

Central interdisciplinary projects (selection)

2010 – 2012

Holiday after the Fall

History and Transformation of Socialist Holiday Resorts

Head of research, Institute of Building Typology at the University of Technology in Graz.

In a first short time schedule this project is limited to investigations of large scales hotel developments at the Croatian Adriatic and the Bulgarian Black Sea coast (a first research report currently translated into English).

In a long term schedule the project wants to expand both geographically and typologically, investigating the planning history of socialist holiday resorts on all scales, from traffic-infrastructure (hubs like harbours, stations, airports), spatial, urban and landscape design, to building typologies and their interior, including the ideological argumentations and the shift from collective experience to individual hedonistic encounters. The project emphasizes on the process of post socialist transformation of their physical status (sadly ruins, subtly restored or refurbished, or complete rebuilt) and their economic status (privatised, semi privatised, non privatised) including problems of restitution, corruption and building regulations, as well as their adaption to much more differentiated tourist's demands and a very powerful real estate market.

Although the project started within the realm of architecture it will involve artists' works as well.

2009

Crossing Munich: Orte, Repräsentationen und Debatten über Migration

A project on spaces, representations and discourses of migration in the city of Munich

The project was initiated by the department for Ethnology at the Munich University and produced in cooperation with the City of Munich. Due to the competence from several projects dealing with both the issue of migration and space and the experience in translating research material into texts and especially aesthetic representations (exhibitions) my artist colleague Michael Hieslmair and I were invited to mediate and moderate workshops with students and artists, to coordinate the artistic transformation of individual contributions and the exhibition design.

<http://hieslmair.him.at/2009/07/15/crossing-munich/>

<http://crossingmunich.org/>

2008

Heisse Luft: Ein regionales Branding Theater (*Hot Air: a place branding performance*)

Concept, script and co-production of a theatrical performance about a conference on destination branding by design, art and architecture in the School for Tourism and Hospitality Services Bad Gleichenberg, in cooperation with Theater im Bahnhof, a theatre group from Graz/Austria and the artist Michael Hieslmair. The piece is an ironic reflexion of my own experience with mechanisms of organising and curating symposia and the problems to establish relevant high quality discourses. Therefore this piece teaches the audience in a Brecht' tradition how symposia work in general but furthermore how the creative cities discourse is typically discussed by using quotations from well-known characters, both hypercritical and affirmative.

Artists on Tour: Sehnsuchtsdestinationen im Wandel (*shifts of the most desirable travel destinations*)

Concept, production and moderation of a symposium in a stage-set of a travel agency in the painters Gallery of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna on occasion of the sensational exhibition "Dreaming of the south: the Dutch paint Italy" with masterpieces of the 17th century.

The symposium as well as some installed art works questioned the artists' claim of travelling off the beaten path. Instead we discussed the traditions of architects' and artists' travel habits, from the Grand Tour to Slumming – and who is actually driving the tour bus of architects and artists.
In co-operation with Michael Hieslmair und Peter Spillmann
http://www.zinganel.mur.at/ontour_txt.html

2006

Terminals, Hotels & Wonders: Scripts, stages and Architecture in Mass-tourism

Concept, production and moderation of a conference and exhibition on Mass Tourism Architecture for the Institute of Building Typology, financed and realized by Stadtmuseum Graz
Conference panels about

“Architects on Tour” with Elke Krasny (A), Rudolf Tucek (A) und Olaf Gipser (NL),

“Closed Laboratories” with Tom Avermaete (NL), and platforma 9.81 (HR),

“Emotions, Scripts, Narratives and Performance” with Gerda Moser (A), Sybille Frank (D), Roger Riewe (A)

Exhibition with Carola Dertnig (A), Ulrike Feser (D), Haubitz + Zoche (D), Gabu Heindl (A), Yves Mettler (CH), Sascha Pohle (D), Sascha Reichstein (A/CH), Martha Rosler (USA).

http://www.zinganel.mur.at/wunderwelt_txt.html

2005 – 2011

Saison Opening (and other works on mobility and migration)

In 2005 started a long during collaboration with the architect and artist Michael Hieslmair dealing with routes and (physical) nodes of transnational mobility.

Being invited first by Phillip Oswalt, the curator of “Shrinking Cities”, we investigated the problematic managing of technical infrastructure in mass tourism resorts but also the specific need of social infrastructure: that is labour migration from low income destinations. During this project we developed an both techniques for research inspired by ethnographic tools and modes for representing the dynamic changes and flows of people both on a macro- and micro-political level in form of a 3d model with implemented narratives. It's successful presentation in the final exhibition of “Shrinking Cities” at GfZK Leipzig and a small publication of ourselves led to several other invitations, where a similar mixture of theoretical reflection and artistic transformation was required.

<http://hieslmair.him.at/2006/12/15/saison-opening/>

In other works the nodes of mobility networks, our research focused on, had been e.g. freeway gas stations at transnational routes, an urban underground metro crossing, a big urban hospital, or even an allotment, where migrants of different background use to spend their leisure time...

<http://hieslmair.him.at/2010/06/06/a40-driveway/>

<http://hieslmair.him.at/2007/12/07/exit-st-pankraz/>

<http://hieslmair.him.at/2009/05/10/crossing-gates/>

<http://hieslmair.him.at/2009/10/01/crossing-rotterdam/>

See also the attached (although incomplete) portfolio in English Language!

2002 – 2008

Backstage*Tourisms et al.

In 2002 I started an intensive collaboration with Peter Spillmann investigating the issue of tourism as a typical force of modernism *and* post-fordistic economy driving the transformation of both landscapes and the social relationships of people involved (tourists, locals and migrant service workers). By launching an Open Call for a first exhibition and conference in Forum Stadtpark Graz we were able to successfully establish a network of activists, artist, architects and scholars that took over initiative. Therefore the first meeting was followed by a series of other workshops at different places. Another by-product was the invitation by the Academy of Arts in Lucerne to design a Master Programme for Art in Pubic Space focussing on issues of tourism, to teach during the first two years and to submit a research project for this institution:

“Top of Experience” included a conference in 2007 about Architecture, Art and Performance in the Tourist Realm, I curated and moderated with Peter Spillmann and Angela Sanders as well as an exhibition in Kunsthalle Lucerne (2008).
<http://www.zinganel.mur.at/luzern.html>

Another research project deriving from the very same network was “Und plötzlich China (and now China)!” about visual and performing cultures of travellers from ‘exotic’ backgrounds in Switzerland for the Institute of Theory (ith) at HGK Zürich (2005 – 2007).

2002 – 2005

Tatort – Semiotik in Kunst und Architektur (*Scene of the Crime: Semiotics in Art, Architecture and Urban Studies*)

Crime Scene Investigation as method and metaphor for (urban) semiotics. In 2001/02 I started a series of seminars and workshops for graduate students of Art and Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts (2002), the Webster University (2003) and the University of Technology Vienna (2002–05) dealing with deviant behaviour and the discourses deviance produces (in general but also in the fields of art, architecture and urban studies). These seminars were inspired by the research for the project “Real Crime”, especially by the knowledge from representation of detective work in novels, psychoanalysis and film theories, e.g. by Carlo Ginzburg and Ralph Rugoff, and by the friendship to both leftist activists and criminal police officers.

Films I used for instruction had been e.g. Fritz Langs’ “M” (1932) and Brian Singers “The Usual Suspects” (1995).

The workshop was later revised for a public seminar, film-program and exhibition in cooperation with police officers and scholars for Kunstverein Langenhagen (2004)

<http://www.kunstverein-langenhagen.de/archiv/zinganel/index.html>

2000 – 2006

Real Crime: Architektur, Stadt und Verbrechen (Urban Control)

A medium term project based on Karl Marx’ notion of the productivity of crime for the progress of society, more precisely the productivity of fear, here emphasizing on the development of security industry, architecture and urban design.

Concept, production and moderation of a 5-hour guided bus-tour throughout the city of Vienna (including the international airport) and a 3-hour symposium staged in the scenery of the German equivalent of the TV show “Crime Watch” in the Academy for Fine Arts Vienna in 2000. Guest expert during the bus tour had been a known historian and a security expert, guest during the symposium another historian, a pop theoretician, a film theoretician, a feminist art-historian, a security expert and a high rank police officer.

The project was preceded by a public lecture series in 1999 in depot, an independent institution for political discourse in Vienna and produced in cooperation with OEGFA (Austrian Society of Architecture): http://www.zinganel.mur.at/rc_show.html

The concept of a guided bus tour was then repeated several times on different occasions for different institutions and with different guest-experts, e.g. another historian, a feminist planner, a police detective, and therefore became a major source for the production of different forms of knowledge that finally ended in my PhD theses from 2003.

<http://www.zinganel.mur.at/realcrime.html>

http://www.zinganel.mur.at/rc_buch.html

The concept of a staged symposium or a performed lecture was later appropriated as well: for a theatre festival at HAU Berlin with the urban anthropologist Rolf Lindner, the journalist Hartmut Höge, and the artist Michaela Melian as guests (2003), or for a discourse performance with scholars, activists, a police officer and the Police-Band Wiener Blue(s) for the festival styrian autumn in Graz (2005).

The project was communicated by a series of lectures but was also translated into exhibitions on issues of urban control, e. g. in cooperation with Jochen Becker in Forum Stadtpark Graz for the festival steirischer herbst in Graz 2001, or for the Haus der Architektur Munich 2005.

<http://www.zinganel.mur.at/muenchen.html>

In 2006 Jochen Becker and I were invited to give an interdisciplinary workshop on aspects of Foucault's notion of 'governmentality' for the festival steirischer herbst that included again a guided tour to spaces and institutions of self-control in the City of Graz.

<http://www.herbstcamp.mur.at/>

1998 – 2001

Wir Häuslbauer – Bauen in Österreich seit 1945

Head of research and co-editor

Exhibition and catalogue about the post-war history of the anonymous single-family home in Austria. Research included a one-week trip for the whole exhibition- and catalogue-team throughout the country visiting case studies for homes of different periods and character as well as important supporting institutions (e.g. building societies, DIY stores, prefabricated house exhibitions). Produced by ArchitekturZentrum Wien.

I later revised the research to produce my own solo-exhibition in Secession (1999), see the attached catalogue and

<http://www.zinganel.mur.at/secession.html>

and to curate a group-show in Forum Stadtpark titled REkonstruktion–HeimAT (2001)

<http://www.nextroom.at/event.php?id=2250>

and to present an internet-project of myself (2001):

<http://www.eigen-heim.at/>

1997

Sex & Space II – Raum. Geschlecht. Ökonomie.

Concept, production and moderation of a multidisciplinary project including exhibitions, film-programs, workshops and conferences on sexuality, space and economy. Co-curated with Marion von Osten, co-produced by Shedhalle Zurich (Sex and Space I) and Forum Stadtpark Graz for the festival steirischer herbst 97.

With Fenja Abraham (CH), Martine Anderfuhren (CH), Hatice Ayten (D), Susanne Bachmann (CH), Jochen Becker (D), Serab Berrakkarasu / Gisela Tuchtenhagen (D), Pauline Boudry (CH), Yvonne Doderer (D), Ines Doujak / Gabriele M. Marth (A), Eva & Co. (A), Frauenhaus Graz (A), Edith Glanzer (A), Ina Ivanceanu (A), Lea Jaecklin (CH), Sylvia Kafehsy (CH), Dorothea Kress (D), Brigitta Kuster (CH), Pia Lanzinger (D), Susanne Lummerding (A), Rachel Mader (CH), Ariane Müller (A), Irene Nierhaus (A), Marion von Osten (D), plattform / Ulrike Kremer (D), Katja Reichard (D), Marie Ringler / Meike Schmidt-Gleim (A), Cornelia Schmidt-Bleek (D), Hito Steyerl (D), Vor der Information (A), Ina Wudtke (D), Sandra Zech (A) usf.

<http://www.k3000.ch/sex%26space/info/ankherbst.html>

1996

Pension Stadtpark (*Bed & Breakfast*)

Concept, production, construction work and moderation of a multidisciplinary project including exhibitions, film-programs, workshops and conferences on working and living conditions of artist (later to be discussed under the notion of "precarious") in Forum Stadtpark Graz for the festival steirischer herbst 96.

For a limited period during the festival the art institution placed in the huge public park of the city of Graz was transferred into a bed and breakfast, where low budget accommodation was offered for guests of the festival and artist of the project. The artists of the project were not selected for the quality of their artistic work, but for the quality of the non-artistic jobs that then financed their everyday life.

The artists were asked to offer these services within the framework of the bed and breakfast and to design the environment where they offer their services. Offered services ranged from several jobs needed or appropriated to run the "Bed & Breakfast", and more advanced accommodation and catering services, like cooking courses, wine degustation (Kurt Ryslawy), florist decoration (Stephane Steiner), Shiatsu massage (Morgan O'Hara), hair styling (Constanze Schweiger), bike couriers (Andrea Siegl), taxi driving (Rembert Rayon), DJ to more specific services like working at the reception of a refuge-camp (Frans Brepoels), acting as a legal consultant for copyright questions (David Hulfish Bailey) and a party designer for wannabe art collectors (Sarah Gavlak) etc.

The exchange of services initially intended to be organized by a barter system, soon collapsed and discussions about values of different qualities of work or services (with experts from barter economy as well art experts like Marion von Osten, Andreas Spiegl, Armelle Leturcq turned into surprising conflicts. Nevertheless the project was great, exhausting but quite instructive for all participants involved.

http://www.k3000.ch/bulletin/kollektive_arbeit/archive/site002.html

1995

Freiraum Superblock. Leerstellen im Sozialen Wohnbau

Travelling exhibition combined with guided tours through several former collectively used spaces in communal housing blocks of the so-called "Red Vienna" (1919–34)

Based on research in 2 one-semester-seminars with students of architecture at the Institute for housing and design at the Vienna University of Technology, produced for the festival "80 Tage Wien, Architektur + Stadt" by the Cities department for Planning, tours starting at ArchitekturZentrum Wien.

The project intentionally confronted different forms of knowledge both to local tenants, visitor and students: First of all the students showed their own ideas for re-appropriation or re-construction of the very vacant spaces, where the exhibitions took place. They of course organized opening parties, which also attracted some of the tenants of the blocks, but they also had to supervise the 5 exhibitions during one week each – they therefore had to defend their own ideas to visitors and locals from the housing blocks, which regularly showed up to defend their own neighbourhood against the ideas of the students, because they claimed to have other ideas of their own how these spaces are used or might be used in the future.

Second I showed beautiful old materials I collected from the archives that illustrated the pride and cultural value that housing blocks once represented – a social value that is unknown or forgotten by most of the tenants and visitors. Third I hired an art historian to offer guided tours which reproduced the aesthetic approach from the academic art historians point of view to visitors that were driven by busses to several housing blocks in the neighbourhood and on the route to each of the 5 exhibition spaces – into the very heart of the social reality of today's heritage of the Red Vienna. But in order to confront the tenants as well, these tours were taped on video and represented in situ as part of the 5 exhibitions.

<http://www.zinganel.mur.at/leerst.html>

I later revised one the guided tours for an audio-walk as part of the project AWWA (2007):

<http://www.awwa.at>

1993/94

Reine Übungssache. Kunst und Öffentlicher Raum (*Art in Public Space*)

From 1992 to 1995 UKF I was working as a co-founder and member of the artists group UKF Vienna. Typical for many postgraduate artists groups we were searching for interdisciplinary exchange to overcome our individual artists crisis, questioning the mainstream of production and role-models of artist as well as form a wide spread network. Therefore we used residences of the individual members to invite ourselves to a variety of institutions, e. g. the Jan van Eyck Academy in Maastricht. Back in Vienna in 1993/94 Simon Wachsmuth and I realized the concept, production and moderation of a series of artistic interventions and conferences in a variety of semi-public and public spaces in Vienna for UKF with guests like Büro Bert (Jochen Becker und Renate Lorenz), Scheifschnecke

Stuttgart (Jesko Fezer und Axel John Wieder), Anna Gudjonsdottier und Till Krause (Galerie für Landschaftskunst Hamburg), Helena Kive, Robert Hamilton ...

The network then started was the reason for being invited as a guest curator for Forum Stadtpark in 1996, what became an engagement for several years. The network therefore could be extended and still is working up to now.