



**COMMON  
>>RECONSTRUCTING**

**- Networks, Neighbours, Negotiations**

**>> Symposium**

**Documentation of the Symposium  
Gleishalle Oberhafen, Hamburg  
23. Juni 2023**



**Symposium I Hamburger Architektursommer**

**COMMON  
>>RECONSTRUCTING**

**Networks, Neighbours, Negotiations**

**>> Documentation**

June, 23rd 2023

Gleishalle Oberhafen  
Stockmeyerstraße 43, 20457 Hamburg



# Inhalt<<

<b>About the Seminar</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Programme</b>	<b>9</b>
Admission and Lunch	11
Welcome	12
<b>Key Lectures</b>	<b>14</b>
Prof. Dr. Olena Oliynyk - Rebuilding Ukraine	14
Dr. Nataliia Mysak, Prof. Dr. Philipp Meuser - Housing Urgency in Ukraine	16
Open Discussion	18
<b>Rountable Session</b>	<b>20</b>
Roundtable A >> Reconstruction: Materials, Circulation, Re-Use	21
Roundtable B >> Hands On: Selfmade Re-Construction, Fab Labs, and more ...	22
Roundtable C >> Modular Construction in Crisis Regions	23
Roundtable D >> Commoning & Co-Design: Public Participation and Urban Recovery	24
Roundtable E >> Resilient Public Space: Designing Common Spaces with Refugees	25
Roundtable F >> Digital Tools in Post-War Regions	26
<b>Common Roundtable Panel</b>	<b>28</b>
Preview and Visiting Walk Pavilion-Construction	29
Talks and Drinks	30



# The Symposium

# About the Symposium

The symposium „CommonReConstructing – Networks, Neighbours, Negotiations” provided an occasion as well as a platform for people, initiatives, organisations, and institutions committed to Ukraine’s reconstruction to network and discuss their pressing issues. Many individuals, NGOs, and grassroots initiatives had already been supporting the people of Ukraine and, by doing so, had been actively involved in “ReConstructing” on a daily basis. The event highlighted these actors of a collaborative reconstructive practice and facilitated discussions with them on the framework and conditions of their work. Questions such as how participation and cooperation, together with sustainable construction, could create synergies for reconstructing Ukraine’s built environment were central to the discussions.

The primary goal of the conference was to provide a framework for civic actors to exchange and network by sharing their experiences concerning the topic with an expert audience and universities. During the event, key lectures and workshops were hosted collaboratively by Ukrainian and German architects and urban planners.



# Organisation

The venue was used for a joint program by BDA Hamburg, Wismar University of Applied Sciences (WUAS), and the Urban Design Unit at Technical University Dortmund (SBP) within the framework of Hamburger Architektursommer. BDA Hamburg prepared an exhibition on transforming the current building stock. Our cooperation partner WUAS hosted a summer school on exemplary methods for collective and circular construction. Both events resulted in an exhibition at Gleishalle Oberhafen during the Hamburger Architektursommer in June 2023.

## >> TU Dortmund University Faculty of Spatial Planning

Department: Urban Design Unit (SBP)

Pof. in Dr. Renée Tribble  
Susanne Priebes, M.A.  
M. Sc. Arne Markuske  
Max Graf  
Marlin Laubner  
Nora Burlon

August-Schmidt-Str. 10  
44227 Dortmund

Students:

Lea in der Beck  
Lukas Denk  
Henriette Frye  
John Lee Hartmann  
Maximilian Mühlenbrock  
Paulina Riemann  
Annika Schäfer  
Greta Wiene

## >> HS Wismar University of Applied Sciences

Departments: Structural Design, Constructing and Design and Interior Design

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Asko Fromm  
Prof. i.V. Daniel Hülseweg  
Prof. Achim Hack  
  
Philipp-Müller-Straße 14  
23966 Wismar

Students:

Kata Bartal	Shari-Maria Hoppe
Emilia Basse	Mandy Kaden
Frederieke Becker	Johannes Kirschall
Levke Born	Paula Körner
Maria Joy Burmeister	Laura Kreis
Bente Carstensen	Thu Huong Nguyen
Anna-Lena Hänel	Oleksandr Nikitenko
Tim Hasler	Antonia Rooks
Kim Henschel	Juliette Merije Saliovski
Tom Herrmann	Aljoscha Schmidt
Emma Magdalena Hille	Isabell Sehorsch
Lena Sophie Hoeft	Anna Sommerfeld



# Programme

June 23rd 2023  
Gleishalle Oberhafen, Hamburg

**12 p.m. Admission and Lunch**

**1 p.m. Welcome**

**1:15 p.m. Key Lectures**

**Prof. Dr. Olena Oliynyk**

vice president, National Union of Architects of Ukraine

**Prof. Dr. Philipp Meuser**

architect, publisher, university professor and

**Dr. Nataliia Mysak**

researcher ETH Zürich

**2:15 - 2:45 p.m. Open Discussion**

**3 - 4:30 p.m. Roundtable Sessions**

**>> five parallel Workshops**

**5 p.m. Common Roundtable Panel**

**6 p.m. Preview and Visiting Walk Pavilion-Constructions**

**7 p.m. Talks and Drinks**

**Roundtable Sessions**

**A >> Reconstruction: Materials, Circulation, Re-Use**

Vedrana Žalac, denkstatt sàrl

Vitalii Kryzhanovskyi, TU Dortmund

**B >> Hands On: Selfmade Re-Construction, Fab Labs, and more ...**

Dr. Nataliia Mysak, ETH Zürich

Toolokar (tbc)

**C >> Modular Construction in Crisis Regions**

Prof. Dr. Philipp Meuser, architect, publisher, university professor

Prof. Dr. Olena Oliynyk, National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture, Kyiv

**D >> Commoning & Co-Design: Public Participation and Urban Recovery**

Maria Gryshchenko, researcher and guest lecturer, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv

Hendrik Weiner, BTU Cottbus

**E >> Resilient Public Space: Designing Common Spaces with Refugees**

Prof. Dr. Detlef Kurth, RPTU Kaiserslautern

Anna Kuzyshyn, RPTU Kaiserslautern

**F >> Digital Tools in Post-War Regions**

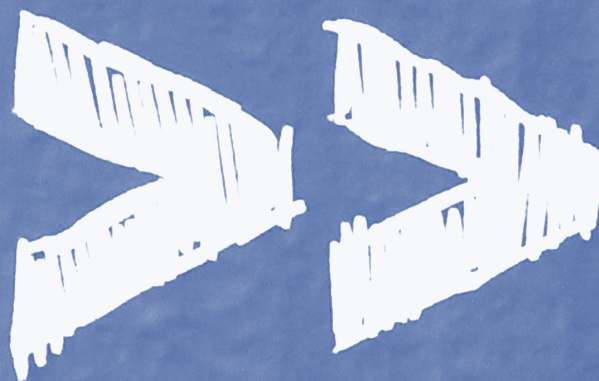
Prof. Ali Mamedov, dean, Urban & Spatial

Planning Faculty, Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture

The event, excluding the Roundtable Sessions, is available for viewing on YouTube. You can watch the recordings at the following link: [\[Insert Link\]](#). This provides an opportunity to revisit the key discussions, presentations, and insights shared during the symposium.

# COMMON >>RECONSTRUCTING

Networks, Neighbours, Negotiations



ENTRANCE  
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BDA Hamburg



## 12 p.m. Admission and Lunch

Visitors of the symposium had the opportunity to enjoy lunch after registration while exploring the pavilions displayed by the students from Wismar University of Applied Sciences. These pavilions showcased exemplary constructions for collective and circular building, developed and tested during a one-week summer school. Additionally, the content from the BDA Hamburg's contribution to the Hamburger Architektursommer was on display. Under the theme „Past Forward,“ the BDA Hamburg presented events and an exhibition focusing on building with existing structures. The exhibition highlighted successful examples of a thriving renovation culture and offered inspiring statements encouraging a fresh perspective on the old.



## 1 p.m. Welcome

The guests were also warmly welcomed by Moritz Schneider from the BDA Hamburg (Association of German Architects), Prof. Dr. Olena Oliynyk from the Ukrainian Chamber of Architects, and the moderator, Prof. Dr. Renée Tribble, from TU Dortmund.



### >> Prof. Dr. Renée Tribble

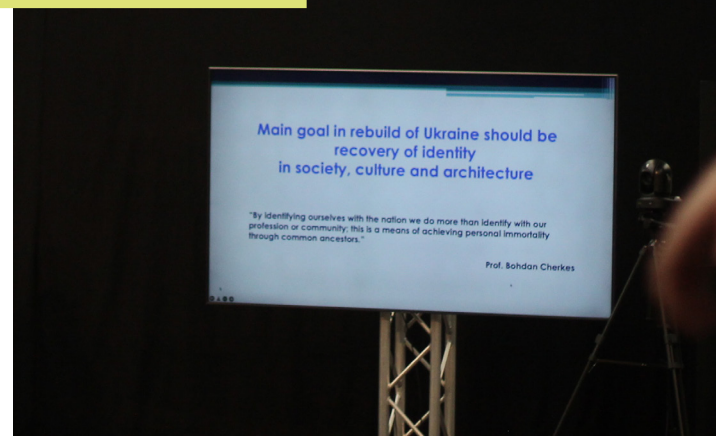
is head of the department of urban planning, urban land use planning and urban design processes at the Faculty of Spatial Planning at TU Dortmund University. She is an independent planner, founding member and shareholder of PlanBude Hamburg and Projektbüro Hamburg. Her focus is on participatory urban development and process design as well as cooperative planning processes and urban practice. She studied architecture at the Bauhaus University Weimar and received her PhD in 2021 from the HafenCity University Hamburg on art and urban planning.



# Key Lectures

## >> Prof. Dr. Olena Oliynyk

is an architect and urbanist, Doctor of Architecture and Professor at the Architectural Department at The National Academy of Fine Arts and Architecture in Kyiv, Ukraine. She is also the Vice-President of National Union of Architects of Ukraine; corresponding member of Ukrainian Academy of architecture; member of ICOMOS (UNESCO); member of UNESCO-UIA Architectural Education Commission & UNESCO-UIA Validation Council., UIA Working Group Heritage and Cultural Identity Member, regional coordinator of the EU granted Projects "Regional Cooperation for the Cultural Heritage Development" (2012-2014) and "Architects for Heritage in Ukraine: Recreating Identity and Memory" (2023-2026).



## >> Rebuilding Ukraine Summary

Prof. Dr. Elena Oliynyk's lecture explored the urgent and complex task of rebuilding Ukraine in the wake of the Russian invasion on February 24. This war, described as brutal and unexpected, has displaced over 15 million Ukrainians, with more than 8 million refugees recorded across Europe by early 2023. Beyond the immediate humanitarian crisis, the reconstruction of Ukraine represents a pivotal moment to reimagine its urban and cultural landscape, ensuring a sustainable and identity-driven recovery.

Central to her vision is the „**Build Back Better**“ approach, which views reconstruction as an opportunity for Ukraine to leap forward technologically and implement modern urban planning practices. Entire cities such as Kharkiv, Mariupol, and Chernihiv need to be rebuilt, but Prof. Oliynyk cautioned against replicating outdated Soviet-era housing models. Instead, the reconstruction process must integrate advanced technologies while preserving Ukrainian identity across all levels of society, culture, and architecture.

Drawing on the **Prague Charter's Principles of Reconstruction**, Prof. Oliynyk emphasized that Ukrainian architects should take the lead in the rebuilding efforts. Coordination, both within Ukraine and with international partners, will be essential. The reconstruction should prioritize community-centered urban planning, sustainable economic and social development, and the creation of opportunities in employment, education, and communal services. Furthermore, preserving Ukraine's natural landscapes and cultural heritage must

be central to the effort, alongside ensuring the long-term availability of affordable housing.

Prof. Oliynyk also stressed the importance of institutionalizing architectural competitions, focusing on quality over cost in the selection of designers and fostering public-private partnerships to drive innovation. Professional development and knowledge-sharing for civil servants will play a crucial role in shaping a forward-thinking reconstruction framework.

At the heart of her message was the idea that the primary goal of rebuilding Ukraine should be **the recovery of identity**—a process that reaffirms societal, cultural, and architectural heritage. As Prof. Bohdan Cherkes aptly stated, this is more than a professional effort; it is a collective means of achieving a shared legacy that connects individuals to their nation and ancestors.

In conclusion, Prof. Oliynyk underscored that the reconstruction of Ukraine is not only about rebuilding cities but also about making Europe safer, more sustainable, and more livable. She called for global solidarity, emphasizing that supporting Ukraine through aid, sanctions, and reconstruction efforts is a stand for democracy and humanism. Ukrainian architects are ready to contribute bold and innovative ideas but need international support and effective management to bring them to fruition. This collaborative effort, she concluded, is essential to creating a future that honors Ukraine's past while advancing its potential.



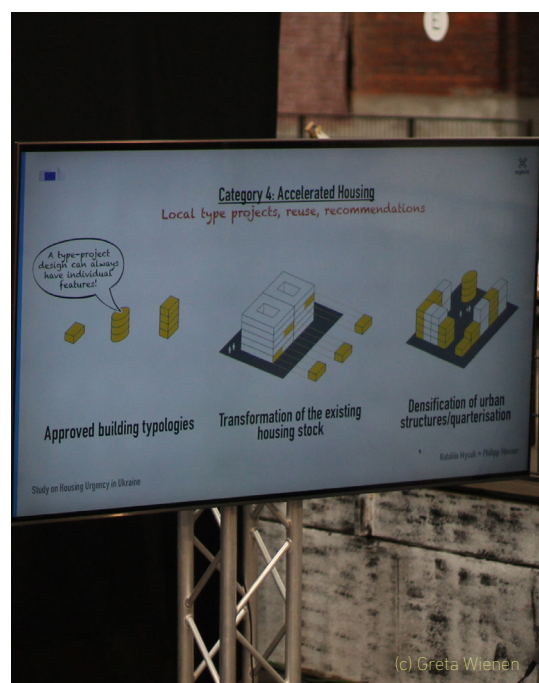
(c) Greta Wienen

## >> Dr. Nataliia Mysak

is an architect and researcher, PhD in Architecture, currently focuses on alternative approaches to architectural production that could foster emerging new urban commons in the context of crisis. At present she is a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies of Architecture, ETH Zürich and develops The Spatial Practices Lab, Lviv.

## >> Prof. Dr. Philipp Meuser

is an architect, publisher, university professor, born in Hilden in 1969. He studied architecture in Berlin and Zurich with a focus on history and theory. Doctorate at the TU Berlin on the typology of Soviet mass housing. 2017 Federal Cross of Merit for the building cultural exchange with Eastern Europe. Since 2018 honorary professorship at the O.M. Beketov University in Kharkiv/ Ukraine. 2022 Visiting Professor for Public Humanities and Cultural Heritage at Brown University in Providence/ Rhode Island.



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## >> Housing Urgency in Ukraine

### Summary

Dr. Nataliia Mysak and Prof. Dr. Philipp Meuser presented their study on the housing urgency in Ukraine, addressing the critical challenges caused by the displacement of millions following the Russian invasion in February 2022. Conducted between August and October 2022, the study focused on housing solutions developed during the first eight months of the war, aiming to systematize knowledge and support sustainable decisions at the local level.

#### Key Findings

The study emphasized the need for most territorial communities (hromadas) to develop new housing or improve existing stock for local residents and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Diverse actors, including local authorities, NGOs, and private initiatives, have implemented housing solutions such as adaptive reuse of buildings, private developments, and modular housing.

Challenges include a lack of a shared vision for housing provision, with most hromadas relying on ad hoc decisions due to limited financing and absent strategic plans. Field research highlighted scalable models, including shelters in Kharkiv metro stations, underground car parks, and repurposed sports facilities.

The researchers proposed a framework of five housing categories—Shelter, Emergency Housing, Urgency Housing, Accelerated Housing, and Standard Housing—to guide reconstruction and integrate short- and long-term strategies.

#### Conclusions

**>> Emerging Actors and Models:** New housing initiatives involve diverse actors, offering scalable models to diversify Ukraine's housing market.

**>> Collaboration and Knowledge Co-Production:** Networking and commoning approaches could address regional disparities and support the development of local strategies.

**>> Systemic Housing Approach:** A holistic view of housing is essential to connect temporary and permanent solutions, overcome sector fragmentation, and ensure adaptive capacity.

The lecture stressed the importance of strategic, scalable housing solutions that address immediate needs while rebuilding a resilient and inclusive housing system for Ukraine.

## 2:15 - 2:45 p.m. Open Discussion

Following the presentations of the key lectures, an open Q&A session and discussion were held with the speakers to explore the topics further. The session was moderated by Prof. Dr. Renée Tribble.

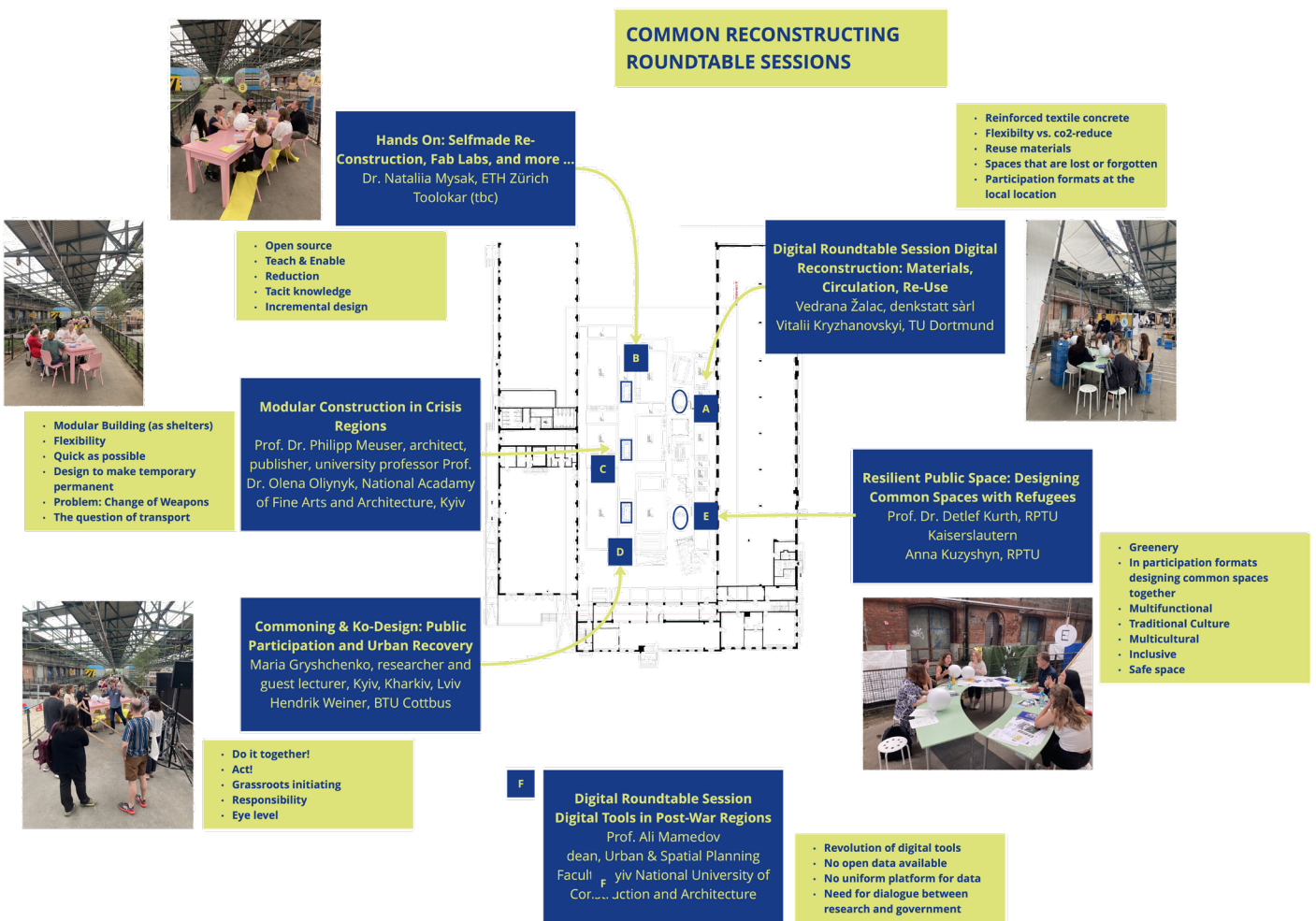




# Roundtable Sessions

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Six parallel workshops were conducted, each focusing on a specific subtopic related to the symposium's themes.



# Roundtable A

## Reconstruction: Materials, Circulation, Re-Use

Vedrana Žalac, denkstatt sàrl  
Vitalii Kryzhanovskyi, TU Dortmund

This roundtable focused on innovative approaches to reconstruction, exploring topics such as the use of reinforced textile concrete, balancing flexibility with CO2 reduction, and the reuse of materials. Discussions also addressed the potential of repurposing lost or forgotten spaces and implementing participatory formats to engage local communities in reconstruction efforts.



### >> Vedrana Zalac

studied landscape architecture at the University of Zagreb. This was followed by international postgraduate studies in landscape architecture at universities in Germany and Switzerland. From 2009 to 2019 she worked at Fontana Landscape Architecture. She is co-founder and board member of the Zimmerfrei housing cooperative in Basel. Since 2019 she is working at denkstatt sàrl in project and process development.

### >> Vitalii Kryzhanovskyi

born in Odessa, Ukraine is a building materials scientist. He is working as a researcher at the department of Building Materials, TU Dortmund. Ph.D. since 2022 to the present and is a member of the SPP 2255 "Cultural heritage project". His main focus is to investigate the properties of repair concretes and mortars using textile reinforcement, as well as the search for optimal solutions for the repair and restoration of buildings and structures.



## Roundtable B Hands On: Selfmade Re-Construction, Fab Labs, and more ...

Dr. Nataliia Mysak, ETH Zürich  
Toolokar (tbc)

This roundtable explored practical approaches to reconstruction, emphasizing open-source solutions, teaching and enabling communities, and strategies for reduction in resource use. The discussion highlighted the value of tacit knowledge, incremental design processes, and the role of in situ or onsite travelling Fab Labs in empowering self-made reconstruction efforts.



# Roundtable C Modular Construction in Crisis Regions

Prof. Dr. Philipp Meuser, architect, publisher,  
university professor

Prof. Dr. Olena Oliynyk, National Academy of Fine  
Arts and Architecture, Kyiv

This roundtable focused on the use of modular construction in crisis regions, drawing on personal experiences to explore its potential as a quick and flexible solution for shelters. Key topics included designing modular buildings to transition from temporary to permanent use, addressing logistical challenges like transport, and adapting to the evolving context, such as changes in weaponry affecting construction needs.



# Roundtable D Commoning & Co-Design: Public Participation and Urban Recovery

Maria Gryshchenko, researcher and guest lecturer, Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv  
Hendrik Weiner, BTU Cottbus

This roundtable centered on the importance of collective action and grassroots initiatives in urban recovery. Discussions emphasized the need for shared responsibility, collaborative design processes, and fostering participation on equal terms. The focus was on empowering communities to „do it together“ and take active roles in shaping their environments



## >> Maria Gryshchenko

is a Master of Sociology, a guest lecturer at the Kyiv National University of Architecture and Urban Planning (Kyiv), Kharkiv School of Architecture, a researcher at the Center for Urban Studies (Kyiv), an affiliated researcher at the Center for Urban History (Lviv), a co-founder of the grassroots initiative Citè, and a participatory planning expert in the project „Engaging Communities in the Recovery of Ukraine“ at the Cedos think tank (Kyiv).

## >> Hendrik Weiner

works as an urban researcher on urban transformation processes and as a designer in the fields of architecture, design and art. His focus is on the development of concepts for cooperative urban development in practice and theory by creating co-design projects. Currently he teaches at the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus - Senftenberg (BTU) at the Chair of Urban Management and holds a lectureship at the Otto-von-Guericke University Magdeburg.





# Roundtable E

## Resilient Public Space: Designing Common Spaces with Refugees

Prof. Dr. Detlef Kurth, RPTU Kaiserslautern  
Anna Kuzyshyn, RPTU Kaiserslautern

This roundtable explored the creation of resilient public spaces through participatory formats that involve refugees in the design process. Key themes included integrating greenery, fostering multifunctionality, and respecting traditional and multicultural influences. The discussions highlighted the importance of inclusivity and creating safe spaces that serve as hubs for community building and cultural exchange.

### >> Prof. Dr. Detlef Kurth

has served as a professor at the University of Kaiserslautern (RPTU), Chair for Urban Planning since 2017, and has previously been a professor at the University of Applied Sciences in Stuttgart. He has also been a visiting professor at the Universities of Cardiff in the UK, Krakow in Poland, and Hong Kong in China. His main research activities include sustainable urban development, energy-efficient cities, urban regeneration, social cities, self-driving cars, and new forms of mobility.



### >> Anna Kuzyshyn

has served as a scientific assistant at University of Kaiserslautern (RPTU), Chair for Urban Planning since 2022, from 2020-2022 at Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT). She got a Masters degree in interior design at Ivano-Frankivsk University and a Masters degree in architecture and urban planning at Stuttgart University. Anna worked for different architectural offices and managed many exchange projects about resilient urban development between Ukraine and Germany, funded by DAAD, GIZ and EVZ.

## Roundtable F Digital Tools in Post-War Regions

Prof. Alirza Mamedov

dean, Urban & Spatial Planning Faculty, Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture

This roundtable addressed the role of digital tools in post-war reconstruction, focusing on their potential to provide innovative solutions. Key challenges discussed included the lack of open data, the absence of a unified platform for information sharing, and the critical need for dialogue between research institutions and government entities to enhance collaboration and data accessibility.

### >> Prof. Alirza Mamedov

is an Urban Planner. He has been teaching Urban Planning and Urban Modelling since 1995 at Kyiv National University of Construction and Architecture. Currently he is Dean of the Urban and Spatial Planning Faculty of the same university. Alirza is one of the founders of the „School of Urban Studies“ project, which has been held since 2017 with the participation of Ukrainian and foreign students, teachers, and specialists.





# Common Roundtable Panel

5 p.m.

The common roundtable panel brought together the hosts of six previous discussions to share insights, learnings, and key themes from their respective groups. Each host began by summarizing the main topics and keywords from their discussions, using styrofoam balls with written keywords to visualize and guide the dialogue. This set the stage for a connected, in-depth exchange among participants.

The discussion focused on participation as a cornerstone of resilient and inclusive urban development, particularly in Ukraine. Decentralization and tools like participatory budgeting have empowered communities to take active roles in shaping their environments, fostering local leadership. This was seen as especially important in regions unaffected by occupation.



Skepticism toward municipal administrations has driven the rise of self-organized initiatives, which offer grassroots solutions and alternatives to traditional top-down approaches. Participants debated how international support could align with these structures without undermining their autonomy.



Digital tools were highlighted for enabling displaced individuals to participate in planning processes, ensuring democratization, transparency, and accountability. These tools help synchronize efforts between local actors and international projects while maintaining a participatory focus.

Ukraine's decentralized governance was credited with fostering resilience and adaptability. While expert input remains vital in urban planning, the discussion emphasized that participatory approaches are essential to ensure inclusivity and responsiveness to community needs.



#### Closing Remarks:

Olena Oliynyk, Vice President of the National Union of Architects of Ukraine, concluded by expressing gratitude for the interest and collaborative efforts of all participants in finding solutions to these pressing challenges.

The discussion underscored the importance of participatory methods, decentralization, and transparency in fostering resilient and inclusive urban development, particularly in challenging contexts like Ukraine.

## 6 p.m. Preview and Visiting Walk Pavilion-Constructions



Visitors are invited to closely examine the pavilion demonstrations created by students of FH Wismar and provide their feedback on prepared hanging notes, addressed to the respective student group responsible for constructing and designing the pavilions.



## 7 p.m. Talks and Drinks



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# Impressum

## **Common Reconstructing - Networks, Neighbours, Negotiations**

### **>> Documentation of the Symposium**

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**Prof.´in Dr. Renée Tribble  
Susanne Priebes, M.A.  
M. Sc. Arne Markuske  
Greta Wienen**

August-Schmidt-Str. 10  
44227 Dortmund

**Dezember 2024**



