

Hands-on Urbanism 1850–2012
The Right to Green
Edited by Elke Krasny
Architekturzentrum Wien
MCCM Creations, Hong Kong
356 pages, ca. 300 photographs

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Architekturzentrum Wien

Hand-On Urbanism
1850–2012. The Right to Green
March 15, 2012–June 25, 2012
Daily 10 a.m to 7 p.m

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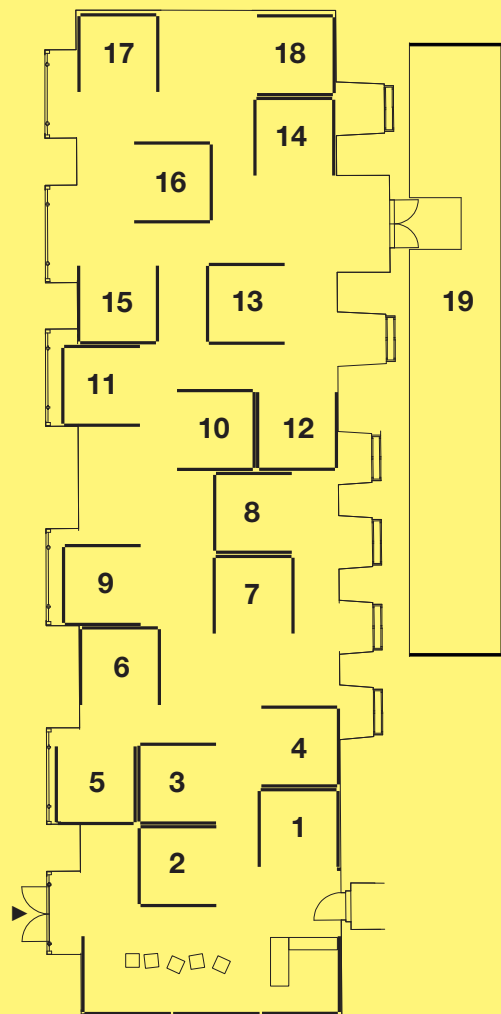
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Photo by Elke Krasny



1
Schreberplatz, Leipzig, since 1865 A self-organized association founded a playground and initiated a self-governed garden. This marked the beginning of the allotment garden movement in Germany.

2
Allotment gardens. *The Future on the Schmelz*, Vienna. During World

War I the first vegetable gardens were laid out informally on this site; today Central Europe's largest allotment garden area.

3
Viennese Settlers' Movement. From 1918 onwards informal settlers and gardeners organized themselves in cooperative associations.

4
Hull House, Chicago, since 1889, initiated by Jane Addams, feminist and later recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, in a poor neighborhood with a high immigrant population.

5
Life on the Parcel, Bremen, since 1945. This self-organized, informal settlement and subsistence farming developed on allotment garden lots.

6
Sarıgöl, a *gecekondu* in Istanbul, 1950 Today, Istanbul's informal urban development is under pressure from developers.

7
Ma Po Po Farm, Hong Kong, 1947. Informal squatter cottages and urban agriculture. Today, the Ma Po Po Community Farm, resists the pressure from developers.

8
Bowery-Houston Community Farm and Garden, New York, 1973 Under Mayor Giuliani many of the Loisaidea gardens were destroyed.

9
The Mexicali Experimental Project, Mexico, 1976. In a participatory process, Christopher Alexander realized these houses which were later on

completely transformed by the inhabitants.

10
Centro de Educação Ambiental da Vila Pinto, educational center and cooperative recycling facility, Porto Alegre, 1994 Self-organized slum upgrading based on participatory budgeting.

11
La Quebrada Navarro, Quito. Andinos build informal settlements in the ravines and use the steep slopes for urban farming.

12
Organoponicos, Havana. Urban farming started informally after the collapse of the USSR and was then introduced officially throughout Cuba.

13
Macondo, Vienna, since 1956 Refugees and asylum seekers established an informal garden culture counteracting trauma and taking root in their new home.

14
Prinzessinnengarten, Berlin, 2009. Mobile urban farm on an urban wasteland in Kreuzberg.

15
The Cook, the Farmer, his Wife and their Neighbor, Amsterdam, 2008–2010. In

Amsterdam's Nieuw West, a rationalized garden city, a community garden and a community kitchen were realized with a group of immigrants.

16
What Will the Harvest Be? London, Abbey Gardens, London, 2006. Public neighborhood garden with an honesty stall in the face of developer and gentrification pressure caused by the London Olympics in 2012.

17
R-Urban, Colombes/Grand Paris, since 2011. Pilot project that is based on closed local circuits and combines urban farming, a recycling plant, and a cooperative housing project for urban resilience.

18
Morethanshelters. A concept for mobile modular emergency shelters for crisis situations and homelessness.

19
Allotment Gardens in Vienna, 2011. Photographs by Una Steiner

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Hands-on urbanism, bottom-up urbanism, and irregular urbanization are not the exception to the rule – they are the driving forces behind the evolution of cities and often behind changes in urban policy.

From the onset of industrialization, first in Europe and North America and then in the Southern hemisphere, to today's neoliberal, developer-driven global city, the history of urban development unfolds as a sequence of critical situations. Gardening and informal settling are indicative of these crises. Taking root from below, these self-organized, self-help practices are dynamic and inspiring agencies of change. (Elke Krasny, curator)

Scenographer Alexandra Maringer gives spatial form to the curator's concept of the history of bottom-up urbanism by way of a grid system as the basic structure for the exhibition. Construction site mesh fences are used as supporting elements as a reference to the processes of urban transformation and construction sites, which in the case of bottom-up urbanism are often defined through self-organization and self-building. Contemporary and historical photographs, films, plans, sketches, and texts integrated into the mesh tell about the long-term effects of hands-on urbanism. The mesh fencing also showcases the key issue of the exhibition: the right to green. Different kinds of useful, ornamental and wild plants grow intertwined with the fence. The meeting of the rural and the urban are thus directly transplanted to the exhibition space and evoked by the scent and texture of the plants. Farming and gardening in the city are survival strategies, but equally important for community-building.

Recycling and intelligent use of resources are key: re-use and adaptation of found materials (mesh, bottles, etc.), urban resources, and seating cubes made of waste timber. Potted in transparent containers, visitors also experience two further resources employed by urban farming and community gardens: earth and water. (Alexandra Maringer, scenographer)

Hands-On Urbanism

curator: Elke Krasny
scenography: Alexandra Maringer
exhibition graphic design: Alexander Schuh