

# LIVING LAB: CONSTRUCTING THE COMMONS

a project curated by Tom Avermaete (TU Delft/ ETH Zurich)  
Lisa Schmidt-Colinet and Daniela Herold ( IKA, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)  
in cooperation with IBA\_Vienna 2022  
International Building Exhibition – New Social Housing



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LIVING LAB CONSTRUCTING THE COMMONS comprises an exhibition, a workshop and a debate. It takes as its point of departure the question of what is to be considered as common in the city. More specifically, questions are raised about how commonality can be defined in relation to housing and the urban environment.

The commons are intensively discussed in the contemporary debate on the city. New social, economic and political perspectives on urban life have emerged. However, it is less clear what role the architecture of the city – as a common resource par excellence – can play in processes of commoning. This LIVING LAB wants to explicitly address the role of architecture and architects in creating urban commons. It seeks to explore how architectural interventions can play a role in unlocking common grounds in our contemporary cities, and how new theoretical concepts of thinking the commons in relation to the contemporary city might emerge from this.

The exhibition *Constructing the Commons* is based on the results of three research and design studios that took place at the Institute for Art and Architecture at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna between 2016 and 2018. It brings together present-day and historical architectural projects, exploring in a broad way the question of what we can share in the contemporary city: What can be held in common between different neighbourhoods and between different citizens? How can architecture and spatial design contribute to the unlocking of spaces, and to their maintenance in the long term?

The workshop, entitled *Ambiguous Edges* extends the knowledge presented in the exhibition through artistic interventions in the urban space. During a one week workshop real-life scenarios for recognising, marking and enhancing potentials of the commons along Sonnwendgasse and Gudrunstrasse in Vienna's 10th district got developed: these streets mark the rupture between two

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distinct areas, the recently completed housing development Sonnwendviertel and the existing block structure of the inner 10th district. Students explore points of transition, ruptures and connections between these two differently shaped urban environments.

The debate *The Role of Architecture for the Urban Commons* wants to explicitly address the role of architecture and architects in creating an urban commons. Relying on experiences in the Netherlands and Austria the debate wants to explore how architectural interventions can play a role in unlocking common resources (spatial, practical, material) in our contemporary cities.

Participants: Simonetta Ferfaglia, artist (gangart), Wolfgang Förster (initiator of IBA\_Vienna 2022), Kristian Koreman landscape architect (ZUS, Rotterdam), Marthijn Pool architect (Space&Matter, Amsterdam), Bernd Vlay, architect (StudioVlayStreeruwitz), students of the workshop, Tom Avermaete, Daniela Herold, Lisa Schmidt-Colinet.

*Ambiguous Edges*, 18.09—24.09.2018

Workshop taught by: Tom Avermaete, Daniela Herold, Lisa Schmidt-Colinet.

Input lectures: Karoline Streeruwitz (StudioVlayStreeruwitz), Tamara Brajovic (Urban Renewal Office), Hannes Gröblacher, Landschaftsarchitekt.

Guests: Simonetta Ferfaglia, Kristian Koreman, Marthijn Pool

## 24.09.MONDAY

13:00h - 17:00h

*Ambiguous Edges*

Final presentation of the workshop

Walk along Sonnwendgasse

18:00h

*Constructing the Commons*

Opening of the Exhibition

19:00h

Debate: *The Role of Architecture for the Urban Commons*

**Location:**

**GB\* Stadtteilbüro  
für die Bezirke 3, 4, 5,  
10, 11, Quellenstrasse  
149, 1100 Vienna**

**Exhibition on view:**

**25.09.-04.10.2018  
Mo.-Fri.  
14:00h-18:00h**

**Guided Tour:**

**Sat.29.09.2018  
14:00h-16:00h**