

WHO OWNS THE CITY?

Who owns the city - if not us?

The Fachhochschule on its way to Utopia



NOTHING BUT AN ECONOMIC LOCATION?

Our perception of the city is dominated by a perspective that sees a city as an economic location competing under capitalism.

To do so, different interests have to be reconciled. In this process the interests having most political and economic power prevail. Therefore it is mostly the ideas of a consumerist upper class and rich investors that manifest in the cityscape. For instance, in Potsdam alone the Semmelhaack real estate company owns properties worth approximately a billion Euros.

The consequences of such politics are looking eerily similar in many places: facades are getting more pompous and houses more and more bland. Cultural institutions are being shut down as both young and retired people and families without obscene amounts of money are being driven out of the inner city to Stern, Drewitz or Waldstadt. People are losing their flats and the city its vibrancy.

OUR PERSPECTIVE: CITY FROM BELOW.

This is about reimagining the city as an interactive space and reaching need-justice for all inhabitants. Be it in regard to basic needs such as eating/drinking/sleeping or according to communities and social references or following cultural and political input and expression. This is about creating a city of self-organised possibilities.

Even though the great number of people living in Potsdam could be organising things with and for one another, the reality is different: We are living anonymously alongside each other. Exclusions and discrimination concerning skin colour, gender, academic degrees or the balance of one's bank account are making it difficult for many persons to participate in forming the urban scene.

We call upon all people who want to fight for Potsdam as a place for daily living, working and interaction to support the struggle for the continued use of the Fachhochschule and resist the planned demolition. The city council may have smashed all previous attempts. Still, there is hope: We have left all the means that do not depend on agreement from people seeing

Potsdam as nothing but an economic location. One of those is squatting.

We are craving a place in the city centre that everybody can use who is being pushed out elsewhere. Where there is no rent, no profit, no consumerism, no commerce. We want to create a place, that sets the principle of mutual aid against the exclusions of the existing conditions. The Fachhochschule is a PERFECT building for becoming just that.

In these rooms, many things can be imagined:

- Office spaces for voluntary initiatives
- Rehearsal rooms for music or theatre
- Studios
- Gallery and exhibition spaces
- Workshops
- Exercise rooms
- Self-organised daycare
- Movie nights
- For-free-shops
- Storage rooms for projects and initiatives
- Places for chill out and interaction
- Self-organised learning spaces
- Youth club
- Open kitchen
- And lots more!

Potsdam is in dire need not only daycare centres and exercise rooms. There are already a couple of organisations that expressed their interest in rooms in the Fachhochschule. And whenever you have an idea, something new can emerge.

All of us are deciding day in, day out over which of the aforementioned perspectives of the city finds more expression in Potsdam: by what we do, don't do and how we speak about certain problems and solutions.

We are happy for everyone who supports squatting the Fachhochschule, and be it only by not publicly denouncing the squatters. Everyone can be a part of filling the building with new life.

The Fachhochschule will become whatever we make of it!

WHAT TO DO?

SAVE WHAT CAN BE SAVED!

Our initiative can be found online (German only):

bittestehenlassen.noblogs.org

and on Twitter:

[@SteheLassen](https://twitter.com/SteheLassen)

Or send us an Email:

bittestehenlassen@systemli.org

bittestehenlassen.noblogs.org