

Introduction into the Film Project of the Paula Fürst School, Berlin

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How do we want to live in future?

The topic «Utopia and Attitude», viewed in relation to the question: «How do we want to live?», proved very challenging for us as participants in the first semester of an advanced art course, at a time when Fridays for Future and #me too are triggering a mood of change and new beginnings. We began to address the following questions:

- × What role does Berlin's architecture play in our lives? What stories does it tell and how does it affect us in everyday life?
- × What role has Modernism played in Berlin's urban development?
- × Would we prefer to live in an old or new building?
- × Do we have prejudices against life in anonymous-looking housing estates?
- × Why were new buildings and housing estates built?
- × What alternatives exist and which changes could be made?
- × Finally: How do our utopias look and what attitude do we need to put them into practice?

A number of groups emerged, each dealing with a different issue. The assignment was to make a short film for the symposium that would visualize the focus of interest in each case and put it up for discussion.

We worked out and developed the ideas for the films and the storyboards in portfolios, in which we also documented our research on contemporary approaches such as Tiny Houses, urban gardening etc.

Before we started filming, we needed to acquire an understanding of film, finding out more about cinematic means, cinematography,

editing, dramaturgy etc. Drawing on an analysis of the opening sequence of Wolfgang Staudte's 1945 film *Die Mörder sind unter uns* (*The Murderers are Among Us*), we built on our existing knowledge of film and dramaturgy, while also developing a clear awareness of the post-war situation in Berlin, which had such a strong influence on urban development.

Our assignment also involved integrating a quote from this film—and we all found the famous shot of the two protagonists looking out of the window at Berlin's cityscape the most striking scene. That is why a window motif now plays an important, knowledge-oriented role in each of our films.

A total of seven different project ideas were developed and we decided that we would work together in groups on three project days to shoot and edit four of these ideas for the symposium, as well as setting the films to music:

Schöne Neue Welt [Brave New World]

This film begins by depicting a dystopian Berlin: People live in estates devoid of all individuality, nature has vanished, and the air is so polluted that everyone needs to wear respiratory masks (September 2019!) A young man decides to take action and starts planting flowers. This triggers a miracle in the metropolis, as the once so dystopian-looking city starts to change as if by magic ...

Small Changes Are Bigger Than You Think

This film was made by school students who live at Jakob-Kaiser-Platz and have often lost their way there because all the houses look so similar. Once again, young people take the initiative and start to bring about changes ...

Less Is More

In this film, prejudices against life in modern housing estates, such as Gropiusstadt, Siemensstadt or Märkisches Viertel, are called into question. Along with her parents, who hardly have any time in their usual daily routines, a girl who lives in a detached house visits a friend and her family in Siemensstadt, where things are much more fun and with a much stronger sense of community. There's a particular twist here: the family members in both families are played by the same actors/school students, which can also lead to confusion at first glance.

Time For Change

The pupils who made this film find Berlin's architecture monotonous and boring. They would like to see even more modern, future-oriented and striking architecture for Berlin, inspired, for example, by Dubai. They take to the streets and demonstrate to try to achieve that.

Our wish for a world of creativity and imagination and our awareness that we must do something ourselves to achieve that are common strands shared by all our ideas. And we very much hope that we can also continue to develop this attitude in this COVID-19 era.



Mohamad Abed, Nergis Al-Ali, Sara Bolghak,
Maryam Chehade, Arzu Demirtas,
Leticia-Lucia Dudzik, Amani El-Batraoui,
Oskar Eumann, Jakob Isermann,
Celine Kouchmeshki, Sibel Latifova,
Nina Anna Nadziak, Melody Prinz,
Saskia Schäfer, Marie Elisabeth Siganur,
Jale Töremis, Lara-Joanne Wurzbacher



Schöne Neue Welt [Brave New World]

Change requires an initiator, a beginning, because even a <miracle> needs someone to make it happen. The film depicts a miracle in a grey frustrating world and how a small effort can turn into something larger.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qRR8NNI7HIU&list=PL0dx1-02TAZVKnqyoFqMWTr3yQEzldN-2&index=5>



Small Changes Are Bigger Than You Think

The film portrays a sense of disorientation and loneliness triggered by modern housing, which is perceived as monotonous. This isolation is so pronounced that even the wish for change, nourished by dreams of a more colourful world, gives rise to action that is taken alone.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kh1i-47YfDI&list=PL0dx1-02TAZVKnqyoFqMWTr3yQEzldN-2&index=2&t=11s>



Less Is More

The film brings two contrasting forms of living face to face, along with the mindsets associated with them. It comes to a realization that prosperity does not bring happiness, which can instead be sparked anywhere by human interactions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JMso487eCo0&list=PL0dx1-02TAZVKnqyoFqMWTr3yQEzldN-2&index=7>



Time For Change

«Something's got to change right now» calls for a future that is completely different and draws on the image of Dubai. But what do we actually lack and what do we project into the image of technologized luxury?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-O1Bu4Eos-s&list=PL0dx1-02TAZVKnqyoFqMWTr3yQEzldN-2&index=6>