

## I A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE FUTURE / II MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP

Written by Gabriella Sarges / March 2023



LiMa – view from the kitchen

In Berlin, one has to be careful that history does not repeat itself nowadays in the southern Friedrichstadt, as happened in the 1970's, when the corrupt Berlin Senate, also called the "Berlin Filz" supported the demolition of residential buildings in favor of profit-oriented new development. Southern Friedrichstadt, which to this day has been shaped by existing bomb holes from the Second World War and therefore still has the capacity for urban densification. We see a serious danger here for this old Berlin residential area, for the people who have lived here for a long time and then



also for the LiMa Wohnhof over the period of the next two decades, because the LiMa Wohnhof, a green oasis in the center of Berlin, does not bring any Money.

We propose that by 2030 the LiMa Wohnhof be further developed proactively and as a model as a climate-oriented and social architecture and project in its neighborhood according to the difficult requirements of the 21st century, thus bringing it now safely into the future in its unique social and historical position. We are guided by the COP21 climate resolutions in Paris in 2015, as well as by HABITAT III, the UN sustainability goals in 2016, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in particular the SDG 11 on inclusive and resilient cities.



Adaptation and Mitigation: Lima citrus harvest in social housing in the center von Berlin





## Climate change and urban concepts

A rapidly growing economy in the last century after World War II has brought us much freedom, but at the same time it has disengaged and isolated us from our traditional relationships and ways of working. The fast-paced development caused by technology, climate change, pandemics and war is now hitting an internally frayed and consumption-spoilt Western society with all the greater force.



LiMa north with a view of the neighbors' yard

The way from the city to the study is a gradation of passages, rooms, interspaces that I pass through, just as the rooms and interspaces in my own four walls are different gradations of the private and public, in which I then can live with my own family or with friends or alone.



LiMa: While the friends are eating, D. observes a police operation





## HOMO FABER – THE ACTIVE MAN

In the future we will see water scarcity and ever-increasing food costs, even the unaffordability of food that we take for granted today, because extreme weather and species extinction, a chain reaction from the laws of nature, are now unfolding. For this new and seemingly sudden situation, we not only need a functioning private exchange and sharing economy, but also the ability to do business and produce privately, and that is only possible in an architecture, i.e. in spaces that make this possible.



LiMa Hofgarten on an early summer evening in the year of drought 2022

Seen and being seen is an evolutionary imprint. Eye contact is used to find out if someone is friend or foe. At LiMa, evolution and civilization are clearly interlinked in



the concept of architectural design. The former as the inexorably changing in a conservative way, and the latter as a polyvalent and multi-perspective design for a permeable, egalitarian and heterogeneous reality and social experiment, an architecture in which human needs are actually and demonstrably even paramount. This is often simply only asserted in architecture.



Survival in the year of drought

Sitting in the LiMa glass tower, I watch a hooded crow with its two young birds persevering at 35 degrees C. The mother crow explores the containers with water on the LiMa terraces and now leads her children to the drinking trough that has been tested as safe. She knows that she will find water here, so her search is successful and that makes the animal resilient. We humans also gain resilience when we can help ourselves and others to survive.



## RESISTING DOMINATION AND EXERCISING SELFCONTROL IN THE TIME OF CLIMATE CHANGE - THE CHARLES DARWIN PROGRAM –

The Charles Darwin program, developed on the terraces, in the greenhouses, gardens and kitchens of LiMa, seeks to implement the sustainability goals on a local and private level in everyday life.



From the LiMa roof planting garden in 2022: In the foreground the shiny yellow, fragrant gold lacquer (*Erysimum cheiri*) It took five years for the robust gold lacquer to assert itself against the heat and cold in the extreme temperatures on the terrace.

### 1.The natural balance

One can learn from the essence of nature. We form natural households in the different climate zones and territories of the residential courtyard. We are settling

birds and insects. We learn to observe plants, animals and the weather and slowly recognize the connections between stable but also fragile coexistence and cooperation. We recognize the laws of nature and in them the existing duration of the emergence, growth and decay of the organic matter.



Herbs grown on the LiMa roof - three months of work

## **2. Real food - versus industrial food - versus waste**

We sow herbs and lettuce and harvest our own fruit. We compost with worm boxes and compost houses and produce our own fertilizer. We create our own house specialties, we make our own bee honey on the roofs of social housing. We establish biodiversity research groups for children on our own rooftops. We critically involve the neighborhood supermarket in educational campaigns on industrial trade designs. We cooperate critically and imaginatively with the trade.





Tiny kitchen as a concept against the industrial design of too much

### 3. LiMa Kitchenlab

We create different cuisines and process our vegetables, herbs and fruits there. LiMa creations developed during the pandemic: the children's kitchen cooking program **KKK**; the **Tiny Kitchen** program for singles, the sick and working people; **the concept of the king's kitchen** KK - the rest is king - zero waste -; there are many more concepts that different people develop differently. Diversity and creativity is the prerequisite for the solutions to the misery that have arisen worldwide through homogeneous industrial concepts.

#### 4. ANIMAL PROTECTION AND SPECIES PROTECTION = HUMAN PROTECTION

In the exploitation of so-called farm animals in our food industry - for example the hens and cows - there is no animal welfare in Europe. We suppress our inhumanity when consuming, but you can even read it on the packaging.



It is time that we exhibit and discuss rubbish so that as citizens of this world we become more aware of what we do when we consume and what packaging and advertising actually is.





The garbage room is often the hottest combat zone. Why is that like that?

## 5.WASTE ROOM - CLIMATE ROOM - THINKING ABOUT WASTE - SHIFT OF MIND -

On March 2, 2022, at UNEA 5.2, the governments of the world adopted the mandate for a legally binding agreement to end the plastic crisis. This is a historic moment for global environmental protection and marine conservation. But how do we actually implement this agreement privately, because waste production is also our problem.



## Permeability

Permeable structures in the architecture of Herman Hertzberger through which the light, the air and the sound of the world can flow in - even in the garbage room - this space, equipped with water, air exhaust and electricity, can even function as a kitchen.





CLIMATE INITIATIVE  
BERLIN



LiMa – Garbage room – where flowers can blossom







A beautiful flower can be an "arbitrary marker, which marks, that this place matters to someone. An arbitrary intrusive object like a colorful plant changes the path of a development. Arbitrariness is raising the value." (Richard Sennett)



Citrus aurantium in LiMa

Habits of thinking can be changed by a new experience. We need permeable spaces that can fulfill as many functions as possible. Spaces are possibilities to develop life.\*

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