



CONSULTING

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Berlin

“Bremer Höhe” Cooperative



While the German capital is still struggling with a strong housing crisis after mass privatization of the former public housing stock and rising rents, old cooperative models from the 19th century are being renewed. One example where former tenants become cooperative members of the cooperative is an old rundown tenement building at 59 Schönhauser Allee in the quickly gentrifying district of Prenzlauer Berg which is now being refurbished in a joint effort of the tenants, the city, and the district. The cooperative also wants to demonstrate that such projects can contribute to environment and

climate protection: A new energy concept includes heat pumps, heat and power generation, and photovoltaic panels, the latter of which developed in cooperation with the Berlin office of listed monuments. Bremer Höhe Cooperative, founded in 2000, has meanwhile acquired and refurbished around 850 dwellings, demonstrating that sustainable renewal can be achieved without speculation against tenants.

For more info see:
<https://www.bremer-hoehe.de/>

Vienna

Re-using empty shop units for tourism

Many European cities are facing a double problem: While huge shopping centers have been built in periphery areas old shops have been closing down in inner city districts leaving empty spaces at ground level. At the same time more and more apartments are being used for touristic purposes via air bnb, thus reducing affordable housing in the city. "Grätzlhotel" (literally neighborhood hotel) offers a solution to both: Empty shop spaces have been transformed into hotel rooms offering low-budget accommodation in attractive centrally located areas to those who seek alternatives to globally uniformed hotels and to the traps of over tourism. After booking online guests receive an access code, and breakfasts are provided in nearby cafés where guests get easily in touch with locals rather than staying in standardized hotels. This offers also an advantage to Inner city areas which thus avoid unattractive vacancies at ground level often leading to a downward spiral of such neighborhoods.



For more info see:
<https://www.graetzlhotel.com>

Wolfgang Fiel (ed.): Coming Full Circle. Nachhaltige Architektur von Baumschlager Hutter Partners

Carlo Baumschlager and Jesco Hutter have long been among the pioneers of ecologically sustainable building often focusing on low-tech rather than expensive high-tech solutions which have influenced architecture around Europe. This thematic monography presents 11 buildings by Baumschlager Hutter Partners with several specific indurations as well as plans and images. The volume also includes a very helpful glossary of the relevant terminology. Coming Full Circle, Basel (Birkhäuser) 2022 ISBN: 978-3-03562433- (German only)

