

The greenhouse (effect). Dialogue space for the climate emergency

Brief of the UD Professorship and the TUM architecture museum

In 2019, Munich's city council declared the climate emergency. But apart from weather extremes, increasing coverage in the media, and regular demonstrations, this emergency is still very far away from everyday life. Meanwhile, public opinion is drifting apart, conspiracy theories are gaining ground, and the fight for humankind's survival is turned into the subject for a "culture war". What can we, as architects, as experts for space, do to change this? As a part of a possible answer, the group will be given the brief to design a dialogue space (with an according program) for the climate emergency as a prototype. It is to be operated under the roof of the TUM Architecture Museum in 2024, opening on February 28th 2024 and operating throughout spring and summer.

The dialogue room with the working title "The greenhouse (effect)" will accompany the exhibition "Gift of Architecture / Gifted Cities" curated by Prof. Łukasz Stanek (University of Michigan) and Dr. sc. Damjan Kokalevski (TUM Architecture Museum) together with teams of researchers in four countries. The exhibition content is based on the long-term research of Prof. Łukasz Stanek on the territorial and cultural implications of architectures offered as gifts in various geographies and socio-political contexts. Building on the premise that no gift is neutral, the exhibition explores notions of uneven power relations and negotiations in the process of gift giving, including the receiving and/or refusing a gift, designing a gift, negotiating a gift, violence of a gift, and reciprocity of a gift.

The idea is to take up the idea of the gift with the dialogue space in several ways:

- By trying to obtain a used greenhouse as a gift (or for a small amount of money)
- By obtaining sponsoring for the operation of the space, understanding the multiple implications of sponsoring
- By understanding (mutual / university) education as a gift that is given to us by society, through society, and that can be taken as an incentive to give back something
- By raising awareness of the biosphere as a gift that has been given to us, and that is worth treasuring.

To avoid discontinuation of the efforts after the exhibition closes, our aim is to use the greenhouse (effect) to serve as the founding period for an agency that operates it and that is to continue after the exhibition. This agency, "Office for Deep Transformation", is envisioned as a "do-tank" operating in between university, architectural practices, and civil society. Its agenda will be drawn up together but also improved in the time that the exhibition runs, using different workshop settings to sharpen its agenda.

It will be the group's task to:

- Come up with a concept for how the space is conceived and operated (both logistically and in terms of the program)
- Co-create the "Office for Deep Transformation" with the Professorship and the practice BHSF as how an urbanistic agency of the future could look like
- Look for a greenhouse – a (potentially movable) greenhouse is a first idea, which can also be challenged
- Search for sponsoring, but also dive into the world of "urban gifts" such as used books, used furniture, etc.

- Work on how information about the climate emergency could be conveyed using discussion or workshop formats, working on ideas of agency and participation
- Analyze and project the urbanistic implications of the greenhouse (effect).

Group size: max. 5