URBAN AGE

A worldwide investigation into the future of cities by
LSE Cities at the London School of Economics and
Alfred Herrhausen Gesellschaft

SHAPING CITIES
URBAN AGE CONFERENCE AT THE VENICE BIENNALE
14–15 JULY 2016

SUMMARY

The Urban Age is a two-day event which explores the interrelationships between urban form and urban society. Jointly organised by LSE Cities and Deutsche Bank's Alfred Herrhausen Gesellschaft, it is considered the most authoritative interdisciplinary conference on global urbanism, bringing together presidents, prime ministers, governors, mayors, designers, planners, academics and activists. 12 Urban Age conferences have been held since 2005 with over 6,000 speakers and participants, taking place in cities including Istanbul, Delhi, Mexico City, Hong Kong, Rio de Janeiro and Johannesburg.

The Urban Age "Shaping Cities" conference will be integrated with the 2016 International Architecture Biennale (May – November 2016), the world's most high-profile cultural event visited by over 300,000 people. Hosted together with the Biennale di Venezia and United Nations Habitat III on July 14-15, the conference will investigate how people, institutions, policymakers, investors and designers affect the physical form of cities, and how this impacts on the way we live in them.

The conference will be divided into six sessions:

Day 1 (14 July 2016, Teatro dell Tese, Arsenale, Venice Biennale)

<u>Who Owns the City?</u>

This session will explore the main political and economic forces shaping urban societies, including tensions between public ownership and private investment, the impact of global inequality and social unrest, and the politics of land and property. Can city leaders promote social equity? Is it possible to balance the forces of global capital with local rights? Can the market be steered to deliver socially desirable outcomes?

Speakers include:
Ada Colau, Mayor of Barcelona
Jean-Louis Missika, Deputy-Mayor of Paris
Saskia Sassen, Professor of Sociology, Columbia University, New York
Ed Glaeser, Fred and Eleanor Glimp Professor of Economics, Harvard University
Yolande Barnes, Head of World Research, Savills Real Estate, London

Steering Urban Growth: Expansion or Containment?

While urban populations have doubled in recent years, their footprint has increased nearly five-fold and density levels dropped. Despite the popularity of the compact city model among policymakers, academics and planners, cities across the world continue to sprawl with little control. This session will examine whether spatial planning can tame urban growth and what the impacts of urban form are, if any, on productivity, the environment and social inclusion.

Speakers include:
Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN Habitat
Mark Swilling, Distinguished Professor of Sustainable Development in the School of Public Leadership, Stellenbosch University, South Africa
Shlomo Angel, Head of Urban Expansion Program, New York University
Serge Salat, President, Urban Morphology and Complex Systems Institute, Paris
Philipp Rode, LSE Cities and the Urban Age

Adaptation and Social Integration

As cities grow, their physical and social fabrics change. Traditional urban systems are replaced by new typologies and new forms of negotiation. Open systems which promote integration and access are increasingly replaced by closed ones which prioritise exclusion and fragmentation. This session will explore how existing residents adapt to the arrival of newcomers - people of different economic classes, ethnic groups and political allegiances - and how their interactions can be shaped by different physical environments.

Speakers include:
Richard Sennett, Professor of Sociology, LSE and NYU
Abdoumalik Simone, Research Professor, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity, Göttingen, Germany
Caroline Kihato, Senior Research Fellow at the School of Architecture and Planning at the University of the Witwatersrand**,** South Africa
Anaclaudia Rossbach, Regional Advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, Cities Alliance

Day 2 (15 July 2016, Teatro dell Tese, Arsenale, Venice Biennale)

Urban Solutions: What Role for Architecture?

This session expands to the urban dimension the themes addressed by the 15th Venice Architecture Biennale, "Reporting from the Front," which explores how design ingenuity can be harnessed to respond to everyday social and environmental battles. By involving some of the key participants in the exhibition, speakers will investigate how aesthetics can be integrated with social purpose and how design creativity can be put at the service of our most basic human needs, questioning the limits of the design profession in addressing both the scale and nature of the urban condition.

Speakers include:
Alejandro Aravena, Director, 15th Venice Architecture Biennale, Co-Founder, Elemental, Santiago, Chile
Rahul Mehrotra, Principal, RMA Architects, Mumbai and Professor of Urban Design and Planning, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University
Kunlé Adeyemi, Founder and Principal, NLÉ, Lagos
Ricky Burdett, Director LSE Cities and Urban Age

Scales of intervention (1): Solutions from Below

Following on from the previous debate, this double session will highlight and compare the impact of different scales of urban intervention with a series of short presentations of small-scale and large-scale projects.

Speakers include:
Julia King (Delhi)
Rozana Montiel (Mexico City)
Jo Noero (Cape Town)
Ilan Shohat (Safed, Israel)
Amica Dall (Liverpool)
Max Schwitalla (Berlin)
Sean Anderson (New York)

Scales of intervention (2): Solutions from Above:

Kees Christiaanse, Founder KCAP, Rotterdam; Future Cities Laboratory, ETH Zurich and Singapore
Andy Altman, Principal, Streetscape Partners, Washington, DC; former Chief Executive, Olympic Park Legacy Company
Jose Castillo, Principal, Arquitectura 911sc, Mexico City

Shaping the New Urban Agenda

By 2030, the global urban population will reach 5 billion; by 2050, it will exceed 6 billion. The Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador in October 2016 aims to outline a New Urban Agenda to shape urban policymaking over the coming decades. This final session will discuss the main messages emerging from architecture, urban design and planning for Habitat III. What forces will shape the New Urban Agenda and how? What issues should be on the table in Quito and beyond?

Speakers include:
Enrique Peñalosa, Mayor of Bogotá
Jennifer Musisi, Executive Director, Kampala Capital City Authority
Babatunde Fashola, Federal Minister of Power, Works and Housing, Nigeria
Henk Ovink, Special Envoy for International Water Affairs at Kingdom of the Netherlands
Joan Clos, Executive Director, UN Habitat
Sue Parnell, Professor, African Centre for Cities