

**E13 TH**

**Kaye Geipel**, architect and critic of architecture (Bauwelt) Berlin DE

## **Adaptability 2: The active project and the stimulation of the large neighbourhood**

The real challenge for European 13 is the question how to engage the competition in a closer understanding of the spatial and social borders of the project. Could it be possible to stimulate – within the capacities of the European-project – parts of a whole neighbourhood? The theme of adaptability asks for a renewed understanding of the context, exceeding the usual borders and limitations of the project in urban space, economic means and time.

The core of this debate is the relation between the strategic site and the project site. Very often it's no more a spatial structure (the parcel grid, eaves height or construction volume) which pre-defines the basic parameters of the project but a less tangible field of private and public interests. Important for the design of the adaptable project is therefore the very early inclusion of these other, more invisible factors of the site (interests of inhabitants, large and small investors, social groups).

The great advantage of the European project lies in the fact that the competition legitimates a basic view on the conventional design strategies. In European 10 and 11 interesting projects included new forms of diagrams regarding urban activities – trying to instigate operative transgressions between private and public interests.

The most interesting projects developed courageous propositions in this direction, they stimulated a public debate which then contributed to the form of the project itself. I think it would be very helpful to discuss in detail the further development of European-11-winning projects, for example in Guimarães, Skin-Porsgruen, Eindhoven, Péc. Even if these projects might not have been completely successful, it is important to discuss them and develop their stance and their experiences further in European 13. There are other examples from previous competitions: the just realized project of Oase 22 in Vienna (European 9) with its outstanding ambition to construct not only a large new housing island in the dispersed periphery of the 22nd district, but trying to activate the outside of the new island with a special strategy of social activators and economic incentives.

My proposition is to center the theme of European 13 on the social, economic and political implication of public spaces and social networks of the adaptable project and to look at their interaction with new architectural and urban forms

The theme of the next European could therefore be:

„Adaptability 2. The active project and the stimulation of the large neighbourhood“

Kaye Geipel, september 2013