

# Shrinking Cities

1. Concept
2. Sites
3. First Projects
4. Role of Manchester and Liverpool in *Shrinking Cities*
5. Manchester and Liverpool's contribution to the international exhibition
6. Cooperating Institutions
7. Curatorial Team
8. Facts

**Press Conference November 6, 2003 at 5 p.m.  
CUBE Gallery, Manchester**

### Concept

Shrinking cities can be found anywhere, from the United States or Britain to Belgium, Finland, Italy, Russia, Kazakhstan, or China. Our accepted notions about cities and urban development are being challenged as urban neighbourhoods, cities, and entire regions are being drained of their population and jobs. Left behind are those who have lost out in the process of transformation from an era of Fordist industrial production to a society governed by globalised service industries. The dramatic changes in eastern Germany since 1989, which have led to the vacancy of more than one million apartments and the abandonment of innumerable industrial complexes, as well as social and cultural facilities, are evidence of a more general pattern of our civilization.

While current debate is focused on the phenomenon of ever-growing megalopolises, the parallel existence of zones of shrinkage seems to have evaded public attention. Urban and rural areas have been equally affected, with the loss of millions of people and runaway unemployment. The predicted demographic trends for many countries will lead to further polarization in decades to come. Shrinking cities contradict the notion, well established since the Industrial revolution, of cities as "boomtowns" and engines of economic and demographic growth. Shrinking cities provoke us to reconsider entrenched ideas about the face of the European cities and the future of urbanism in general.

Cities are a cultural expression of the society we live in, and simultaneously provide a platform for cultural production. Thus, they are a significant constituent of our self-perception. The radical transformation of our cities as caused by their shrinkage hence presents not only an economic and social challenge, but also a cultural one. Shrinkage is impossible to control by conventional urban steering mechanisms, and it is accompanied by a number of related problems. The phenomenon generates new types of urban entity for which no conceptions, or defined usages exist as yet.

*Shrinking Cities* is a major international research and exhibition project directed by the German architect/writer Philipp Oswalt and initiated and funded by the Cultural Foundation of the German Government (Kulturstiftung des Bundes). *Shrinking Cities* seeks to propose new perspectives on the current debate in Germany, which is restricted to strategies of demolition of disused housing and upgrading existing target areas. We propose an investigation into how the phenomenon of shrinking cities can be a catalyst for new cultural practices, and how their articulation can inform a positive identity for this new urban typology.

- What are the defining factors of an urban identity when the continuity of a city's built environment is in disarray? What are the sort of conceptions, images, and perceptions that could spawn such a new urban type? How do you set up public spaces and create social coherence in an otherwise fragmented urban landscape?
- What can be done with disused spaces and buildings, and what about outdated technological, cultural, and social stratagems? How to deal with loss and memory, destruction and vandalism? How to design de-cultivation?
- How to take advantage of unplanned urban structures? What cultural practices emerge here? Is there any potential, even utopia to be discovered in the unplanned?
- How do people deal with their lives in the absence of paid work? Can social capital compensate for the lack of financial investment? What is the relevance of the informal economy, of self-organization, sub-standard premises?

## Schrumpfende Städte

The project aims to provide new impulses for the management of shrinking cities. Hence the East German experience is to be placed in an international context, and it is sought through the inclusion of diverse artistic and scientific disciplines in the research to find valid proposals for a due course of action. As a first step, the project, under the management of the architect and journalist **Philipp Oswalt** (Berlin) and the curatorial team of **Nikolaus Kuhnert** (publisher of ARCH+, Berlin), **Kyong Park** (International Center for Urban Ecology, Detroit), **Walter Prigge** (Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau), and **Barbara Steiner** (Director of the Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst [Gallery for Contemporary Art], Leipzig) has invited interdisciplinary teams to conduct an international study of four partner cities and urban regions: Manchester/ Liverpool, Detroit, Ivanovo (Russia) and East Germany. Once these case studies have been completed, the *Shrinking Cities* project will enter its second stage of developing and conducting actual projects on site.

In this second phase, a number of artists, architects, and researchers from various countries will develop on-site projects for eastern Germany. Additionally, an international competition for architects, artists, designers, and researchers will be announced in February 2004 to generate project ideas for the four sites under examination: Detroit, Manchester/ Liverpool, Ivanovo, and Halle/ Leipzig. Some of the suggestions will be realized in cooperation with local actors.

The results will be presented in exhibitions (2004: Berlin, 2005: Leipzig, Moscow and Manchester-Liverpool), publications and internet forums. ([www.shrinkingcities.com](http://www.shrinkingcities.com)).

## Sites

### Detroit

Suburbanization

**Local curators/ coordination: Kyong Park (artist/curator), Mitch Cope (gallerist/artist), Dan Pitera (architect)**

Detroit, in the northeastern part of the Midwest in the USA, developed from 1900 on into the center of the automobile industry (Ford, Chrysler, General Motors). In 1930, Detroit was the fourth-largest city in the USA and grew to a population of 1.8 million in 1950. In 1950, a successive process of suburbanization began, accompanied by a decentralization of the industry. By 2000, the city had shrunk to only 950,000 residents, while the surroundings ("Metropolitan Detroit") grew to almost four million. The suburbanization is characterized by racial segregation. In 1998, 78% of the suburbanites were white, while 79% of those in the city were black. The average income in "Metropolitan Detroit" is almost twice as high as in the city. A major part of the buildings erected during the construction boom in the 1920s has been torn down, leaving large empty spaces. Many of the remaining, isolated buildings are untenanted.

### Ivanovo

Post-socialist Transformation

**Local curators/ coordination: Alexander Sverdlov (architect), Sergey Sitar (architect/ journalist)**

Ivanovo (ca. 450,000 residents) is about 250 km northeast of Moscow and is the administrative center of the district of the same name, which has 1.2 million residents. Beginning in the mid-19th century, the region developed from a village pattern of life into a center of the Russian textile industry and of the Russian workers' movement. Its population grew rapidly, especially between 1920 and 1960. The one-sided economic dependence on the textile industry accelerated the area's decline in the 1990s. Most combines now operate at a deficit or have been abandoned. There is a high rate of hidden unemployment. Since 1989, the population has also been declining: by 5.8% in the city of Ivanovo, but at an even higher rate in the surrounding region. The population is overaged, the birth rate is falling dramatically, and qualified workers are leaving, primarily for Moscow. Most of the population lives in pre-fabricated concrete slab constructions, and there is still a housing shortage.

### Manchester / Liverpool

De-industrialization

**Local curators/coordination: Joshua Bolchover (architect), Philipp Misselwitz (architect) and Paul Domela (curator)**

Northern England is characterized by a decades-long process of de-industrialization and migration away. The cities are also losing population to suburbanization: today, Liverpool and Manchester have only half as many inhabitants as they did in the 1930s. Liverpool (439,000 inhabitants; population loss 1991-2001: 8.8%) is still declining. The economy's over-dependence on the harbor is accompanied by a low average level of education among the residents. Huge empty areas in the inner city have resulted from a consistent policy of demolishing buildings.

## Schrumpfende Städte

Manchester (393,000 inhabitants; population loss 1991-2001: 2.5%), in contrast, developed in the 1990s into a supraregional service industry center and an important cultural city. Nevertheless, large parts of the city outside of the center are plagued by poverty, segregation, and depopulation. Empty lots and untenanted buildings contrast in close proximity with a new development in real estate prices.

## Halle / Leipzig

Post-socialist Transformation, De-industrialization, Suburbanization

The eastern German region Halle / Leipzig (in the states of Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt) developed during industrialization into a site of lignite mining and chemical industry. The changes in society since German unification have entailed far-reaching economic changes. De-industrialization and rationalization have pushed unemployment up to about 20%. An initial wave of migration to other parts of the country in the mid-1990s was followed by an intense process of the suburbanization of residences, trades, and retail businesses. Some communities in the surrounding area have profited from this, but the population of the region has fallen. The cities, in particular, have had to struggle with an increase in untenanted buildings in medieval and baroque city centers (for example, Weißenfels), late 19th-century buildings (for example, Leipzig), and large pre-planned settlements (for example, Wolfen-Nord). Since 1989, Weißenfels has lost a seventh of its population and Leipzig a sixth. Wolfen has shrunk from 45,000 to 27,000 inhabitants. Demographic development has been characterized by a drastic fall in the birth rate since 1990.

## First Projects

### SchrumPFende Städte World map

Massive losses of population and jobs have shaken cities, districts, and regions all over the world. Shrinking is a general phenomenon of urban development, not merely an exceptional case in special situations. In addition to examining the four international cases, the project will therefore look into shrinking in the global context. What meaning and relevance does shrinking have in the global development of cities? Which cities shrink? How has this phenomenon developed in recent decades? What global factors influence shrinking?

To pursue these questions comprehensibly, a world map of the shrinking cities will be prepared. Based on statistical information, we will examine the histories of 8,000 cities in countries all over the world over the last 50 years. Initial results show that urban shrinkage affects not only increasingly aging industrial nations, but also developing and threshold countries like Argentina, South Africa, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, China, and Afghanistan. Despite continuing rapid population increase and an increase in urbanization in these countries, urban shrinking is growing in relevance, due to waning population dynamics and increasing spatial polarization.

Further results show that, in recent decades, about 370 cities with more than 100,000 residents in 62 countries have lastingly shrunk. One quarter of all the cities examined have gone through at least temporary significant shrinkages. Data was gathered on about 50% of the world's urban population (ca. 1.5 billion people) in 170 countries on all continents. The world map will be supplemented with short biographies of about 50 cities, in text and image, which unfold a typology of various urban shrinkings.

### SchrumPFende Städte Cultures

Shrinking cities are often starting points for cultural innovations. Whether in music, visual art or architecture, literature, photography, or film – a wide range of new developments in popular and high culture have emerged from these urban crisis points. These are often parts of atypical cultures of everyday life based simultaneously in the potentials and the difficulties of these sites. They often thereby make substantial contributions to new definitions of identities and mental milieus and thus offer important beginnings for the conception of models of action. In the first phase of the project Shrinking Cities, we will examine and document several genres as examples: music, film, architecture, and art.

### SchrumPFende Städte & Film

Project Michael Baute, Antje Ehmann und Harun Farocki

Film has always given us dramatic images of both large and small towns. The portrait of a city has been a topos in the history of this medium from the very beginning. The problems faced by shrinking cities, in contrast, mostly come to light indirectly, in socially-conscious documentaries, for example. Only emptiness keeps appearing as a theme: in pictures of burnt-out American ranches; deserted Spanish villages; lonely French suburbs and utterly void streets and squares in Italy.

## Schrumpfende Städte

The film expert Antje Ehmann, the film journalist Michael Baute and the film-maker Harun Farocki will research and record images like these for a "Lexicon of Cinematographic Expressions": pictures that give clues to the shrinkage of cities. Taking clips from numerous films, they will create a video installation for the exhibition. They will also produce a complementary videotheque, with films in which the phenomenon of city shrinkage plays a part. In addition, a programme of films to accompany the exhibition will be shown in a local cinema.

### Schrumpfende Städte & Music

Projectleaders: Sarah Cohen (Institut for popular Music, University Liverpool) with Robert Strachan (Liverpool), Anne König (Leipzig); Dan Sicko (Detroit), Jan Levcheko (St. Petersburg), Anton Jansen (Izhevsk)

In Detroit and Manchester – and in the shrinking regions of Russia and Germany – the crises of the Eighties and Nineties led to the growth of musical cultures specific to each of these places. Some of them even achieved success in the 'world market' of pop culture. In Detroit, techno and house flourished, in Manchester it was indie new wave and hip-hop music. Even today, in the sounds and songs and clips, the listener still encounters the rough, raw, urban spaces in which this music was first played.

Empty buildings and vacant sites, long abandoned by industry, gave young people the chance to create new forms of music production and reception: warehouse parties, raves and clubs. To the advantages of rooms which were practically or completely rent-free were added technological innovations that enabled them to break free of the big music companies and set up their own labels. In Manchester, for example, the punk and new wave of the late Seventies spawned a local industry based on making and distributing music. This played a by no means insignificant part in the change of Manchester's identity from a manufacturing city to a service industry centre.

This subject will be investigated for the Shrinking Cities project by Sarah Cohen from the Institute of Popular Music at the University of Liverpool. The results will be included in the exhibition and catalogue.

## Role of Manchester and Liverpool in *Shrinking Cities*

The Manchester/Liverpool region has been chosen with Detroit and Ivanovo (Russia) as a partner region. Each selected location represents specific types of shrinkage, which occurred at different times and for different regions. Manchester and Liverpool's de-industrialization began decades before the collapse of the East German economy and both cities have enjoyed a period of urban regeneration throughout the 1990s. Although many effects of economic and demographic shrinkage will be lasting (the population of both cities has halved in the last 50 years), this period of renewal led to a unique cultural production in the field of popular music, visual arts or architecture. The cities have generated unprecedented urban renewal strategies, which could be inspirational to the East German context. Manchester and Liverpool contributes to *Shrinking Cities* in the following way:

- **International Exhibition in Berlin (2004):** A large public exhibition will present the results of the international case studies, which will include contributions from artists, urban researchers and academics from Manchester and Liverpool. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue publication and travel to the various partner cities including Manchester and Liverpool.

- **International Competition:** In February 2004, an open international competition will be launched for architects, artists, and others to develop interventions in the shrinking cities Detroit, Manchester/Liverpool, Ivanovo, and Halle/Leipzig. After preselection by an international, interdisciplinary jury, ca. 15 works will be chosen in a two-step procedure; these are to be presented to the public in 2005 in the framework of the exhibition and catalog. If possible, they will then be implemented.

- **On Site Projects:** *Shrinking Cities* aims to initiate on site projects in East Germany, which will build upon the results of the international case studies. Liverpool and Manchester artists and architects will be invited to develop and implement concepts and innovative strategies for specific East German locations.

- **Exchange and Collaborations:** Throughout all stages, *Shrinking Cities* will rely on continual artistic, academic and public exchange with a wide ranging network of local partners, which will involve the organisation of joint workshops, conferences, publications and public events such as film screenings, exhibitions, lectures or concerts.

The Internet site [www.shrinkingcities.com](http://www.shrinkingcities.com) provides an open platform for public address and further discussion. In addition, a number of activities in selected locations are designed to induce active public participation, whose results will be incorporated in the project's working process.

### British Partners

*Shrinking cities* has developed a local network of partners and sponsors, which include prestigious cultural and academic institutions as well as individuals from Manchester and Liverpool, Birmingham, Glasgow and London. British partners for the exhibition include:

- The Liverpool Biennial
- CUBE Manchester

## SCHRUMPFENDE STÄDTE

- FACT (Foundation for Art & Creative Technology) Liverpool
- Institute of Popular Music (University of Liverpool)
- Manchester School of Architecture (University of Manchester)
- Department of Geography (University of Manchester)
- CURS Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (University of Birmingham)
- North Western Arts Council
- The British Council, Berlin
- Goethe-Institute, Manchester

## Manchester and Liverpool's contribution to the international exhibition

A major section of the exhibition will be dedicated to Liverpool and Manchester. This exhibition will afford a first time opportunity for an audience outside of the UK to discover these two major cities, their richness and cultural complexities as well as their long-standing experience with issues of decline, shrinkage and urban regeneration. The exhibition will combine diverse angles and perspectives developed by Manchester and Liverpool artists, film-makers, architects, urban researchers and academics. This interdisciplinary approach will allow for a combination of a micro-research (e.g. communicating the experiences of residents at grassroots level), as well as a documentation of strategies and tactics developed by cultural entrepreneurs, municipal authorities or cultural institutions and the different cultural responses as in popular music, film and literature. Different aspects will be explored through commissioned studies, using individual media for documentation, e.g. film, interactive material, photographs, original documentation, (interactive) maps, models or sound pieces. The contributions will be supplemented by analyses using scientific means such as cartography, statistics, chronologies and diagrams. Examples from film, music, art, and literature will document the various cultural responses.

### Local Curator / Coordinator:

Joshua Bolchover, architect, Manchester

Paul Domela, curator, Liverpool

Philipp Misselwitz, architect, Berlin/ Tel Aviv

## Contributions

**"Spaces of Labour" by G.L.A.S.** (Allan Atlee, Florian Kossak and others): architects and artists, members of the Glasgow based artists collective 'Glas' whose work has been exhibited internationally; teaches at University of Strathclyde. For the forthcoming Shrinking Cities exhibition Atlee and Kossak will curate a specific edition of the quarterly Glaspapers. The edition will gather a variety of text and visualisations from local authors and focus on the transformation of the work-spaces in the Manchester and Liverpool region since the beginning of post-industrial change. (format: newspaper on exhibition display)

**"Re-imagining the city" and "Hume as an urban myth" by Joshua Bolchover and others:** Manchester based architect, graduated from University of Cambridge and at the Bartlett School of Architecture. Bolchover recently completed his own design for Top Shop flagship Oxford Street store (London), commissioned by Tank Magazine. Apart from his role as member of the local curatorial team Bolchover will collaborate with Manchester academic Kevin Ward on a research and visualisation project which will focus on the

## Schrumpfende Städte

transformation of municipal decision making structures during Manchester beginning phase of regeneration. Bolchover will also collaborate with architect Shumon Basar (Blackpool, London) on an in-depth study of the urban transformation of Hulme, Manchester, titled "Hume as an urban myth". (format: architectural models, diagrams, archival material, etc.)

**"Shrinking City Music" by Sarah Cohen:** Director of Institute of Popular Music, University of Liverpool; trained as an anthropologist at Oxford (PhD) she has conducted major international research projects on popular music and the urban environment. Sarah Cohen heads a research team that investigates links between urban shrinkage and the production of popular music in the Manchester/ Liverpool region during the past decades. Her research will be published in the exhibition catalogue and developed as a display for the Shrinking Cities exhibition. (format: text, graphic display, photography, sound)

**"Transformation of Manchester Mill Towns" by John Davies:** Liverpool based photographer John Davies will contribute a series of time-lapse photographs, revealing the transformation of the ring of industrial towns around Manchester since the collapse of their industrial base in the 1980s. The work will be based on a photographic investigation from the early 1980s, complemented with new shots taken from the same positions in 2003. (format: photographs, displayed as 4 pairs)

**"Further up in the Air" by Neville Gabie, Leo Fitzmaurice:** Liverpool based artists group, initiated the project 'Further up in the Air' which invited UK artists to appropriate a partially abandoned tower block in Liverpool. Gabie and Fitzmorris will develop a new display documenting the project, and contribute new work to the exhibition. Tower block resident **Kath Healy** will contribute a unique recording the response of local residents to the presence of artists throughout the duration of the project. (format: video, graphic display)

**"Tip Rats" by Ken Grant:** photographer and Senior lecturer in Documentary Photography, University of Wales College, Newport; worked in Liverpool since the 1980s documented in an exhibition and the book 'The Closed Season' which was exhibited in major international venues (e.g. Dublin, Oregon, Prague). Grant will develop the new exhibition display "Tip Rats" of a photographic research into a closely-knit resident community in the north of Liverpool for which a nearby waste deposit site provided opportunities to recycle and resell found objects. The display will consist entirely of works that have never been exhibited before. (format: display of photographs of varying sizes)

**"Shrinking City Movie", consultancy by J Hallam:** Senior lecturer at the University of Liverpool; conducted widely published research on film and urban regeneration. Julia Hallam will gather a library of films and videos that are thematically related to urban decline and regeneration. The works will predominantly include productions from the Manchester/ Liverpool region. Julia Hallam will also advise on a series of film screenings in collaboration with the Berlin British Council that will be screening during the public exhibition period in Berlin.

**"Hacienda" by David Haslam:** Manchester based DJ, promoter (Hacienda) and author of the book "Manchester England" will explore links between the rise of popular music and urban renewal. Haslam's new work is inspired by an auction, held in November 2000, which sold off memorabilia of the legendary Hacienda club, which has been a key symbol of Manchester's urban renewal. Fifty current owners of such paraphernalia will be photographed

## Schrumpfende Städte

with the old bricks, mirrors, seating, etc., now on display in their private homes. The work will reveal a mental map of the ongoing myth of the club, which remains an integrative symbol for a generation. Dave Haslam will also compose a new sound piece to accompany the installation, juxtaposing past and current sounds of the Hacienda site, which has currently been redeveloped for luxury apartments. (format: photographs, text, sound piece)

**"Systems of Fear and self-defense" by Tom Jeffries**, architect: Head of Urbanism and Landscape College, Manchester University, has conducted a series of urban studies on post-industrial cities. Together with architect **Neil Swanson** and architect **Dominic Wilkinson** Jeffries will direct a research project on the widespread distrust and safety fears as of local residents following years of urban decline and its impact on the architecture and planning of new housing estates in the region. Even after crime rates fall an atmosphere persists where safety is a major priority for private home owners, generating new spatial typologies and reconfiguring the public spaces in large parts of the cities. The research will be conducted with the help of architecture students of Manchester University. (format: models, illustrated manual)

**"Study of urban geography" by Peter Lee**: Senior researcher at Centre for Urban and Regional Studies, University of Liverpool; conducted various urban research projects in the North-West of the UK and internationally. Peter Lee heads an urban geography research team, which will conduct new data research on the metropolitan region of Manchester and Liverpool. The team will focus on indicators that describe the spatial, social and economic transformation of the region during post-industrial regeneration. (format: diagrams and moving data, displayed on digital screens)

**"Call-center Sound" by Paul Rooney**: Manchester based sound and video artist Paul Rooney will develop a new work, which will continue his interest in 'voice service' industries, which have emerged and physically located in vacated areas previously dominated by manufacturing or trade. Rooney will investigate the social environment of the workplace at a regional call centre based on interviews conducted with employees. The interview texts will be reworked and set to music, performed and videoed for the exhibition. (format: 10 video monitors, sound, live performance)

**"Architectural entrepreneurialism" by Static (Paul Sullivan, Becky Shaw)**: The Liverpool based architect/artist collaborative will contribute an investigation of the role of architect/ developers such as Urban Splash to the transformation of Liverpool's urban fabric in recent years. The work will include a series of new interviews conducted with key figures from the industry, data research and a video based investigation of the nature of public and private spaces within recent commercial developments. (format: video interviews, diagrams and maps, data files)

**"Scotland Road - mental mappings" by Imogen Stidworthy**: Liverpool based sound and video artist Imogen Stidworthy will investigate the contrasting perceptions of urban spaces that whose built fabric has been cleared during the processes of slam-clearance and regeneration. Stidworthy will focus on the Scotland Road area in central Liverpool, which had once been a thriving centre for an Irish immigrant community. Today, only a widened thoroughfare and scattered pubs remain. In interviews and walks with former residents, the artist will record the mental map within the perception of local residents, invisible to any outsider passing through the area. (format: video, sound, drawings)

## SCHRUMPFENDE STÄDTE

**"Re-imagining the city" by Kevin Ward:** Lecturer at Geography Department at Manchester University, co-editor of the recent book "Manchester, city of revolution". Kevin Ward will contribute new research on the transformation of municipal decision making structures since the beginning of large-scale urban regeneration in Manchester. Kevin Ward will collaborate with Joshua Bolchover.

**"Dockers at Cammel Laird" by Tom Wood:** Liverpool based photographer Tom Wood will contribute a selection of photographs of the Cammel Laird shipyard in Liverpool, taken at the point of high redundancies and imminent closure. The exhibition will be the first public display of this work. (format: photographic display)

**"Left Behind" by Public Works (Kathrin Böhm, Andreas Lang):** London based art and architecture collaborative; projects include "Mobile Porch" an event infrastructure developed for Hammersmith Local Council, which was exhibited in several European countries. Public works will investigate the social and spatial landscape of areas that have been earmarked for demolition. The project "Left Behind" will focus on Norris Green (East Liverpool) and investigate reasons and motivations as well as the interaction between residents and newcomers who choose to live in an area, which is otherwise totally abandoned. (format: video production, project report, installation)

Consultant: Julia Hallam, Film expert, Liverpool

## Cooperating Institutions

### **Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst**

The Leipzig Gallery of Contemporary Art promotes and communicates international and national artistic positions. Occupying a Wilhelminian villa in Dresden, converted by the architect Peter Kulka, it primarily holds exhibitions of work by the new generation of artists, but also of historically significant pieces from recent decades. Since its opening in 1998, the gallery has grown into one of the leading institutions for contemporary art, not only in Germany's new eastern states, but also in the whole of Europe. One of its main concerns is the examination of architecture and town planning. As part of the *Shrinking Cities* project in 2004/2005, the Leipzig Gallery of Contemporary Art will commission work directly and award stipends, so as to initiate the development of interventions for eastern Germany. [www.gfzk.de](http://www.gfzk.de)

### **Arch+**

As an architectural magazine that focuses on issues, ARCH+ takes an in-depth look at a different subject in each edition. In doing so, ARCH+ does not display one project after another without comment, but works out new concepts and ideas on the basis of significant, key designs. Its articles examine questions to do with science and technology, politics, economics and ecology, making architecture known in a different way to the usual one. In 2004, ARCH+ magazine will hold an international, open competition in conjunction with the *Shrinking Cities* project.

## Schrumpfende Städte

[www.baunetz.de/arch/archplus](http://www.baunetz.de/arch/archplus)

### **Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau**

Set up in 1994, the foundation has two aims: firstly, to preserve the heritage of the historical Bauhaus and communicate it to the public; secondly, to contribute to the design of our environment today in the spirit of this tradition. Today, the building is more than a school, or a museum: it is a place of design, teaching and research that offers space for the study of towns and cities and all subjects that are of importance for our understanding of them today. In 2003 / 2004, as part of the *Shrinking Cities* project, the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation will initiate the development of interventions for eastern Germany by means of direct commissions and workshops. [www.bauhaus-dessau.de](http://www.bauhaus-dessau.de)

### **Kulturstiftung des Bundes**

The Federal Cultural Foundation was set up in March 2002 and its head office is in Halle an der Saale. The General Funding programme is open to applications made to the Federal Cultural Foundation for financial support for particular projects. The Federal Cultural Foundation also develops multi-part programmes of its own. The programmatic work of the Federal Cultural Foundation currently covers the following subjects: *Regional Focus on Eastern Europe, Cultural Aspects of German Unification, The Cultural Challenge of the 11th of September* and *Art and City*.

The *Shrinking Cities* project is part of the *Art and City* programme, in which the importance of urban developments for the cultural identity of modern societies is investigated and portrayed in diverse artistic forms. [www.kulturstiftung-bund.de](http://www.kulturstiftung-bund.de)

## Curatorial Team

**Philipp Oswalt**, architect and writer, Berlin

Born in 1964 in Frankfurt am Main. Studied architecture at the Technical University of Berlin and the School of Fine Arts, Berlin (diploma in 1995). 1988-94: editor on the architectural magazine ARCH+, also planned symposia, workshops, lecture programmes and exhibitions. 1996-97: worked for OMA / Rem Koolhaas (Rotterdam) and MVRDV (Rotterdam). 1998: set up his own practice. 2000: wrote "Berlin - Stadt ohne Form" (Berlin - City without form). 2000-02: Visiting Professor at the Brandenburg Technical University in Cottbus. 2001: set up Studio Urban Catalyst. 2002: began project directorship of *Shrinking Cities*. mailto: [os@shrinkingcities.com](mailto:os@shrinkingcities.com)

**Nikolaus Kuhnert**, Publisher and editor of the magazine ARCH+, Berlin

Born in 1939 in Potsdam. 1958-62: studied architecture and painting at the Technical University of Berlin, and the School of Fine Arts, Berlin, while also working in the architectural practices first of his father and then of Hans Scharoun. Since 1975: publisher and editor of the magazine ARCH+ (together with Marc Fester, Sabine Kraft and Günther Uhlig). 1979: doctorate at the Rhine-Westphalia Technical College in Aachen (subject: Social Elements of Architecture - Type and Definition of Type in the Context of Rational Architecture). Since 1983: Managing Editor of ARCH+. 1989: concept and organisation of Berlinmodell Industriekultur (with Otl Aicher). 1996: awarded the Erich Schelling Prize for Architectural Theory. mailto: [archplusberlin@gmx.de](mailto:archplusberlin@gmx.de)

**Kyong Park**, artist/curator, Detroit/New York

Born in 1955 in South Korea. Studied architecture at the University of Michigan. 1982-98: founder and Director of Store Front for Art and Architecture, New York. 1997: curator of Images of the Future: The Architecture of A New Geography for the Kaanggju Biennale in Korea. Since 1998: founder and Director of the ICUE (International Center for Urban Ecology) in Detroit. 2001: taught at the Southern California Institute of Architecture in Los Angeles and the Rhode Island School of Design/City University of New York. 2001: Visiting Professor of Architecture at the University of Detroit Mercy. Exhibition contributions: Archilab, Orleans (2001); Deichtorhallen, Hamburg (2002); Baden Art Association, Karlsruhe (2003). mailto: [icue.park@verizon.net](mailto:icue.park@verizon.net)

**Walter Prigge**, Sociologist, Dessau

Born in 1946 in Bremen. Studied sociology, philosophy, politics and architecture in Frankfurt am Main, later gaining his doctorate, professorship and teaching sociology there. After this, he wrote and researched on cities. Since 1996: member of the academic staff of the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, curator of events and exhibitions, editor and author of numerous publications. Main subjects: the city, space, society, architecture, building culture. mailto: [prigge@bauhaus-dessau.de](mailto:prigge@bauhaus-dessau.de)

**Barbara Steiner**, director, Leipzig Gallery of Contemporary Art

Born in 1964 in Vienna. 1984-90: studied Art History at the University of Vienna. 1990-92: post-graduate course for Curators at the State Academy, Krems. 1993-96: worked on exhibitions in Hamburg, Vienna and Cologne. Director of the Art Associations of Ludwigsburg (1997-98) and Wolfsburg (1999-2000). Since 2000: Lecturer at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, Copenhagen. 2001: doctorate at the University of Vienna (subject: On the Ideology of the White Cube in the Art of the Sixties and Seventies). Since 2001: Director of the Leipzig Gallery of Contemporary Art. mailto: [steiner@gfzk.de](mailto:steiner@gfzk.de)

## Local Curators

### Manchester/ Liverpool

Joshua Bolchover, architect, Manchester  
T +44 (0) 7986 464 524  
mailto: [jbolchover@hotmail.com](mailto:jbolchover@hotmail.com)

Paul Domela, curator, Liverpool  
Deputy Chief Executive  
Liverpool Biennial  
1 Maryland Street PO Box 1200  
Liverpool L69 1XB England  
T: +44 (0) 151 709 7444  
F: +44 (0) 151 709 7377  
mailto: [p.domela@biennial.org.uk](mailto:p.domela@biennial.org.uk)

Philipp Misselwitz, architect, Berlin / London  
T +49 30 70071702  
mailto: [philmisselwitz@aol.com](mailto:philmisselwitz@aol.com)

### Detroit

Kyong Park, architect, Detroit/ New York  
Mitch Cope, gallerist / artist, Tangent Gallery Detroit  
Dan Pitera, architect, Detroit

### Ivanovo

Sergey Sitar, architect / author, Moscow  
Alexander Sverdlov, architect, Moscow / Rotterdam

## Facts

Project Manager / Curator Philipp Oswalt  
architect / writer, Berlin

Project time frame September 2002 – June 2005

in cooperation with Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig  
Stiftung Bauhaus Dessau  
Arch+ magazine

Curatorial Team Nikolaus Kuhnert  
Arch+ magazine, Berlin

Kyong Park  
Intern. Center for Urban Ecology, Detroit

Walter Prigge  
Stiftung Bauhaus, Dessau

Barbara Steiner  
Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst, Leipzig

An initiative project of the Federal Cultural Foundation of Germany/ Halle

## Agenda

2003 International research by interdisciplinary teams in partner locations, specialist workshops and symposiums

2004 Design workshops, direct commissions, travel grants

Feb 2004 Competition, Arch+ Magazine

Sep/Oct 2004 Exhibition in Berlin (Kunstwerke), catalogue publication

April/May 2005 Exhibition of second phase in Leipzig, local interventions

2005 Exhibition will be shown in Moscow (Architectural Museum Moscow) and Liverpool/ Manchester

## Further Information:

Shrinking Cities Office  
Dr. Astrid Herbold (public relations)  
Eisenacherstr. 74  
D-10823 Berlin  
Phone +49 (0)30-818219-06  
Fax +49 (0)30-818219-12  
[press@shrinkingcities.com](mailto:press@shrinkingcities.com)  
[www.shrinkingcities.com](http://www.shrinkingcities.com)