

PROF. FLORIAN URBAN

Head of Architectural History and Urban Studies
Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow School of Art
167 Renfrew Street
Glasgow G3 6RQ
United Kingdom

■ Education

- 2005/2006 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA**
Ph.D. in History and Theory of Architecture
Doctoral Thesis: "The Invention of the Historic City - Building the Past in East Berlin 1970-1990"
Thesis Committee: Prof. Mark Jarzombek (MIT, Architectural History), chair;
Prof. Lawrence Vale (MIT, Urban Studies and Planning); Prof. Harald Bodenschatz (TU Berlin, Architectural Sociology)
- 2001-2005 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA**
Doctoral studies in History, Theory, and Criticism of Architecture
- 1999-2001 **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)**
Master of Arts in Urban Planning (June 2001)
Master's thesis: "World Cities Online – City Representation on the Internet"
Thesis committee: Prof. Edward Soja, Prof. Michael Storper, Prof. Anastasia Loukaitou-Sideris
- 1989-1996 **University of the Arts, Berlin**
Undergraduate and graduate studies in Fine Arts (six year program in sculpture and media arts), four semesters at the Facultad de Bellas Artes (School of Fine Arts) at the Universidad Complutense in Madrid/Spain.
Degree: Meisterschüler (Master of Fine Arts, February 1996)

■ Languages

German (mother tongue), Spanish (C2), Polish (C1), French (C1), Scottish Gaelic (B1)

■ Employment

- since 2010 **Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow School of Art**
Head of Architectural History and Urban Studies
- 2009-2010 **Federal Institute for Research on Building, Urban Affairs and Spatial Development, Bonn/ Berlin** (Bundesinstitut für Bau-, Stadt- und Raumforschung, BBSR)
Project manager, tasks include the management of the federal support program for the UNESCO world heritage sites in Germany and of the German contribution for the 8th Biennial of Architecture in São Paulo
- 2006-2008 **Center for Metropolitan Studies, Technische Universität Berlin**
Guest professor of architectural and urban history

- 2004 **Mitsui Real Estate Group, Tokyo**
Urban design Proposal for the Nihonbashi neighborhood, Tokyo
- 2000 **Dunbar Economic Development Corporation**
(community oriented non-profit-organization in South Central Los Angeles)
(6 months) Project manager for art projects, research on the history of the
black residents of the neighborhood
- 1996-1999 **Free Lance Project Manager**
Concept, fundraising and organization of several interdisciplinary art projects
in public space such as "Stadtwald - Location Factor" in cooperation with the
Volksbühne theatre in Berlin/Germany
- 1995-1999 **Goethe Institute Berlin**
Teacher for German as a Second Language, organization of seminars on
Berlin culture for international students
- 1991-1999 **Artist**
Exhibits in galleries and in public space in Berlin, Munich, Madrid, Tokyo, and
Athens

■ Awards and Fellowships

- 2018/19 **German Historical Institute Warsaw (D/PL)**
Six-month grant as a visiting scholar to research "Postmodern Architecture in
Poland"
- 2014-16 **Leverhulme Trust (UK)**
Two-year research grant for "The New Tenement"
- 2013-14 **University of Puerto Rico/ National Endowment for the Humanities (USA)**
Six-months invitation as a visiting professor and researcher, financed by the
National Endowment of the Humanities, teaching (in Spanish) and research
- 2013 **Royal Society of Edinburgh (UK)**
Research grant to study "Balmoral Castle in a European Context"
- 2012 **Book Prize of the International Planning History Society (IPHS) for Tower
and Slab** („best book on planning history written in English and based on
original research")
- 2007 **Geschwister-Böhringer-Ingelheim Foundation (Germany)**
Grant to publish my book „Berlin, DDR-Neo-historisch" in German
- 2007 **Fritz-Thyssen Foundation (D)**
one-year research grant for the research of tower block developments in
Europe, America, and Asia
- 2005 **Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Council, D)**
Summer Fellowship to complete my doctoral dissertation, research at the
Center for Metropolitan Studies Berlin
- 2005 **Center for European Studies, Harvard University (USA)**
research grant for doctoral research in East Germany
- 2004 **Society of Architectural Historians (USA)**
Opler Award for academic publication of young researcher
- 2003-2004 **Studienstiftung des Berliner Abgeordnetenhauses (Foundation of the
Berlin Parliament, Germany, D)**
one-year grant to conduct research in East Berlin
- 2001-2005 **MIT Department of Architecture (USA)**
five-year grant to complete doctoral studies in History, Theory, and Criticism of
Architecture (full tuition fees plus salary as a teaching assistant)
- 2000-2001 **University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Urban Planning
(USA)**
one-year tuition grant for academic merits

■ Conferences (main organizer, including fundraising)

- 2019 “Postmodern Architecture and Political Change – Poland and Beyond” (German Historical Institute, Warsaw)
- 2016 „Back to the City – Urbanism, Density, Housing 1976-2016“ (Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow)
- 2013 „The New Tenement – Tradition and Modernity“ (Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow)
- 2010 „The Heritage of Mass Housing in Europe“ (Mackintosh School of Architecture, Glasgow)
- 2007 „Concealing the Designer – the Illusion of the Natural City in the 20th Century“, (Technische Universität Berlin)

■ Academic/ Professional

Since 2009 Book Review Editor-in-Chief for *Planning Perspectives* (Taylor&Francis)

Regular peer reviewer for the *Journal of Architecture*, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, *Planning Perspectives*, *Footprint*, *Journal of Urban History* as well as for Routledge Book proposals.

Member of International Planning History Society, Society of Architectural Historians, European Architectural History Network, Docomomo Scotland

■ Academic Publications (selection)

Books

Postmodern Architecture in Socialist Poland - Transformation, Symbolic Form and National Identity (Abingdon: Routledge, 2021)

The New Tenement – Residences in the Inner City since 1970 (Abingdon, Routledge, 2018)

Tower and Slab – a Global History of Mass Housing (Abingdon: Routledge, 2012) – awarded the annual prize for the “best book on planning history written in English and based on original research” by the International Planning History Society (IPHS), Russian translation *Vashnya i korobka: kratkaya istoriya massovogo zhilya* (Moscow: Strelka Press, 2019)

Neo-historical East Berlin – Architecture and Urban Design in the German Democratic Republic 1970-1990 (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009)

Berlin/DDR, neo-historisch – Geschichte aus Fertigteilen [Neo-historical East Berlin – History from Prefabricated Parts] (Berlin: Gebrüder Mann Verlag, 2007)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

„Bottom-Up Postmodernism – Unauthorised Church Architecture in Socialist Poland” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 97 n. 4 (December 2020), 459-77, <https://doi.org/10.1525/jsah.2020.79.4.459>

„Postmodern Reconciliation – Reinventing the Old Town of Elbląg” *Architectural Histories*, October 2020, <https://journal.eahn.org/article/10.5334/ah.405/>

„Postmodernism and Socialist Mass Housing in Poland” *Planning Perspectives* 35 n. 1 (February 2020), 27-60 <https://doi.org/10.1080/02665433.2019.1672208>

„Postmodern Architecture Under Socialism – The Ascension Church in Warsaw-Ursynów” *Journal of Architecture* 25 n. 3 (2020), 317-346, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13602365.2020.1758747>

„Copenhagen’s Return to the Inner City 1990-2010” *Journal of Urban History* 45 n. 3 (2019), 1-23, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0096144218824303>

„Vienna’s Resistance to the Neoliberal Turn - Social Policy through Residential Architecture from 1970 to the Present” *Footprint* 24 n. 1 (spring 2019), 83-104
<https://doi.org/10.7480/footprint.13.1.2011>

„Modernising Glasgow—tower blocks, motorways and new towns 1940-2010” *Journal of Architecture* 23 n. 2 (2018), 265-309 <https://doi.org/10.1080/13602365.2018.1446182>

„Berlin’s Construction Groups and the Politics of Bottom-Up Architecture” *Urban History* 45 n. 2 (2018), 1-32 <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0963926817000694>

„Balmoral Castle – European Romanticism and Nation Building in the Scottish Highlands” [co-authored with Aonghus MacKechnie], *Architectural History* September 2015
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0066622X00002628>

„La Perla – 100 years of Informal Architecture in San Juan, Puerto Rico” *Planning Perspectives* 30 n. 4 (April 2015), 495-536, <https://doi.org/10.1080/02665433.2014.1003247>

„The Hut on the Garden Plot – Informal Architecture in twentieth-century Berlin”, *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 72 n. 2 (June 2013), 221-249
<https://doi.org/10.1525/jsah.2013.72.2.221>

„Glasgow’s Royal Concert Hall and the Invention of the Post-modern City,” *Journal of Architecture* 18 n. 2 (2013), 829-871, <https://doi.org/10.1080/13602365.2018.1495911>

„New Tenements and the Image of the Past – the Crown Street Development in Glasgow’s New Gorbals” *Architectural Research Quarterly* 17 n. 2 (June 2013), 37-48,
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1359135513000341>

„Japanese Occidentalism and the Emergence of Postmodern Architecture,” *Journal of Architectural Education* 65 (March 2012), 89-102. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1531-314X.2011.01195.x>

„Mumbai’s Suburban Mass Housing,” *Urban History* 39 n. 1 (February 2012), 128-148
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S0963926811000812>

„Built Historiography in Glasgow’s New Gorbals”, *Journal of Art Historiography* 5 (December 2011), <https://doaj.org/article/d6135703e24f485d929bee2171d17631>

„Friedrichstraße, 1987: Neo-Historical Urban Design in the German Democratic Republic”, *Planning Perspectives* 23 n. 1 (2008): 1-28. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02665430701737950>

„Prefab Russia,” *Docomomo Journal* 39 (September 2008), 18-22.

„Designing the Past in East Berlin Before and After the German Reunification”, *Progress in Planning* 68 n. 1 (January 2008), 1-55, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.progress.2007.07.001>

„From Obsolescence to Eternal Preservation”, *Future Anterior* 3 n. 1 (Mai 2006): 24-35. [herausgegeben vom Fachbereich Architecture, Planning and Preservation der Columbia University, New York]

„Rudolf Schwarz and the Speech of the Land – Grammar as a Political Device in Postwar Germany” *Journal of Architecture* 9 n. 3 (Fall 2004): 251-266
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13602360412331296080>

„Recovering Essence through Demolition – ‘Organic’ Urban Design in Postwar West Berlin” *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 63 n. 2 (2004): 354-369
<https://doi.org/10.2307/4127975>

„Picture Postcards of Urbanity – Reflections on Berlin’s Inner City and the 1999 Master Plan” *Journal of Architectural Education* 57 n. 1 (2003): 68-73
<https://doi.org/10.1162/104648803322336601>

„The Spirit of the City – Transcendence and Urban Design in Postwar Berlin”, *Thresholds* 25 (Fall 2002): 84-89 https://www.mitpressjournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1162/thld_a_00383

„Image – ein gestalterisches Element der Stadtentwicklung“ *Archiv für Kommunalwissenschaften* 38 n. 1 (Februar 1999): 109-118 [herausgegeben vom Deutschen Institut für Urbanistik (DIFU)] <https://repository.difu.de/jspui/handle/difu/58803>

Other scholarly publications (Selection)

“The End of the Planned City? 1989 as a Turning Point in European Planning” in Max Welch Guerra et al., *Contributions to a Pan-European History of Urban Planning in the Twentieth Century* (forthcoming)

„Ein sozialistischer Konsumtempel – die „Passagen Friedrichstadt“ und die nicht realisierten Pläne für die Friedrichstraße“ article in the catalogue for the exhibit Anything goes? Berliner Architektur der 1980er Jahre (29 Oktober 2020 at Berlinische Galerie, Berlin)

“The Oude Westen, a Model for Europe” – Article for an exhibition catalogue “Het Oude Westen” at Het Nieuwe Instituut Rotterdam, October 2019

“Beyond Formal and Informal - the Century-old 'Slum' La Perla in Puerto Rico” in Alan Mayne, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Modern History of Slums* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018)

“Large Housing Estates of Berlin, Germany” in Daniel Baldwin Hess, Tiit Tammaru, Maarten Van Ham, eds., *Housing Estates in Europe: Poverty, Ethnic Segregation and Policy Challenges* (Berlin: Springer, 2018), 99-120.

“Improvisation: Allotment Sheds (Berlin)” in Marcel Vellinga, ed., *Encyclopedia of Vernacular Architecture* (London: Bloomsbury, 2018)

“Germany, Country of Tenants” *Built Environment* 41 n. 2 (2015), 183-195.

“The Märkisches Viertel in West Berlin” in Mark Swenarton, Tom Avermaete, and Dirk van den Heuvel, eds., *Architecture and the Welfare State* (Abingdon: Taylor and Francis, 2015)

„The Friedrichstadt Palace in East Berlin“ in Alistair Fair, ed., *Setting the Scene: Perspectives on Twentieth-Century Theatre Architecture* (Farnham: Ashgate, 2015), 219-36

“Public Housing in Europe” in Nicholas Bloom, Fritz Umbach, Lawrence Vale, eds., *Public Housing Myths: Perception, Reality, and Social Policy* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2015), 154-174.

“East Berlin” in Emily Makas, ed., *Capital Cities in the Shadow of the Cold War* (New York: Alexandrine Press, 2013)

“Postmoderne als Konsens: Neo-historischer Wiederaufbau im Ost-Berliner Nikolaiviertel 1977 – 1989” in Georg Wagner-Kyora, ed., *Wiederaufbau europäischer Städte. Rekonstruktionen, die Moderne und die lokale Identitätspolitik seit 1945/ Rebuilding European Cities. Reconstructions, Modernity and the Local Politics of Identity Construction since 1945* (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner, 2013)

“Mass Housing in Germany – Controversial Success and Ambivalent Heritage” in Jorge Lizardi and Martin Schwegmann, eds., *Espacios Ambivalentes: historias y olvidos en la arquitectura social moderna* (San Juan, Puerto Rico: Ediciones Callejón, 2012), 52-75.

“Erker im Plattenbau – Die DDR entdeckt die historische Stadt” in Frank Betker, Carsten Benke, Christoph Bernhardt, eds., *Paradigmenwechsel und Kontinuitätslinien im DDR-Städtebau* (Erkner/Berlin: IRS, 2010)

“Talking Japan,” in Peter Herrle and Erik Wegerhoff, ed., *Architecture and Identity* (Münster: LIT Verlag, 2008), 91-102

Other publications (selection)

„Ein sozialistischer Konsumtempel – die Passagen Friedrichstadt und die nicht realisierten Pläne für die Friedrichstraße“ / A Socialist Temple to Consumerism The Passagen Friedrichstadt and the Unrealized Plans for Friedrichstraße [in English and German] in Ursula Müller, ed.,

Anything goes? Berliner Architektur der 1980er Jahre (Berlin: Berlinische Galerie, 2020) [exhibition catalogue]

“The Oude Westen, a model for Europe/ Het Oude Westen, een model voor Europa” [in English and Dutch], in Pieter Kuster and Emine Yilmazgil, eds., *West Side Stories – Ruimte voor de stadsvernieuwing* (Rotterdam: Office for Metropolitan Information, 2019) [exhibition catalogue]

“The end of the suburban dream” *Building Design* 26 January 2018

“Die neue historische Stadt” – Online dossier Stadt und Gesellschaft, published by the German Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (Federal Agency for Civic Education), 2017.

“La ville divisée 1945-1989” in David Sanson, ed., *Berlin – Histoire, Promenades, Anthologie et Dictionnaire* (Paris: Editions Robert Laffont, 2013)

“Mega-Tokyo,” in *Megastructure Reloaded*, ed. Markus Richter and Sabrina van der Ley (Stuttgart: Hatje-Crantz, 2008) [exhibition catalog], 87-96.

“Der Slum als Standortvorteil: Wohnsilos gegen Wellblechhütten – wie man in Mumbai versucht, die Wohnungsmisere zu bekämpfen,” *Süddeutsche Zeitung* 16 November 2008

“Sehnsucht nach der Platte – in der 16-Millionen-Metropole Shanghai erprobt man neue Konzepte für den Stadtumbau”, *Süddeutsche Zeitung* 16 December 2007

“Das Recht auf vier Wände – Peter Marcuse über die Zukunft des städtischen Wohnens,” *Süddeutsche Zeitung* 11 July 2006

“Stadt in den Köpfen – Metropole und Megacity, die Konferenz Urban Age in Berlin,” *Süddeutsche Zeitung* 14 November 2006

“Die globale europäische Stadt“ [German, English, Spanish, Italian, June 2008], Goethe-Institute Online <http://www.goethe.de/kue/arc/dos/dos/sls/de3481742.htm>