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The entrepreneurial city

The entrepreneurial city in contemporary Europe is experiencing a shift from welfare state to more locally orientated governance. This governance encourages self-initiative and local growth, particularly within the field of architecture. What are the consequences of this current shift, or in other words, what are the spatial manifestations of more entrepreneurial governance¹?

In the same line of thought, that “the malleable city”, the notion of entrepreneurial governance, and by extension entrepreneurial urbanism, seems to embrace a new reality in which users, residents and clients become collaborators with the designer. The role of the designer in this new relationship is to develop new ideas about: vacant property, process driven urban design, investment standstills, social contradictions, petrified organisations and environmental demands²; all with a strong focus on coalitions and partnerships, on urban strategies and unsolicited proposals³. How do these changes shape our cities from the scale of the street to the scale of the region, as well as everything in between? What is really meant by “performative” and “adaptive” urbanism- terms often associated with the entrepreneurial city? And how could the European competition help to clarify, as well as give depth, body and illustration to, those container notions? What are the spatial consequences of such an urban model, not only in term of buildings’ environment, but also in terms of infrastructure and public spaces?

The entrepreneurial city could provide a solution to the economical crisis that architecture and urbanism is facing in many European countries- tackling the subject with a constructive vision, rather than the common starting point of self-pity. It provides an opportunity to invite economic experts to the discipline, to work with architects in another form of collaboration.

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¹Harvey, D, From Managerialism to Entrepreneurialism: The Transformation in Urban Governance in Late Capitalism, 1989

² Klooster van het , I, Reactivate!, Valiz, Amsterdam 2013

³ Beekmans, j, Volume, Rotterdam 2013