -> DCC: The Docklands Experiment - A critical review of eight years of the London Docklands Development Corporation (98 pages, London 1990). Obtainable from the Docklands Consultative Committee, Unit 4, Stratford Office Village, 4 Romford Road, London E15 4EA.

Fred Robinson:

The Great North (TV programme)

This critical TV programme on image building is a quasi co-production of the university of Durham and the local BBC. It contrasts the image building campaign "The Great North" intended to stimulate investors to create jobs in the north of England with the reality of this region: Compared with the high rates of unemployment newly created jobs are not only rare but also of bad quality. Self-employment, the way out of unemployment promoted by the Thatcher administration, is no alternative either. The "Great North" campaign is covering and hiding the deficits of this region, thus preventing a real

discussion and an effective tackling of the problems.

Copy of the TV programme -> The Great North (VHS, Newcastle). Contact: Fred Robinson, Department of Sociology, University of Durham, Durham DH1 3JT, GB.

Urban Regeneration and Community Involvement (Paper)

This paper throws a light on distributional questions of urban regeneration schemes. The realities of power stand in sharp contrast to the symbolic importance of community. The paper calls for the development of new and progressive urban policies for the post-Thatcher era.

Paper -> Fred Robinson/Keith Shaw: Urban Regeneration and Community Involvement (20 pages, Durham/Newcastle 1990). Obtainable from Fred Robinson.

Michael Edwards:

What Can We Learn from King's Cross? (presentation)

The story of the redevelopment of about 50 hectares just north of King's Cross and St Pancras stations in central London represents a microcosm of the physical and social development of London in the 1980s. Michael Edwards explained the roles of the different players in this monopoly game: investors in real estate, land owners, developers, local authorities, central government and popular movements. The main land owner at King's Cross, British Rail, is increasingly cut off from state funding and under increasingly strong imperatives to make profits from each and every one of its assets. Therefore, BR became hyperactive in the valorization of its central London stations and attached land. In 1987/88, the land owners' consortium, led by BR, organised a competition between two developers for the rights to the project. Each of the two then produced architectural proposals (which were displayed in public) and financial bids (which were not). This "auction" of the development rights was won by the London Regeneration Consortium (LRC), formed by Rosehaugh and Stanhope (developers) and the National Freight Consortium (land owner). The victorious "master plan" was designed by the architects of Foster Associates. They proposed a massive office centre with a park in the middle and a station on the international TGV network. There is strong local resistance to the LRC redevelopment and to the international station. Decisions on both are pending: by the planning authorities on the redevelopment and by the Parliament on the station. On the other side, London has a severe crisis in its highly volatile real estate markets. Therefore, it seems unlikely that much new speculative office production will happen in the next few years. This gives a break during which elements of a saner strategy are beginning to emerge.

Papers, articles, materials on King's Cross -> Contact: Michael Edwards, Bartlett School, UCL, 22 Gordon Street, London WC1H 0QB, GB.

Article (German) -> Senter for Applied Urbanism: 4 x HB-Südwest in Kings Cross, London (2 pages, in: Wochenzeitung Nr. 38/90, Zürich 1990). Obtainable from INURA Zurich.

INURA WORKING GROUPS

How to Start an INURA Working Group?

There are three possibilities of initializing a working group or a common project within our network:

- a) by an announcement in the Pin Board of the INURA Bulletin. The topic of the proposed project or working group should be briefly outlined. It should also be stated whether you are looking for people to join the working group/project or what kind of information you wish to obtain. Of course, a contact address should be given.
- b) by a presentation of a proposal at the annual INURA conference. For the organizing committee it would be helpful to be informed in advance in order to put the presentation on the agenda of the conference and to reserve enough time for the discussion of the proposal.
- c) by contacting other members of the network directly. Enclosed in this Bulletin, INURA members will receive an updated member list with addresses, telephone/fax numbers and a list of personal interests. This may help you to find people interested in joining a project or working group or who are likely to provide useful information.

Suggestion for a Common INURA Project

Until now, the actual activities of INURA are limited to the organization of the annual conference, the publishing of the Bulletin and to informal contacts and meetings. Without any doubt, the exchange and dissemination of information, ideas and experiences is important. It gives power and opens up new perspectives. But, at the same time, this kind of activities implies a restriction to an (academic) discourse, led mainly by scientists. There is an almost complete lack of "action" in the activities of INURA at present.

Basic idea

The basic idea is to organize a coordinated series of public events around a common theme in several cities. Some of the events will move from one city to the next, others will be specific to the site. Concepts, programmes, and individual events will be organized by INURA members in cooperation with local activists. Events could include:

- local conferences with participation of INURA members from other places
- public hearings
- city tours
- exhibitions
- performances of videos, films, slide shows
- happenings, parties, actions
- etc.

Possible themes

- a) The urban periphery
- b) Derelict land and redevelopment projects
- c) Housing and homelessness
- d) Migration, guest-workers and refugees
- e) Regionalism
- f) ...

Procedure

At the next INURA conference in Rostock, we would like to discuss the basic idea and, if well received, find an agreement on the theme. An INURA working group could then be established to proceed with the planning.

This group would be in charge of developing a common approach and working out a concept of realization. It would also collect information and suitable videos or films, engage in research (if necessary and/or possible) and exchange different experiences. The results of this work could be published in a reader or brochure, outlining the subject of the project and presenting the basic information about the various local situations. At the same time, it would be possible to produce an accompanying video or slide show. This would give an easily comprehensible and visual impression of the sites and the local problems. The video or slide show could serve as an introduction to particular public events. We should outline and organize all this together!

It would be the special duty of every single group joining the project to establish contacts and to look for local partners necessary for the organization of the public events. In most cases, it could be useful to form a local organizing committee involving local organizations and groups right from the beginning of the project. This would be a way of making sure that the project will reach local people instead of academics only.

One of the aims of this project is to achieve a combination of research and action. At the same time, this could be a pilot project for the future work of INURA.

Consider the above as preliminary thoughts. We hope they stimulate a debate and provoke criticism, new ideas and suggestions. Please address your answers and opinions to INURA Zurich. In any case we hope to have an inspiring discussion about this suggestion at the next INURA conference in Rostock.

Contact -> INURA Zurich, Nordstr. 151, CH-8037 Zurich, Switzerland.

PIN BOARD

Squatting, Urban Social Movements, Grassroots Mobilizations

I do research work at the Institute for Human Geography of the University of Amsterdam, on urban social movements. I am writing a PhD-thesis on urban social movements in Amsterdam since 1965.

In the short term, I look for information of any kind about squatting, right to housing, activities and organization of squatting movements, repression etc. (including references, contact with researchers working "on" urban social movements) in other European cities. In the long term, I am interested in comparative projects concerning grassroots mobilizations and movements of resistance to urban restructuring.

Virginie Mamadouh, Zeilstraat 33 / III, NL-1075 SB Amsterdam, Netherlands,
telephone: 31/20/679 72 18.

Anti-racism

Right now, I plan to write my master's thesis about community self-organization against racial violence, policing and institutionalized discrimination and I am very interested in a comparison between different approaches and experiences in London and Berlin. I am looking for contacts to people in London working on this issue. I would also be grateful for any type of information about useful publications, organizations, addresses etc. I have recently been to London and talked to people who are involved in various activities around the issue of racism and policing, especially in places like Newham, Tower Hamlets and Hackney. I already know the publications by the Institute of Race Relations and the bulletin *Statewatch*.

Britta Grell, Blücherstrasse 15, D-1000 Berlin 61, Germany.

Alternative Urban Designs, Condition of L.A. Working Class, "Evil, Dying Cities...?"

(1) Alternative Urban Designs for Southern California
In association with architect and critic Michael Sorkin I am engaged in three different design experiments (from the perspective of imaginary, but imaginable social movements):

(a) 1999 L.A. "Green City" Worlds Fair: We are preparing a proposal for an urban-environmental international exposition to be based on the transformation of the L.A. River corridor - now a concrete sewer - into a greenbelt matrix for a series of premonitory examples of ecologically sustainable, socially just city design.

(b) Urban Corridors - We are working with the Mayor's Office to study residential densification along rapid transit lines and arterial traffic corridors.

(c) We are studying alternative forms of affordable housing in-fill and community planning in the Spanish-speaking inner city (a city within a city of some two million people). Prerequisite to this process has been a comparative study of neighborhood form and vernacular architecture in Tijuana.

(2) Condition of L.A. Working Class

I am in the middle of thick research on L.A.'s old industrial heartland, a suburban belt composed of a dozen separately incorporated communities that runs along the L.A. River from near Downtown to the Harbor, a classic example of Fordist industrial suburbia. Now, in a strange dialectic of deindustrialization and reindustrialization, it has been reborn as the center of the "new peonage" - a minimum-wage sweatshop economy built upon the labor of Mexican immigrants. This research will be published in late 1992.

(3) "Evil, Dying Cities...?"

I am intending to write a book on the fate of the world's largest cities, their environmental sustainability, their burgeoning underclasses, their exploding urban forms, and so on. The case-study cities proposed are Moscow, Cairo, Calcutta, Tokyo, Sao Paulo, Mexico and New York.

I am eager to contact and share information with researchers in any of these three, broad areas. Please contact:

Mike Davis, Southern California Institute of Architecture,
1800 Berkeley Street, Santa Monica, CA 90404, USA, Telephone:
1/213/829 75 18 (p), 1/213/829 34 82 (w), Fax: 1/213/250 55 50.

Fordist and Postfordist Regulation in Switzerland

A group in Geneva called "Unité pour l'Etude de la Régulation" took the initiative for this project. With a paper titled "Régulation Fordiste et Post-Fordiste en Suisse depuis 1937 - Matériaux pour une Approche" (French, 62 pages, Geneva 1991), the Geneva group opened the discussion about the regulation theory and its application to the Swiss case. This theory has been developed by R. Boyer, M. Aglietta, A. Lipietz, B. Coriat, among others, in the mid-seventies. The people from Geneva are now looking for other people from all parts of Switzerland to join their research project, which aims at the theoretical refinement and the empirical verification of their hypotheses on the socio-economic development of Switzerland since 1937 and the Swiss peculiarities. As a first step they are preparing the publication of a reader with the title "La régulation de l'économie suisse de 1937 à 1990: fordisme ou corporatisme?"

For further information please contact:

Jean-Noël DU PASQUIER, 40, rue de Genève, CH-1225 Chêne-Bourg, Switzerland,
telephone: 41/22/48 27 22, fax: 41/22/48 54 81.

Daniel MARCO, Ecole d'Architecture, Université de Genève, 9, boulevard Helvétique,
CH-1205 Genève, Switzerland, telephone: 41/22/44 57 04 (p), 41/22/705 71 98 (w), fax:
41/22/735 99 88.

INURA CONFERENCE 1992 IN ROSTOCK:

CITIES IN TRANSFORMATION IN TRANSFORMING SOCIETIES

Date: May 25 - 30/31 1992 (with possibility of extension until May 31/June 1)

Place: The second INURA conference will be held in Prevow auf dem Darss, on the Baltic Sea, near Rostock, Germany.

Programme:

Sunday 24 and Monday 25 until 10.00 a.m.
Arrival in Hamburg

Monday 25, 10.00 a.m. to 18.00

Tour of Hamburg (city, harbour, environment)

Tour guides: Jürgen Ossenbrügge, Karlheinz Deventer, Mechthild Rössler, Jens Dangschat, Thomas Kleineidam.

Night in Hamburg

Tuesday 26

Journey to Rostock (arrival 11.00)

Tour of Rostock (city, harbour, environment)

Tour guides: Karl-Otto Richter, ...

Tuesday 26, Evening:

Journey to the place of conference

Prevow auf dem Darss (northeast of Rostock, on the Baltic Sea)

Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 or Saturday 30

INURA conference 1992

Saturday 30 or Sunday 31

Departure

(or sightseeing Baltic Sea coast and Isle of Rügen, with departure Sunday 31 or Monday June 1)

Please reserve these dates in your calendar!

A detailed conference programme with additional information and an inscription form will be published in INURA Bulletin 3, February 1992. Please send your suggestions for debates, workshops, etc. to INURA Rostock.

Inscription fee: approx. DM 150.-

Approximate costs: DM 50.- / day for board and lodging, to be specified in the next Bulletin.

The number of participants will be limited to a maximum of around 35.