

## Baukultur/Building Process (Cottbus 20./21.11.03)

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- Vozdushnyi zamok

Call for Papers

'Baukultur' (Architecture and Culture)

State of the Art in the Building Process / Civilization of the  
Building Process

Urban Culture - Culture of Life

Conference 2003/1 on November 20-21, 2003.

Museum of 'Brandenburgische Kunstsammlungen Cottbus

Deadline 10. November 2003

organized by:

the journal , <<http://www.cloud-cuckoo.net/>>

Wolkenkuckucksheim -

Cloud-Cuckoo-Land - Vozdushnyi zamok',

the chair 'Theory of Architecture' of the Brandenburg University of  
Technology (BTU) Cottbus,

the <<http://www.semiotik.org/>>

German Association for Semiotic  
Studies

- Section 'Architecture, Urban Planning and Landscape Planning',  
and the <<http://www.irs-net.de/index.php>>

Institute for Regional

Development and Structural Planning

During the last few months in Germany a large discussion on  
'Baukultur' has evolved, and a national foundation is going to be  
established. But what is 'Baukultur'? The term can literally be  
translated as 'the culture of building'. But what does this mean?

As various publications have pointed out, the activities are mainly  
about the negotiations for a behavior codex for all who are  
professionally involved in the building process (private and public  
clients, architects, urbanists, construction industry, developer).

The term generally means 'state of the art in the building process'  
and 'civilization of the interactions in this process'. But the

activities since last year have also initiated **a further campaign for preservation**, a concentration on prestigious buildings on strategical and outstanding sites downtown, **a demand for 'quality'; in which the term unfortunately remains vague, so that it is taken to reconstruct traditional concepts of 'Kulturarbeiten' (Schultze-Naumburg), to realize an elitist and exclusive understanding of culture, and to use it to push through political aims in the areas of art, discipline, status and government, and** the substitution of an intellectual 'leadership' by the government for the usual financial support.

The concept of 'Baukultur' also remains vague because building professionals are singling themselves out, and the 'usual suspects' in Germany in the discussion on architecture (scholars of sociology, theory and history of architecture, humanities, philosophy) except for some few have been excluded until now.

It is further necessary to extend the field of discussion on 'Baukultur': it contains the building process and the building itself at the moment but hardly the improvement of the quality of living, the discussion of life within the architecture, and of urbanity, the interests of the users and citizens are not covered.

That's why the conference will deal with questions on four perspectives:

A theoretical architectural perspective:

Which concept of architecture is implied in the term 'Baukultur'? How are the relations between art, function, practice, infrastructure, materiality and virtuality in architecture? In which signs, languages, codes, symbol systems can 'Baukultur' being realized, how does 'Baukultur' develop a basis for communication?

A cultural perspective:

What is the understanding of culture if one speaks of 'Baukultur'? What has 'Baukultur' to do with different urban cultures? What does 'respect for history', which is demanded in this discussion, mean? Which history? Whose history?

An aesthetical and aesthetic perspective:

Which understanding of art and beauty is in the discussion on 'Baukultur' at stake? Are the modern art concepts of the 20th century integrated? How can an up-to-date architectural and urban aesthetics be formulated? How are architectural beauty and art and 'Baukultur' differentiated?

A social and sociological perspective:

How can heterogeneous demands on the city and how can changing social conditions being addressed by 'Baukultur'? How is the relation between 'Baukultur' and democracy and 'Baukultur' and a human habitat? What shall and can 'Baukultur' do to establish a living culture?

Organization:

Chair 'Theory of Architecture', Brandenburg Technical University, Cottbus (Eduard Fuehr),  
German Society of Semiotics - Section 'Architecture, Urban Planning and Landscape Planning' (Claus Dreyer / Susanne Hauser),  
Institute for Regional Development and Structural Planning (Dieter Keim)

If you like to take part in our conference, we ask you for enrolment by November 10, 2003 (by the form via the Internet address or in the attachment or simply via e-mail).

We would be glad to welcome you on our conference in Cottbus. And it would be very kind of you to inform also interested colleagues and students.

pp. Ehrengard Heintzig

Further information:

<http://www.theo.tu-cottbus.de/Wolke/eng/Conference/conference.htm>  
<http://www.theo.tu-cottbus.de/Wolke/eng/Conference/conference.htm>

Reference:

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