

BERLIN-BEIJING LEARNING CITIES MAP 北京柏林学习中的城市地图

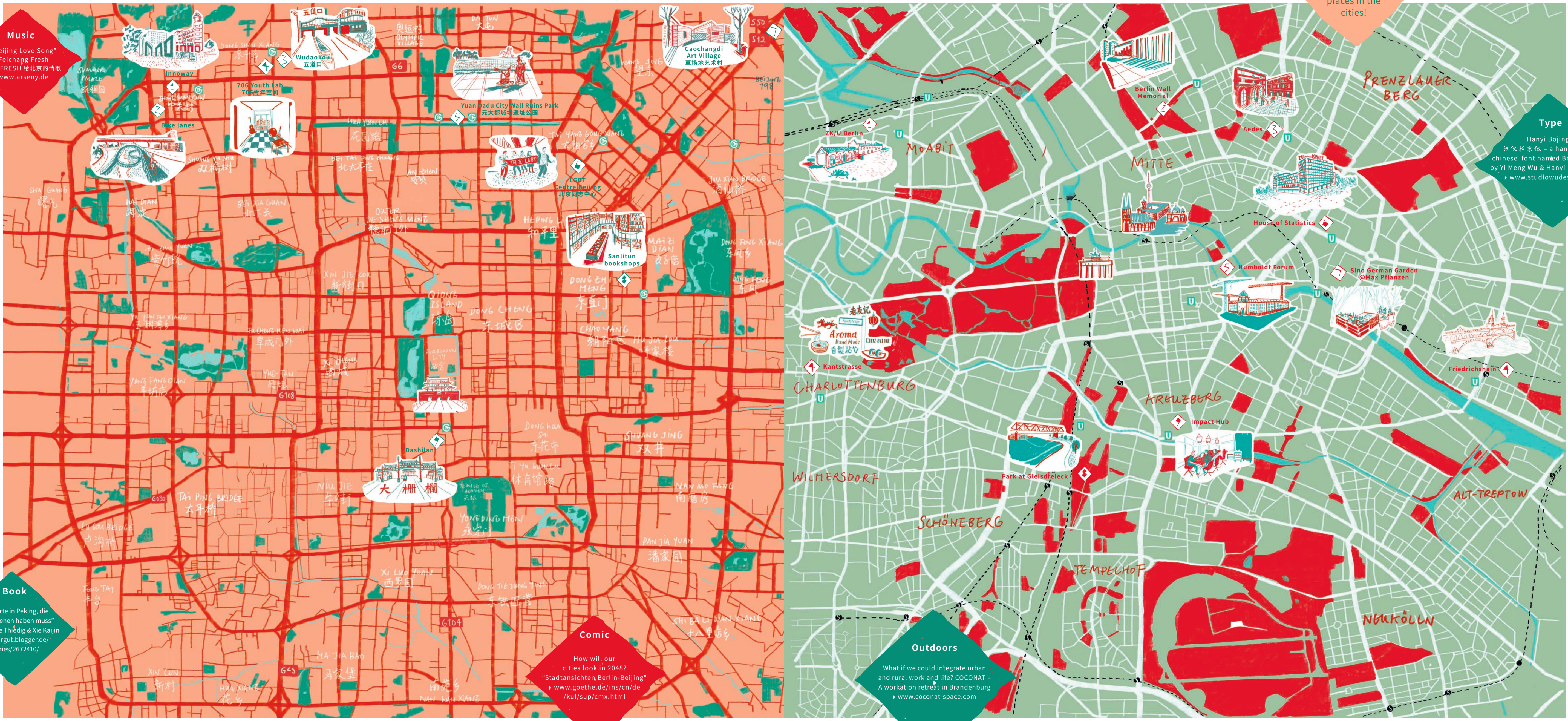
Mapping the Existing - Revealing Opportunities 记录当下,展望未来 宜居城市建设的互相学习和不断创新 For the twin cities to further learn and innovate for liveable city making



Actual proportions of the cities in comparison: 16,808 km², 21.7 million, 16 districts vs 892 km², 3.6 million, 12 districts

New Places? Contact us for further interesting places in the cities!

Type: Hanyu Bojingti, a hand-written Chinese font named Beijing-Berlin by Yi Meng Wu & Hanyu Fonts Beijing



Music: A Beijing Love Song - Feichang Fresh - 非常FRESH 给北京的情歌

Book: 111 Orte in Peking, die man gesehen haben muss

Comic: How will our cities look in 2048? - Stadtansichten, Berlin-Beijing

Outdoors: What if we could integrate urban and rural work and life? COCONAT

PLACES & SPACES selected locations representing aspects and concepts for creative, liveable and sustainable cities

- List of 15 locations with descriptions: Innoway, Wudaokou, Yuan Dadu City Wall Ruins Park, Caochangdi Art Village, Dashilar, Berlin Wall Memorial, Kantstraße & Friedrichshain, House of Statistics, Park at Gleisdreieck, Bicycle Highway, 706 Youth Lab, LGBT Center Beijing, Sanlitun bookshops, ZK/U Zentrum für Kunst und Urbanistik, Aedes Architecture Forum, Humboldt Forum, Sino German Garden, Impact Hub.



北京柏林 学习中的城市地图

BERLIN-BEIJING LEARNING CITIES MAP



PERSONAL CITY PERCEPTIONS

Die Pekinger Mischung

Nein, man kann nicht sagen, dass Peking eine schöne Stadt ist. Sicher: Es gibt eine Menge prächtiger Sehenswürdigkeiten von Weltrang – die Verbotene Stadt, den Himmelstempel, den Sommerpalast, den Lama Tempel und das, was von der Hofhausbebauung der Altstadt übrig geblieben ist. Und auch das neue Peking kann mit Glanzstücken aufwarten, wie mit der von Rem Koolhaas gebaute CCTV-Zentrale, dem Kunstdistrikt 798, Zaha Hadids Galaxy Solo, der neuen Magnetschwebebahn in Mentougou oder dem Citic-Tower im Central Business District. Doch wirklich schön – so wie etwa Paris, Rom, Stockholm oder München – ist der Rest der Stadt nun wirklich nicht.

Doch dieser Mangel fehl in der Vergangenheit kaum ins Gewicht. Er wurde nämlich durch eine gewisse Unaufgeräumtheit und Verkrempelung ausgeglichen. Selbst in den sterilensten Hochhausvierteln fanden sich Tante-Emma-Läden, kleine Straßenmärkte, fliegende Händler und Snackverkäufer, illegale Bars und zusammengeziemte Restaurants. Bevölkert wurde diese facettenreiche Stadt nicht nur von alteingesessenen Pekingern, sondern auch von Zuwanderern aus dem Rest des Reiches, aus Anhui, Sichuan, Guizhou oder Yunnan. Hatten diese nur eine Zeit lang Stadtluft geatmet, erwiesen sie sich als mindestens ebenso gewitzt, renitent und begabt in Improvisation wie die Ureinwohner. Dazu gesellten sich Wahlpekinger aus aller Welt – Amerikaner, Australier, Koreaner, Afrikaner und Europäer. Viele wollten nur ein paar Wochen bleiben, blieben dann aber kleben, weil sie sich der einzigartigen Pekinger Mischung aus Tradition, Improvisation und Moderne nicht entziehen konnten.

Seitdem nun aber die Stadtreinigung beschlossen hat, die Hauptstadt herauszuputzen, um sie auf Weltmetropolenniveau zu bringen, ist diese eigentliche Schönheit bedroht. Alles Illegale Errichtete und übermäßig Bunte soll aus Pekings Straßen verschwinden: Läden, Bars, Galerien, Stände der Lammspiegler und Pfannkuchenverkäufer. Sogar zu groß geratene Schriftzeichen an Polizeistationen und auf Dächern von Staatsverlagen fallen dem Reinemachen zum Opfer. Barviertel verwandeln sich in poshe, plastikblumengeschmückte Fußgängerzonen, in denen jetzt nach Einbruch der Dunkelheit so viel Leben herrscht wie auf dem Babaoan-Friedhof im Westen Pekings. Zugegeben, nicht alles an der großen Umgestaltung ist schlecht: An der Peripherie der Stadt sind im Norden, Westen und Süden gewaltige Parks entstanden, sämtliche Kohlekraftwerke auf dem Stadtgebiet wurden abgerissen und auch Kohlehausbrand ist jetzt verboten. Das hat die Luftqualität in der Stadt dramatisch verbessert. Und darüber, dass den zweiten Ring jetzt ein Grünanlagenband einrahmt und über das perfekt funktionierende, sechshundert Kilometer lange U-Bahnnetz, kann man nun auch nicht meckern.

Doch mit den Eckgeschäften und Restaurants, den Märkten, Kneipen und Galerien sind auch viele der Menschen verschwunden, die das Leben in Peking so abwechslungsreich machten. Geblieben sind die mittleren und höheren Angestellten und alle anderen, die sich das Leben in der oberbürgerlichen und inzwischen auch recht kostspieligen Stadt leisten können. Sie leben nun wie höhere Angestellte überall auf der Welt.

Ich bin mir aber sicher, dass dieser Trend zum Uniformen nicht von langer Dauer sein wird. Peking zeichnet sich nämlich auch dadurch aus, dass die Stadt immer wieder eine andere wurde. Selbst der Ort, an dem sie vor rund 3.000 Jahren gegründet wurde, lag rund zwanzig Kilometer vom heutigen Stadtkern entfernt. Danach ist die Stadt dann immer wieder nach Nordosten gewandert, und nahm auf dem Weg immer neue Namen an: Ji, Yanjing, Zhongdu, Dada, Beijing, Beijing. So glaube ich auch, dass in dem Moment, in dem die Stadtreinigung für ein paar Augenblicke nicht aufpasst, sich die alte unaufgeräumte Schönheit wieder herstellt. Dann kommt auch die alte Pekinger Mischung zurück, die diese Stadt so attraktiv gemacht hat.

Christian Y. Schmidt, geb. 1956, Journalist, Satiriker und Schriftsteller, lebt in Peking und Berlin. Er schrieb diverse Bücher über China, darunter die Reiseerzählung „Allein unter 1,3 Milliarden. Eine chinesische Reise von Shanghai nach Kathmandu“. Letzte Veröffentlichung: der Mysterienroman „Der letzte Huelsenbeck“ (Rowohlt, Berlin 2018).

HISTORIC TIMELINE

- 1822 The first two Chinese men from Guangzhou arrived in Berlin and were "put on display" on Behrensstraße.
1901 18-year-old Prince Chun visited Berlin to atone for the Boxer Rebellion at the Marmorosal in Potsdam.
1922-1923 The future Chinese premier Zhou Enlai lived in Berlin to re-cure for the Communist Party.
1923 Tientsin restaurant opened in Charlottenburg, the social center of the more affluent members of the Chinese community.
1952 East Berlin: China invites GDR Bauhaus-inspired architects to design a military factory (Joint Factory 718) in Dashi.
1965-1977 Architect Chen Kuen Lee designed and executed a "housing-scape" with 1,240 residential units in Märkisches Viertel in West Berlin.
1973-1990 The PR China's embassy in the German Democratic Republic was located on Heinrich Mann Straße 9.
1981 Freie Universität signed the first German-Chinese partnership agreement between universities with Peking University.
1993 China Avantgarde in Haus der Kulturen der Welt was the first exhibition of contemporary Chinese art in Europe.
April 5, 1994 A joint declaration and memorandum on exchange programs formed the basis of the partnership between the two capitals.

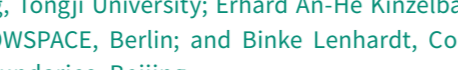
JOINT ACTIONS

selected Sino-German projects showcasing good practices for liveable city making



Future of Living #architecture, housing, case study, prototype

Why: Based on the vision that co-housing is not only one of Berlin's secret success factors to liveable city making, but also holds a potential for application in China. Co-housing as a business model approach to make the future of living a place where you can share your time and skills, where neighbours inspire and help you. A place with shared spaces and costs where life together is better than alone.
What: A study conducted by a team of German and Chinese academics and practitioners kicked off in the context of the CITYMAKERS China – Germany program supported by Robert Bosch Foundation, resulting in a presentation and manual with 10 case studies from Germany and China. The next possible step: to create a prototype with real estate developers in China.
Who: Iris Belle, CAUP – College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Tongji University; Erhard An-He Kinzelbach, Founder KNOWSPACE, Berlin; and Binke Lenhardt, Co-Founder Crossboundaries, Beijing.
www.stadtmacher4986.com/content/language1/downloads/201804_Future_of_Living_Teil1.pdf



DIY Beijing – Fluid Spaces #Urban transformation studies, exhibition, publication

Why: Since the 1980s, transformation processes have changed the urban fabric of Beijing. Among the lesser known phenomena of urban development is the informal conversion of housing estates built in the 1950s-1980s. Initiated and driven by the residents, their conversion has been gradual. Resident groups also stimulated the current debate on mixed use, re-densification, and public space.
What: Conversions into shops and restaurants ranging from simple additions to independent building structures. Nine settlement units were selected to illustrate forms of transformation. The relevant research results were exhibited in Kaiserslautern, Kassel, Stuttgart, and Hanover, and at Make City Festival 2018 in Berlin.
Who: A Sino-German team of students and professors: Prof. Ulrike Böhm, University Stuttgart, FG Freiraumgestaltung; Prof. Katja Benfer, V. Prof Cyrus Zahiri, Dr. WU Xiangjin, bzb1 böhm benfer zahiri Berlin
www.stadtdand.studio/diy-beijing-stu/
www.bbzl.de/diy-beijing_fluid_spaces/
www.cafa.edu.cn/2018cafa/



URBANI[XX] #Sino-German community, urban issues

Why: Developing cities in a sustainable, inclusive way is one of the most complex challenges of the 21st century. Multilateral networks of alumni from the fields of science, business, culture, and politics can create innovative solutions.
What: URBANI[XX] is an interdisciplinary German-Chinese alumni network system around the topics of urbanization and urban development. It interconnects Chinese and German institutions and professional actors from the natural, economic, political, and social sciences, encouraging knowledge exchange and partnerships dealing with shared urban issues of the 21st century. URBANI[XX] is also a partner of the long-term research project called URBAN Rural Assembly on the urban-rural connections in China led by the Habitat Unit of TU Berlin, starting in 2019. For the China interested community in Berlin URBANI[XX] offers regular "Urban Lunch Talks".
Who: China Centre (Centre for Cultural Studies on Science and Technology in China), Technical University Berlin
The program is supported by the German Ministry of Education and Science (BMBWF), philipp.mahlitz@tu-berlin.de
www.china.tu-berlin.de/menue/urbanixx/



ALBA BERLIN Exchange #sports

Why: Many Beijing youngsters learn German in PASCH schools whereas most of the German kids in Beijing go to the German Embassy School. The problem: the groups have few contact points. They either live in a "German bubble" or learn a foreign language without any personal contact.
What: In 2013, ALBA BERLIN, Germany's most popular professional basketball club, started to organize basketball tournaments at the German Embassy School in Beijing. Since then, students from the German school and Beijing PASCH schools have come together every year. ALBA is using basketball as a bridge between cultures and a platform for practicing language skills on and off the court. ALBA BERLIN also works with the Beijing Basketball Association and the professional basketball league CBA.
Who: ALBA BERLIN, German Embassy School Beijing, PASCH schools, Beijing Basketball Association, Conrad Ziesch, Conrad.Ziesch@alba-berlin.de
www.alba-berlin.de/club/weitere-bereiche/china-programm/

FUTURE ACTIONS

selected events "China and Chinese encounters in Berlin"



SUMMER CAMP BEIJING-BERLIN #youth exchange, 'kids make city'

Why: The kids' perspective is often neglected in city making processes. However, nobody embodies city liveability better than kids. How do kids from Beijing view Berlin?
What: The Young Journalists program of the Beijing Youth Daily Media Group organizes summer camps, or "learning journeys", in different places each year. The objective is to let young people experience another culture and reflect and write about it in the associated Beijing Children's Weekly. Building on the CITYMAKERS China – Germany network in Berlin, an interactive and creative program related to various aspects of "liveable city" from urban gardening to careful urban construction, and cultural heritage suitable for children and youths from 10-18 could be designed. The participants' status as "young journalists" would mean that their results could be disseminated to a larger group of children in Beijing.
Who: Beijing Shaonian Bao 北京少年报 @Beijing Youth Daily, Baijiazhuang Dongli, Chaoyang District, Beijing.



Beijing22 #urban transformation research, dialogue, art

Why: In the last few years mega-sport-events have led increasingly to structural and societal transformation of entire regions. Beijing already witnessed enormous structural changes due to a mega-event before. What Beijing will try to achieve in the coming years in preparation of the Olympic Games in 2022 is a scale that the world has not seen before.
What: Beijing22 is an open, independent, long-term curatorial project, which investigates the dynamics of Beijing's urban space in the five years preceding the Olympic Games. Next to exhibitions, publications, talks, and conferences with foreign and Chinese artists, curators and journalists, a core element is an online forum. The city, cultural policies, the image of Beijing and individual perspectives and testimonies are captured in response to one of the greatest urban developments in recent history.
Who: Antonie Angerer, Anna-Viktoria Eschbach, I:PROJECT SPACE, www.yi-projectspace.org
en.beijing22.org
contact@beijing22.org



StartUp AsiaBerlin #responsible entrepreneurship, startup ecosystems

Why: StartUp AsiaBerlin wants to facilitate market access, finance, and the exchange of knowledge and experience between startups and ecosystem players from the cities in the network.
What: StartUp AsiaBerlin (SUAB) includes the most important and dynamic startup hubs in Germany and Asia, and is building an open platform to connect these ecosystems with each other and beyond. The SUAB platform involves German and Asian ecosystem builders from the startup hubs in Berlin, Beijing, Shenzhen, Hong Kong, Delhi, Bangalore, Jakarta, Singapore, and Manila. Delegation trips for which local hub managers in each city facilitate introductions are one tool for making this happen. SUAB is a project established by the State of Berlin in cooperation with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ). It is supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and implemented by start-up-connect by enact.
Who: Oleksandra Kovbaso, enact.e.v. (startup-connect)
www.startup-asiaberlin.com/?page_id=957



Live with Less LWL #sustainable living

Why: The planet's resources are limited and rapidly depleting. Conscious consumerism is one important way to contribute to sustainable living.
What: LWL is a project run by Crossboundaries, a Sino-German architectural office in Beijing. It focuses on conscious consumerism, promoting sustainable habits, and environmental and societal values. LWL explores an approach to talking mass production and consumption by raising awareness through community-driven activities, public swapping events, and school workshops. In the future LWL is intending to grow the initiative further globally and also reach out for like-minded organizations in Berlin to join forces for increasing awareness on sustainable consumption across country borders.
Who: Natalie Bennet, n.bennett@crossboundaries.com
www.crossboundaries.com



University Alliance for Sustainability #higher education exchange for sustainability

Why: Sustainable development is one of the top global challenges and will remain a focal point of global societal concern, political debate, and technological innovation in the coming decades.
What: The UAS was founded in 2015 by Free University Berlin and its four strategic partner universities – Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Peking University, St. Petersburg State University, and the University of British Columbia – to discuss and advocate for institutions of higher education's key role in sustainable development. Funded by the DAAD, it supports research stays for scholars and students from all disciplines. Through events such as the annual Spring Campus Conference, UAS partners disseminate research results and share best practice on ESS teaching and sustainable campus management.
Who: UAS program management @ FU Berlin / Peking University, Unit for Sustainability & Energy Management, Katrin Risch, katrin.risch@fu-berlin.de
www.fu-berlin.de/uas



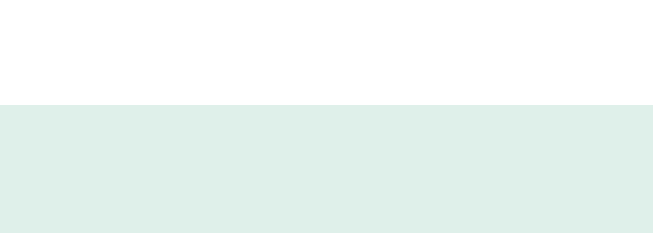
School Partnerships #youth exchange, cross cultural understanding

Why: International exchanges between high school and even elementary school students will deepen the participants' knowledge of each other in their formative years. Friendships are forged by direct contact, including teachers and family members, and exchanges generate awareness of cultural and lifestyle diversity. Chinese learners have the chance to apply their skills in real life.
What: About 18 school partnership – including primary, high and vocational schools – have been established. Two selected examples interviewed in the mapping process are the Humboldt-Gymnasium and Bruno H. Bürgel-Elementary School.
Who: Humboldt-Gymnasium, Frau Melina Rath, rath@humboldtschule-berlin.de & Frau WU Jiang, wu@humboldtschule-berlin.de
www.bruno-h-buergel-grundschule.de
www.humboldtschule-berlin.de



Lu Mei 卢玫

Profession: Gallerist, curator, collector, founder of Migrant Bird Space gallery, Berlin
Year of birth: 1975
Since when in the city? Born in Beijing, since 2014 in Berlin
Why in the city? Curiosity. I want to understand why Berlin is acclaimed as a city where "everything is possible" and why the global creative class flows to Berlin.
What do you think connects the cities? Berlin and Beijing are cultural hubs that attract global creative crowds in quantity and generate creative ideas of quality. Although there are curiosity, interest, and expectations vis à vis each other, a sense of distance and misinterpretation still remains.
What could connect the cities more? We need more projects that bring people together for new forms of dialogue, observation, and solution-finding.
www.migranbirdspace.com



Cheng Yu 于澄

Profession: Sinologist, at present science advisor for Sino-German Agricultural Centre in Beijing
Year of birth: 1957
Since when in the city? In Berlin since 1976. In Beijing: 1979, 1986-89, 2000-2008 and since April 2018
Why in the city? Beijing: first to study and later to work
What do you think connects the two cities? The 1950s master plans for East Berlin and Beijing were influenced by Soviet city planning, both cities had walls that disappeared, both cities are flat (good for cycling), both cities are northern capitals, local people have a northern temperament: sometimes rude but honest and straightforward. However, both cities have a gentrification problem, forcing poorer people out of the city center.
What could further connect the two cities? Ask Beijing to help Berlin to finish the airport and subway line no. 5. Ask Berlin to bring some cultural events to Beijing.
eva.sternfeld@gmx.net

PEOPLE & PERSONALITIES

who connects the cities, has lived in both and knows them equally?



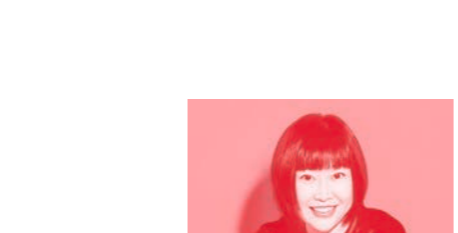
Jing Bartz 王莹

Profession: Culture manager, writer
Year of birth: 1968
Since when in the city? 1968/1995
Why in the cities? I was born in Beijing, grew up in Dongcheng district, studied at Beijing University and graduated in Chinese Literature. In 1993, I visited Berlin for the first time and immediately got the feeling it is my second Beijing. Though I am a resident of Hamburg, mentally I feel much more at home in Berlin. I visit Beijing and Berlin regularly.
What connects the cities? In both cities I meet lots of creative people with whom I love to work. Both cities inspire me with their unique history and deep cultural roots. Both cities are capitals but share a kind of chaos.
What could connect the cities more? Cultural projects like a writer's residency program, book exhibitions, food and architecture days, and women network meetings!
bartzj@gmail.com



Philipp Grefer 古文非

Profession: Founder of WISE – The Future Think Tank, co-founder of NEUCHINA – a festival about the future and everything, and FakeMusicMedia – an artist management agency and label.
Year of Birth: 1981
Since when in the city? First time in Beijing 2007; first time in Berlin 1989. Spent more than a decade commuting between the two cities.
Why in the city? Music, creativity, culture, technology, international relations.
What do you think connects the two cities? The above.
What could connect the cities more? There should be a regular Beijing-Berlin Creative Industries & Tech Roundtable.
www.wisenotwise.com
www.neutechnica.com
www.fakemusicmedia.com



Ruth Schimanowski 施露丝

Profession: Managing director of German Centre Beijing
Year of birth: 1973
Since when in the city? Having studied physics I first came to Beijing in 1999 with the DAAD-scholarship program "Sprache & Praxis".
Why in the city? I came to learn Mandarin and start my professional career as an engineer in the booming economy and stayed because I love the dynamism and optimism.
What do you think connects the two cities? Both are great cities for commuting by bicycle.
What could further connect the two cities? It should be easier for young Berlin professionals to come and work in Beijing and vice versa. The administrative regulations should be less restrictive. I am also very interested in women career topics. The book "How Chinese Women Rise" by Bettina Al-Sadik-Lowinski fascinates me, an exchange with women professionals from Berlin and Beijing together with the author would be interesting.
www.germancentre.cn



Eva Sternfeld 艾娃

Profession: Independent consultant and project manager with a focus on social impact investment, entrepreneurship, and philanthropic topics.
Year of birth: 1985
Since when in the city? In Berlin since 2016. I came with a German Chancellor Fellowship and a research project hosted by the Social Impact Lab. I grew up in Beijing, studied law at Beijing University of Technology, and later worked in Beijing with Chinese foundations such as YouChange Foundation China.
What connects the cities? Berlin and Beijing are cities where people can daydream. In comparison to other fully developed metropolises, they are full of possibilities. They keep their own unique characters alongside diversity, which they contain below the chaos on the surface.
What could connect the cities more? How about a project with the title "Daydream Cities"?!
chengyu@gmx.de



Jana Brokate 王雅娜

Profession: Project manager, founder of Sinoners
Year of birth: 1989
Since when in the city? In Beijing since 2016 – it is the second time I have lived here.
Why in the city? It felt like a good place to start my career. I also connected to this place through past experiences and people I know from more than 10 years ago.
What do you think connects the two cities? Both are the political center of their countries and important hubs for art and culture. They are connected by people who exchange ideas.
What could connect the cities more? Long-term and short-term exchange programs for young people from different social backgrounds. Cultural and educational events that are inclusive and fun. No more Great Firewall and more online & offline spaces to meet and interact.
www.sinoners.com



Jörg Höhn 何雅克

Profession: Strategy consultant, founder of 'BerlinHutong'
Year of birth: 1978
Since when in the city? In Berlin since January 2018
Why in the city? After 12 wonderful years in Beijing, Berlin is the perfect place for me to be in Europe, with lots of close friends.
What do you think connects the cities? With all its diversity, Berlin reminds me of the dynamic life in China: the vibrant startup and art scenes and both being capitals in an ongoing phase of transition with visible changes in the urban landscape. Both cities never seem to be finished. And also tasty food: after all, a shared meal is one of the best ways to bring people together and develop friendships.
What do you suggest to connect the cities more? More of everything: exchanges on all levels of society. Mandarin respective German as first foreign language in schools. More direct flights!
b-m.facebook.com/Berlin-Hutong-16685537510300/



Sandra Schulze 苏卓儿

Profession: Area manager China, Berlin Partner for Business and Technology
Year of Birth: 1980
Since when in the city? Born in Berlin; arrived in Beijing abroad back in the city since 2011. Lived in Beijing from 1981-1990 and 2006-2008.
Why in the city? After years in China, there is no other city in Europe that I could picture myself in. I just love the innovative and creative spirit of Berlin. And most importantly, you can get decent Chinese food in Berlin!
What do you think connects the cities? In both cities, I feel the same innovative, energetic atmosphere. People are creative and think of new ways of living together in the urban space. Both cities face similar urban challenges.
What could connect the cities more? Get more people connected through more exchanges and cooperation in the social, business, cultural, and educational areas.
www.berlin-partner.de
WeChat ID: gh_128a9843a4ca



Cheng Yu 于澄

To be continued...



Popo Fan 范坡城

Profession: Film director and LGBT activist
Year of birth: 1985
Since when in the city: In Berlin since 2017
Why in the city? I want to dive into the ocean of art events.
What do you think connects the cities?
1. Both cities start with "B".
2. Both of them are capitals.
What do you suggest to connect the cities more? Bring artists from one city to another; bring food from one city to another (more from Beijing to Tokyo). We need Luzhu Huoshao (a broth of pork intestines and pork lungs), we need Shuizhuyu (Sichuan boiled fish), we need Zhajiang-mian (Wheat noodles with soybean paste) and Hotpot! I mean the real ones!
Stadtmacher-Interview: www.stadtmacher4986.com/content/language1/html/54592.asp



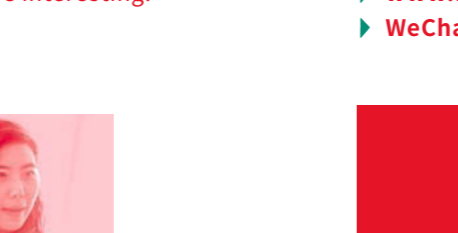
Roman Kierst 小罗

Profession: Editor at Goethe-Institut in Peking
Year of birth: 1989
Since when in the city? In Beijing since July 2018
Why in the city? Head of the online editorial team of GI-Peking
What do you think connects the two cities? A desire to leave and stay at the same time.
What could further connect the two cities? Pointing out the many commonalities that outweigh any differences. E.g. one of our projects: we sent cityscapes from Berlin and Beijing to 30 cartoon artists, 15 from Germany and 15 from China with the question: What is the situation in 30 years? The artists had completely creative freedom. The drawings, partly individual pictures, sometimes short comic strips, are sometimes funny, sometimes critical, even apocalyptic, all included.
Stadtmacher-Interview: www.stadtmacher4986.com/content/language1/html/55561.asp
www.goethe.de/ins/cn/



Shi Ming 史明

Profession: Journalist, lives in Berlin and Beijing
Year of birth: 1985
Since when in the city? In Berlin since 2016
Why in the city? I want to live in both cities.
What do you think connects the two cities? Both cities have a rich history and culture.
What could connect the cities more? More cultural exchange and cooperation between the two cities.



Shi Ming 史明

To be continued...

IDEAS FOR THE FUTURE

Sharing the Chinese Way of Getting Old / Aging Society

- City Typography Walks
Urban Resources
Smart City Network
E-Mobility
Regional Cooperation: Berlin in Brandenburg & Beijing in Hebei
Northern / North-Eastern culture
Migration
Gentrification
Social Mobility
Use of Urban Space: Walls, Screen, Public Spaces
Internet Information Exchange
Digitalization for Sustainability
Connecting Leaders of Organizations and Municipalities
Exploring City Identity via Literature Exchange
Sister-City Writers in Residence
Night Economy: Connecting Night-Clubs
Re-Use and Industrial Heritage Conservation
Climate Change Awareness through Arts
German Asians
Women Leadership Exchange
Citizen Science
Creative Industries
CITYMAKERS Festival
Gastronomy: Beijing Food Market in Berlin
Berlin Night market in Beijing

Future Actions & Ideas for the Future – planned and/or suggested by participants of this mapping process

PERSONAL CITY PERCEPTIONS

Jahre verfliegen

von Shi Ming
Jahre verfliegen. Mit ihnen oft Erinnerungen. Und mit Erinnerungsschwindl bisweilen jenes Gefühl, das einen an seine Heimat bindet, etwa mich an meine Heimatstadt Beijing. Zu meiner Verteidigung: Mein Gedächtnis arbeitet makellos. Noch. Nur die Gegenstände, an die meine Erinnerungen gebunden sind, verschwinden. Immer schneller und totaler: Die engen Gassen, Hutungs genannt, etwa. Die Meisten sind abgerissen. Ein Teil der übrigen sind mit Fake-Restaurationen zum Kitsch degradiert. An manchen Türen hängen heute sarkastische Transparente des Protests: „Wir sind keine Affen im Käfig. Gafter unerwünscht“.

Verschwinden sind auch die Garküchen. Wegen der Luftverschmutzung. Morgens, wenn ich daheim bin, hole ich mir heute bei Starbucks ein Croissant anstelle einer Dampfbrunne von der Bude nebenan. Bitte verstehen Sie mich nicht falsch: Imposant sind die Stahl-Glas-Konstruktione, die meine Heimatstadt heute bewaldern, allemal. Viel mehr Wohlstand genießen meine Landsleute dort schon eine ganze Weile. Doch nur mit mich gegen den Ruf des nostalgischen Nörglers zu wehren, will ich mich Huldigern morgiger, scheinbar für ewig fortwährender „Fortschritte“ in Form von Hochhaustürmen und Blechkolonnen, die täglich zehn Stunden und mehr auf Betonstraßen mehr stehen als fahren, nicht anschließen. Weniger, weil ich auf Umweltschäden und die auseinanderklaffende Lücke zwischen Arm und Reich, White- und Blue-Collar hinweisen könnte. Der Hauptgrund für mich liegt woanders. Er liegt mir auf der Zunge. Jene Zunge kannte man in meiner jetzigen Wahlheimat Berlin einst ja auch: die Berliner Schnauze, die sarkastisch, auf ersten Ansehen mürrisch, im Kern oft so entlarvend Menschen aus der Seele spricht.

Ach meine Beijinger Zunge! Gerne denke ich an diese alte überlieferte Episode: Ein Rebell sorgte für Aufsehen, als ihm um die Wende vom 19. zum 20. Jahrhundert auf dem Schafot ein Bein abgehakt wurde. „Erschreck nicht, seht her, was für ein wunderbares Stück Schinken!“ rief er den Schauspielgen zu. So eine Zunge, ähnlich wie die Berliner Schnauze, ist gewiss nicht jedermanns Geschmack. Aber man findet sie heute noch: Ist der Preis im Restaurant zu hoch, schreibt ein junger Beijinger auf WeChat „Ach, mein Herz blutet, Tropfen um Tropfen.“ Das Foto, das er beifügt, zeigt allerdings, wie er gerade leichenschafflich ein Stück köstlich geschmortes, blutrot gefärbtes Fleisch verspeist.

Im Sommer 2012 suchte ein Wolkenbruch Beijing heim. Binnen zweier Stunden standen alle Straßen unter Wasser und alle U-Bahnen waren bedroht. Binnen 20 Minuten Erscheinen auf unzähligen Smartphones in Beijing ein Witz, der eine Stationsansage nachahmte: „Liebe Fahrgäste, der nächste Halt ist JiShitan (wo sich das Wasser sammelt)“. Binnen weniger als einer Minute antwortete darauf eine andere „Stationsansage“: „Liebe Fahrgäste, für Schwimmer unter Buch ist der nächste Halt Shizifang (das Olympia-Schwimmstadion). Für Nichtschwimmer ist der nächste Halt Babaoan“ (ein Pekinger Friedhof). Nicht, dass es demart sarkastischen, bisweilen fatalistischen Humor nicht auch woanders gibt, aber dennoch: Die Beijinger Zunge und Berliner Schnauze liefern immer noch ein Modell zum Nachahmen. Der Sachse Erik Kistner wurde unter anderem berühmt durch seine verfilmten Erzählungen wie „Drei Männer im Schnee“, in denen erflirt berlinert wurde. Kulturhistorisch nachgewiesen liefert die Beijinger Zunge die Grundlage für die einzige Bühnenkomik-kunst in ganz China – den Xiangsheng.

Ich bin dankbar für das Geschenck, das mir aus meiner Heimatstadt zuteil wurde. Nicht bloß eine Art zu sprechen, sondern auch eine urbane Lebenshaltung: Gerade wenn es hart wird, gerade wenn das Leben einem wehrzutun beginnt, fängt dein Mut an, wenn du die bedrückendste Realität beim Namen nennst, unverfügblich bis umerschrocken. Shi Ming ist freier Journalist, und lebt seit 1987 in Deutschland, seit 5 Jahren in Berlin. Er ist 1957 in Peking geboren, studierte Germanistik und Jura in Peking und arbeitete als Journalist und Jurist. Er veröffentlicht regelmäßig auf Deutsch für ARD, ZDF, Deutschlandfunk sowie für renommierte deutsche Printmedien. Auch berät er insbesondere deutsche Kommunen in Ihrer Zusammenarbeit mit China und nimmt an deutsch-chinesischen Urbanisierungsdialogen teil.

Kindly supported by: be:im Berlin, The Governing Mayor of Berlin – Senate Chancellery, International Relations: Petra.Schwarz@senatskanzlei.berlin.de, www.berlin.de/hmskz/politik/internationalen/staedtepartnerschaften/peking/infotel.0959.php, IHK Berlin: Sami.Bettaieb@berlin.ihk.de, Berlin Economic Senator: Bettina.Heinen@senweb.berlin.de, Berlin Representative Office Beijing: Sabine.Yang.Schmidt@senweb.berlin.de, Imprint: Initiative & support: The Senate Chancellery of the Governing Mayor of Berlin and its International Relations Office within the framework of the 2018 Fostering Berlin's City Partnerships support program, In cooperation with: CITYMAKERS China – Germany, supported by Robert Bosch Stiftung, www.stadtmacher4986.com, Concept & implementation: CONSTELLATIONS International, Lead: Katja Helikötter, khh@constellations-international.com, www.constellations-international.com, Editorial team: Maja Linemann, Silvan Hagenbrock, GAO Xiaoxue, Ina Eiben, Raskinzi, ZHANG Zhen and Luisa Keimrecht, English language editing: Katie Abbott, www.constellations-international.com, Design & layout: Studio Wu 伍 (Berlin), www.studiowudesign.com, Network partners: Goethe-Institut China, Crossboundaries, Public Art Lab, Creative City Berlin.