

Category: Sustainability

Project: Publication: Designing Sustainable Cities. Manageable Approaches to Make Urban Spaces Better

What was the challenge?

In view of the fact that, by 2050, 70% of the world's population will live in cities, the subject of "sustainable urban design" is an important issue for UNESCO's Cities of Design.

For some years now, we at the Institute of Design and Communication of the FH JOANNEUM—University of Applied Sciences, in Graz have increasingly shifted our content-related orientation towards an understanding of Design as a means to improve, repair and save the world.

The goal was to find international experts, who are willing to share their up-to-date research results on social and urban design. The articles should be meant for the readers as inspiration and for imitation.

Furthermore, to find as sustainable solutions as possible for the book production itself.

What was the solution?

A book with international examples to show the potential of new designs. 7 current research contributions on socio design and urban planning describe and location-independent city projects that are recommended for stimulation and imitation.

Taking into account that urban design can make a significant contribution to positive changes in environmental and social matters, the book presents seven inspirational examples for copying; included are analyses and measures for the cities of Detroit, Graz, Istanbul, Mexico City, and Puebla, as well as non-location bound projects.

The authors investigate the efficiency of certificates, climate installations for urban spaces, and new ecological, architectural, and sociological concepts for mega-cities. A reader for stakeholders at the interface of social and urban design.

The book is produced in the only Austrian cradle to cradle certified printing house. This means that the books are free from harmful substances in paper, color and glue.

What was the effect?

Inspired readers all around the world and invitations for book presentations. One of the next events will be the book presentation at the Detroit Month of Design in September 2020.

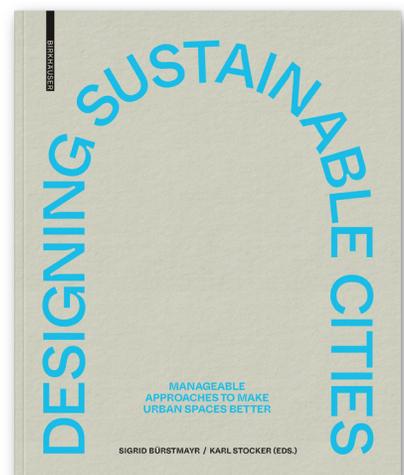
In addition, we are very happy that we could extend and strengthen our network of international designers who believe in the power of sustainable design.

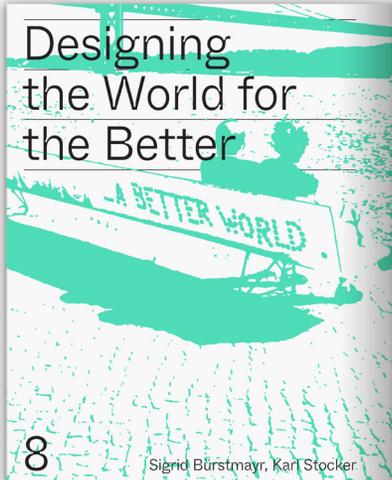
"Design for sustainability is no longer a future prospect; it is already under way in thousands of projects around the world. These transformative actions are changing design itself."

(Thackara, John 2013 "Foreword", in: Walker, Stuart / Giard, Jacques (ed.), The Handbook of Design for Sustainability. London, New Delhi, New York, Sidney: Bloomsbury)

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Sigrid Bürstmayr, Karl Stocker

INTRODUCTION

Let us begin with a personal approach. We are very different from each other.

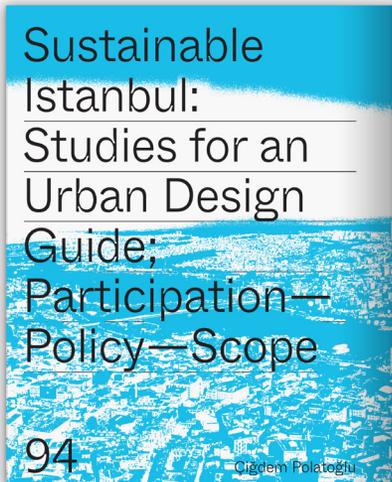
One contributor is Sigrid Bürstmayr who works and teaches at the FH JOANNEUM—University of Applied Sciences, in Graz. Her professional interests and skills include product management, exhibition design, sustainable design and design activism. She has presented the results of her research at several conferences and universities, including recently in Seoul, Montreal, Wuhan, Istanbul and Mexico City. She is a designer.

The other is Karl Stocker who was educated as a historian, but has for many years been the head of the Institute of Design & Communication at the FH JOANNEUM—University of Applied Sciences, in Graz. In 1989 he founded the exhibition agency BSA/STC, which has been led by him ever since. Stocker is the author and publisher of numerous publications, as well as the director of research and exhibition projects. He is not a designer.

As you can see, we are quite different: one is a woman, one is a man, one is younger, the other older, one comes from design, the other from humanities, one is a sustainable designer, one is a social designer, etc. So, what do we have in common? We both believe that design should be able to shape whole environments and processes, including ways of thinking and acting. Therefore, designers should try to change society and the world for the better, at least to some extent.

Designing the World for the Better, Sigrid Bürstmayr, Karl Stocker

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Çiğdem Polatoğlu

INTRODUCTION

Istanbul has been an example for many cities around the world for centuries. With its unique natural richness and as a bridge between two continents, Istanbul has a privileged position that is unique in the world. The city resides at the center of old world Asia, Africa and Europe. Istanbul also serves as a model for Turkish cities within our national borders and plays a pioneering role in innovative, contemporary and technological developments.

However, the city has suffered from urban deterioration during the development process due to improper planning decisions. In particular, it has been affected by intense internal migration and recent external migration. The basic need of the inhabitants is shelter. For this purpose, the city should offer its users high quality residences, in order for Istanbul to have a high quality of urban life, livable open public spaces with economic, social, environmental, individual and social health benefits will be required. However, these benefits will only be possible and meaningful with the participation of residents in the urban process.

With the vision of "Sustainable Istanbul", under the patronage of the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality (İMM), Department of Studies and Projects, and the Directorate of Urban Design, the "Istanbul Urban Design Guide" was prepared in order to evaluate the current situation, control the physical development of the city and improve and establish the future in a healthy way. This guide sets forth new planning and design principles for the city which emphasize access for everyone to the urban open spaces of Istanbul, sustainable transportation and energy conservation within the legal administrative structure for the next 20 years.

According to general estimates, seven out of ten people will live in cities by 2050 (UN-Habitat 2016). Although the rate of development may vary depending on changing realities, during this process, inadequate city policies create negative spatial distributions by affecting the structure of people and their actions and creating problems such as social segregation, collapsed areas and insufficient access to basic living spaces. Today, especially in large cities, it is necessary to manage the crowds and resources because of ever increasing population pressure and to provide equal opportunities for living space to everyone.

From the Istanbul, Participation in Urban Design, Studies for an Urban Design Guide, Istanbul

Sustainable Istanbul: Studies for an Urban Design Guide, Participation—Policy—Scope Çiğdem Polatoğlu

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