

# *URBAN DENSIFICATION* **THE CHALLENGE FOR OPEN SPACE**

International Conference at Vienna University of Technology  
**28th/29th September 2017**

## URBAN DENSIFICATION - THE CHALLENGE FOR OPEN SPACE

More than 75 % of Europe's population now lives in urban areas and the proportion continues to grow. The corresponding pressure for new development in a **finite space** is leading to increases in **urban density** and in many cities is stimulating a debate about how to deal with the last remaining reserves of urban land. At the same time there is a growing **awareness** of the importance of **green and blue infrastructure** and its role in providing urban ecosystem services.

Usable urban open space - especially green space - is consistently viewed as a key factor in determining **quality of life** and as an influence on people's choice of where to live. High quality open spaces are therefore among the most important factors in the development of new and in the renewal of existing urban areas.

*How will it be possible to do justice to the increasing importance of urban green and open spaces despite the need for denser development in towns and cities? Can we resolve this apparent contradiction?*

**The Conference brings together international specialists from city administrations, research and practice to report on current European strategies and experience as well as presenting examples of specific projects. In doing so it aims to initiate a debate on future possibilities, both for the City of Vienna and similar metropolitan areas.**

Furthermore, **climate change** is bringing with it new threats to our towns and cities which can be ameliorated by well designed open spaces. Phenomena such as extended summer heat waves, increased air pollution and extreme rainfall events, are both a challenge and an opportunity for urban open space in the context of the city as a whole.

In a rapidly growing city such as Vienna, this **pressure on open space** can already be clearly felt. Numerous other cities in Europe are facing similar challenges and **innovative new visions** are being developed, which aim to combine all aspects: higher built densities with an attractive urban living environment as well as responding to urban climate issues.

*How can new development be accommodated while at the same time promoting the creation of an attractive and liveable urban environment?*

## PRESENTATIONS on Thursday, 28th

### **SUSANNE METZ, City of Hamburg**

Department of Urban Development and Housing  
*Strategies for open space and urban densification*

### **ANDREAS KIPAR, LAND**

Milan, Duisburg, Lugano  
*Greening the city - Green rays Milan*

### **JANET SANZ, City of Barcelona**

Department for Ecology, Urban Development and Mobility  
*Strategic interventions - Superblocks plus*

### **GERHARD HAUBER, Ramboll Studio Dreiseitl**

Überlingen, Beijing, Hamburg, Singapore  
*Water in the dense city*

### **JÜRGEN PREISS, City of Vienna**

Environmental Department  
*Urban Heat Islands - Strategy Plan Vienna*

### **DIRK VAN PEIJPE, De Urbanisten**

Rotterdam  
*Rotterdam 3rd dimension - water squares and roofscape*

### **JOSÉ MANUEL CALVO DEL OLMO, City of Madrid**

Department for Sustainable Urban Development  
*Large scale - beyond Madrid Río*

### **EDZO BINDELS, West 8 Urban Design & Landscape Architecture**

Rotterdam, New York, Brussels  
*Dense city - challenge for open space*

## EXCURSION on Friday, 29th

Guided tour along the U2 subway line (public transport included)

### **Stuwerviertel**, Redensification Wilhelmskaserne and Viertel 2

Recent urban development within the highly dense 2nd citydistrict of Vienna

### **Aspern**, Viennas's Urban Lakeside

Up-to-date one of the largest urban development sites in Europe in the outskirts of Vienna

### Conference organisers

Department of Landscape Architecture, TU Wien

### Venue

TU Wien - Kuppelsaal, 1040 Vienna, Karlsplatz 13, 4th floor

### Registration fee

Conference	120 Euro / students free (registration required)
	100 Euro early bird until 31st May 2017
Dinner on 28th	50 Euro

### REGISTRATION

until Friday, **8th September 2017**

**online:** [www.landscape.tuwien.ac.at](http://www.landscape.tuwien.ac.at)

**Email:** [landscape.2017@tuwien.ac.at](mailto:landscape.2017@tuwien.ac.at)

*Building land tends to appear of its own accord,  
even when one is not looking to designate it.  
Open spaces on the other hand, have the tendency to disappear  
if one fails to take active care of them!*

Fritz Schumacher, (Hamburg City Director of Planning) 1932

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