

MORE BERLIN

A wealthy poor city, the Mecca of capitalism and anarchists, the field of grass-roots activism and high-end developments – even two decades after the fall of the Berlin wall the city is charged with the electricity of confrontations. In Berlin, the division of Europe into East and West is clearly visible. The contrasts of Berliners' lifestyles remind us, outside observers, that nothing in urban space should be taken for granted. Urbanists are left to recognise that the pioneers come from Berlin. Indeed, a city mauled by two waves of gentrification is closely linked with themes also close to our hearts – **temporary uses, participatory planning and urban activism**. The Berlin special, BrIn U, speaks of **resistance and doing things differently – inside and outside the system**.

We open with a look at how Berlin became the city we know today, by the Ph.D. candidate at Estonia University of Life Sciences **Jekaterina Balicka**. Katja draws our attention to the fact that the roots of the contemporary trendy aura of the city can be traced back to the decades following the Second World War. The story of resistance against large developments on the riverbanks of Spree, is told coherently by a Tallinn urbanist from Linnalabor, **Regina Viljasaar** and strategic designer/architect **Jörn Frenzel** from Berlin. We also had an opportunity to interview **Rebecca Solfrian** from Coopolis, and organisation that looked for a spot in the system, but ended up being part in defining the identity of a whole Neukölln neighbourhood. Building a bridge between urban and transport planning on the radial streets of Berlin is a topic for another project rebelling within the system – **Think Berl!n's 'Radikal Radial'**, here introduced by NGO's member **Cordelia Polinna**. An exceptionally interesting story of looking at one's own place/home which describes the feelings of East Berliners after the fall of the wall has been written by **Linda Rezvan**, a PhD student from the University of Belfast. A wandering Estonian urbanist in Berlin, **Triin Pitsi**, writes about resistance outside the system and squatted houses – which is relevant here given the heated discussions about shutting down the only squat in Estonia, in Tartu. Actual rebellion, in the form of left-wing street demonstrations, are here documented in a series called **'reflesh'** by **Ivar Veermäe**, an Estonian artist and photographer residing in Berlin.

There are not many urbanists who own their own transportable open mic called **'Occupy'** (www.dapeoplesmic.wordpress.com). Alan Prohm, a Berlin resident and appreciated lecturer in Estonia, answers the question **'Who is an urbanist?'**. His answer is definitely worth a read – it is a thoughtful expression of resistance, and an invitation to act. Even though Alan usually comes to Estonia in the spring the urban studies programme takes place around the year. In U13 we try to blow life into a column **'In Academia'** that introduces student projects, texts, and ambitions. This time we are happy to present an urban studies studio project from Estonian Academy of Arts called **'Northern Tallinn – between 'Potential' and the everyday'**. The spring semester began with a great workshop preparing for the 2013 architecture biennial **TAB**. Details of the pre-event project and the workshop can be found from **Anna-Liisa Unt's** overview.

U13 is, as before, conveniently accessible online. You are also welcome to print it out from the PDF. It is also possible to print each article separately. Please print less, but share and spread more! Let us know what you think.

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