THINKING FRICTION
UNCOVER THE TRUE COLOURS OF BERLIN
MASTER THESIS DOCUMENTATION Jana von Mackensen
Thinking Friction
Uncover the true colours of Berlin

Master Thesis by Jana von Mackensen

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Thank you to all of you who have always believed in this project and helped me through my own minor and major ‘frictions’ during the work!
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INTRODUCTION
MY INNER FRICTION

I am an urban planning and design student...
... I am interested in the very different social and cultural groups, lifestyle, ethnicity and interest groups that effect urban development. I believe that for a sustainable urban development it is essential to encourage an open urban society and to provide space for those different groups to evolve, express, exchange and develop with each other.

I am a practicing architect...
... I have to face the powerful economic forces that to a large extend dominate urban planning decisions and shape the architectural design. Yet I also realize that those forces are necessary for any urban development. I have to deal with political interests that often limit rather than encourage alternative design solutions. Yet I experience that a strong political will is necessary to enable and foster a sustainable urban development.

I am a citizen...
... I love the Turkish markets and its variety of spices. I enjoy walking along the street, listening to a variety of languages and the streets feel cold and dead without the manifold local businesses and initiatives creating a lively and dynamic atmosphere. I feel inspired by the vis-à-vis of powerful representational buildings and temporary activities, by the side-by-side of well-designed architecture and abandoned and open lots. The energy emerging out of those contrasts make me feel at home.

Welcome to my own personal inner conflicts when planning and designing for a sustainable urban development.
RESEARCH QUESTION

"Urbanity arises out of difference, through conflict and in the mixture, as the synergy of diverse functions and mentalities in multiple spaces."
[BA2020Berlin, 2011]

"The good city- the city that extracts an opportunity for individuals and collective advancement out of urban multiplicity."
[Ash Amin 2009]

Spaces which are "positively valued as places of shared experience by people from different backgrounds or with dissimilar interests".
[Maarten Hajer, Arnold Reijndorp, 2001]

I consider the contrasts between different social, functional and spatial structures within the urban environment as essential conditions to allow for a city that encourages difference and enables an open society. The contrasts and eventually hereby emerging conflicts can be evaluated as frictions within the urban context. Those frictions produce dynamic energies that rather than a threat can be considered as a potential for the urban development.

At the end of my studies I thus ask myself:

"How can I as an urban planner and designer make use of the dynamic energies that I experienced within urban frictions, and channel them into positive synergy effects for a sustainable urban development?"

I want to investigate strategies that acknowledge the different lifestyles and interests facing each other and provide space for the diverse actors of an open society to evolve and participate within the urban development.

It is hereby essential for me to further create design solutions, which express the open society by specific and tangible spatial and functional concepts.

However I belief that it is further essential to recognize the specific field of forces that I as a planner and designer work in when creating such solutions. The existing economic forces, the political interests and the will of the citizens with all their inherent frictions are all three significant for the development of sustainable concepts.

How can I provide strategies and design concepts that doesn’t deny or oppose the existing field of forces of economic, political and public interests as limiting, but acknowledge and incorporate them as necessary elements?

I want to use “Thinking Friction” as a method to find strategies and design solutions for a sustainable urban development.
BERLIN AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD
BERLIN AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD

INTRODUCTION

I lived in different international cities, such as Santiago de Chile, Basel, Stockholm and Berlin. For the study of my research question I chose Berlin as a city that I am familiar with, where I experienced frictions out of very different perspectives, as a citizen, student and architect.

My personal experiences:
The daily life in Berlin is very much influenced by the cities inherent frictions. Strong social and sociocultural groups created distinct and contrasting neighbourhood characters, strong economic differences face each other, illustrated in badly maintained residential areas right across the street of representational governmental buildings, and touristic cultural highlights are complemented by temporary local initiatives that continuously shape and change the image of the city.

Berlin as an experimental field by itself:
The history of Berlin is characterized by destruction and visions. World war II and subsequent planning decisions led to the destruction of more than half of the cities build surface. The elimination of physical structure and the following separation into two German states with opposing political and economic systems effected the creation of new visions, manifested within the build environment.

Throughout history Berlin is characterized by visionary concepts and a tradition of innovative planning approaches in order to address changes in society, politics and economy with new planning and design concepts.

In order to investigate new innovative approaches for the sustainable development of Berlin it is essential to recognize and take the history as a great potential of a city open for new approaches, willing to experiment and to establish itself as a role model for other cities. Further it is important to recognize that frictions are not only a weak point within the city illustrating destruction or failure, in contrary it establishes a resource for alternative new approaches. It opens up a field for experiment and it might even be an essential prerequisite in order to develop innovative visions for the cities sustainable development.

3.5 m (2011)
residents

890 km²
area

36%
green open spaces

63%
of build land in 1940 was destroyed by WW II and subsequent planning decisions

56%
of build land in 2001 was built between 1953-2001

-0.10% (2010)
Average annual growth

13% (2012)
Residents with foreign background

6% of population in East Berlin is foreign born

18% of population in West Berlin is foreign born

13% (2012)
Residents are unemployed
BERLIN AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD
FROM THE START TO A POWERFUL PRUSSIAN CAPITAL

The twin city Berlin-Cölln develops in the 13th century. A shared fortification creates a unite towards outside. The expansion in the 17th and 18th century is based upon an ideal geometrical grid. After the Thirty Year’s war, elector Friedrich Wilhelm creates a huge fortification system and a city vision and society based upon military structures. In the 18th century the city and its outer developments is merged to one representative residential capital, protected by the enormous fortification with 18 city gates.

Memhard Plan 1652
Desableau Plan 1737

Nikolai church
Brandenburg gate
13th century
Just founded

18th century
Culture and representation for a powerful Prussia
BERLIN AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD
ORGANISATION FOR A GROWING INDUSTRIAL CITY

The importance of the Prussian capital Berlin is increasing and the beginning industrialisation processes result in a progressing immigration of labour force and firstly regulated planning processes. Against the geometrical baroque systems Schinkel develops a cultural landscape with dispersed representative buildings and king Friedrich Wilhelm IV instructs Lenee to create the first general plan for the entire city in order to organize industry and compensational recreation and green areas. Corresponding to an increasing industrial society Hobrecht develops a new radial extension plan based upon a canal system, strong axes and a defined block-structure.
19th century
Compensational recreation and green areas for a rapidly growing industrial city

19th century
A new radial extension plan based upon a system of canals, street axes and block structure
BERLIN AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD
ORGANISATION FOR A GROWING INDUSTRIAL CITY

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Old national gallery  Lenee Plan 1840  Hobrecht Plan 1862  Block structure Inner City (1940)

State opera  Luisenstadt, Engelbecken  Blockstructure 19th Century  Blockstructure 19th Century
19th century
Compensational recreation and green areas for a rapidly growing industrial city

19th century
A new radial extension plan based upon a system of canals, street axes and block structure
The beginning of the Weimar Republic are dominated by a strong pioneer spirit and the vision of the metropolis. Modern and affordable architecture responds to the lack of housing after World War II and innovative urban structures following the ideals of ‘air, light and sun’ establish alternative role models for a changing society. Ideal large traffic structures are developed and mega structures for housing characterize the planning visions. The functional separation, decentralization and the turning away from everything existing are distinct features of those visions, planned for the modernist future oriented society.
1913-1934
Modernist housing estates in Berlin
BERLIN AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD
DESTRUCTION AND A NEW START IN SEPARATION

After the enormous destructions during the war, Berlin needs a new start as well in the urban development. The ideals follow the modernist visions, developed during the 20th, of a spacious urban landscape. The vision of a city of “light, air and sun” characterize the new approaches developed in order to create a new city for a new and open society. The new structure avoids any kind of representation of fixed structures, dominance, hierarchy or closure.

The separation of Berlin into a western and an eastern state in 1949 (Berlin wall 1961) is a separation of two opposing political, economic and hence societal systems and visions. The competition between those systems is also manifested in the build environment.
1945
Destruction of the inner city after WWII

1961
Two States - Two centres: Competing Development on both sides of the border

- Historical centre
- Centres East and West
- Areas with high degree of multinational residents
- Border between FRG and GDR (wall)
- Major railway stations
- Major public green areas
- Sites of ‘Interbau’ 1957
- ‘competition socialist capital’ 1958 | IBA 1987
BERLIN AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD
COMPETITION BETWEEN EAST AND WEST

In 1957 an idea competition aims at one unified planning approach for both German states, yet each side uses the international importance to manifest the power and superiority of each system over the other.

The construction of the wall and the final also spatial separation of two opposing systems result in several architectural discourses based upon the existing separation, isolation and fragmentation. The non-existing structure of Berlin is starting point and prerequisite for new visions.

The International Building Exhibition 1987 first focus again on the existing build structure of Berlin and sets the goal of a “sensitive urban renewal”. The aim is a dual one, on one hand the old building structures are redeveloped and renovated and on the other hand missing elements in the block structure are filled up with new buildings following the original grid structure.

The term “city-reparation” addresses build structures and a society that seeks for a renewed stable base, in opposite to the erasing approaches conducted before.

West - Interbau 1957

Archizoom 1969

Destroyed block structure

East - “Socialist capital” 1958

Ungers 1977

Filling up block structure
1957/58
FRG: Interbau - Hansaquarter: A green and spacious quarter in the west
GDR: Idea competition for a socialist capital - The socialist centre and a
representational ache, Alexanderplatz and Stalinallee

1987
International Building exhibition West: Critical Reconstruction
BERLIN AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD
REUNIFICATION AND THE NEW CAPITAL OF GERMANY

After the reunification of the two German states in 1990, Berlin became the new -old- capital of Germany. The political centre was rebuild, new commercial and business districts were established along the former border and social and structural reconstruction programs started to address the strong differences developed over a separation period of over 40 years.

Due to the long period of economic isolation, Berlins economy was rather low and investments were mostly focusing on the newly established centres. Today the growing influence zone of the centres progressively attracts investments.

In the same time the spirit of change among the reunited residents led to an extraordinary amount of social activities, residents initiatives and temporary occupations of the remaining abandoned inner city spaces. Today social movements are an essential and influential element of the urban development of Berlin.
Reunified Berlin and a new political centre

Stabilisation as the capital of Germany and a parallel development of increasing local initiatives and activities
BERLIN AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD
URBAN RECONSTRUCTION AND CURRENT PLANNING DISCUSSION

Since 1990 the Social City Program focuses on areas characterized by an underprivileged social and structural context. To avoid a progressing marginalisation, the program works with a cooperative approach, addressing structural issues as much as social improvements based upon participative processes.

The international building Exhibition 2020 recently started its investigations. Its aim is to create new visions for a changing city and urban society, and defines the cities distinct historic and spatial capital as a great potential for the future innovative development. The focus is hereby set on the mixed city, and process oriented approaches.

Recent critical statements and initiatives by small architectural firms in Berlin led to increased public discussions about the future of the cities urban development. The discourse covers issues such as alternative funding, the diverse city, political conflicts, social and spatial potentials.
Since 1990
Social city program - “Soziale Stadt”
Social and structural development

IBA 2020
International building exhibition based upon the three topics: The capital city, the spacious city, the instant city
BERLIN AS AN EXPERIMENTAL FIELD

CONCLUSIONS

Due to its very dynamic and conflicting recent history, Berlin illustrates a great amount of urban frictions that are still strongly visible within the inner city. After world war II, Berlin was separated into two opposing states (1949-1990), most of the time divided by a structural barrier (1961-1989). The separation into different political and economic systems and ideologies over a period of 40 years, led to the development of distinct and very contrasting neighbourhoods in build and social structure. Since the reunification 1990 those extremely diverging areas face each other and result in numerous frictions. At the same time new zones of political and economic interests were established, currently provoking strong interest conflicts as they extend their boundaries of influence.

Further Berlin is characterized by a strong political will to explore and manifest urban visions. For the third time Berlin will host an international building exhibition in 2020. The history of challenging existing structures and creating new visions for a changing society is a great potential for my research build upon alternative urban design solutions for an open society.

Moreover Berlin has to deal with a very low economic performance, due to the history of isolation and the lack of own local economies. Based upon the cities limited budget, political decision-making has to open up for alternative experimental investment possibilities and development forces.

One increasingly important force within this context are the residents of Berlin. The city illustrates a significant amount of social movements and local initiatives that progressively demand an active role within the planning process, besides the existing political and economic interests.
FRICTION ≠ FRICTION
Based upon the historic analysis and the current on-going planning discourse, I distinguished three sites along the former Berlin wall, for my further investigation. I choose these sites in order to understand how very different types of urban frictions, and the inherent field of forces, based upon the location, demand their own specific scenarios.
FRICION ≠ FRICION
THREE SITES - THREE FRICATIONS

Site I: Bornholmer Strasse

Location: A residential area at the edge of the inner city.
Field of forces: Strong diverging local interests and limited economic and political pressure.
Type of friction: Broken residential quarter, separated by a large infrastructure barrier.
Scenario: A seem of social and open spaces with high benefit for all.

Site II: Schiffahrtskanal

Location: Inner city area right at the edge of the political and historic centre.
Field of forces: Strong political and national interests versus quiet residential voices.
Type of friction: Fragmented area with very different spatial, functional and social structures.
Scenario: A green buffer zone declaring defined zones of influence.

Site III: Engeldamm:

Location: Inner city, former industrial, area along the river Spree, between the historic centre, a new business area, and residential quarters.
Field of forces: Stalemate between economic pressure and very strong local actors.
Type of friction: Diverging residential neighbourhoods separated by an axis of superior usages.
Scenario: Cutting local lanes through the axe of superior usages and providing a fresh start at the round table.
EXCURSUS
LITERATURE REVIEW AND OVERALL STRATEGIES

Georg Simmel (1903)
The Metropolis and Mental Life.
* Incapacity to react to new stimuli is the reason why cities are "black boxes." (p. 14)
  * "The stranger as the objective human"*  
  * Big cities as "integration machine"*  
  * Totalism of stranger

Henry Lefebvre (2003a; 1970)

Richard Sennet (1977)

David Harvey (1996)
* "Togtherness in difference*
  * Unmediated othersness*
  * Ontological difference within and between each subject" vs. "Mutual understanding"
  * Community empowerment vs. Exclusionary effects*
  * Agnostic pluralism - mediated through public space

Iris Marion Young (1996)

Walter Siebel (1997)
* "The stranger as the prototype of the citizen" (p. 31), translation by author

Hersz & de Meuron - The particular and the generic (2003)
* "Cities are specific because they are confronted with specific threats and they show a physical response to them." (p. 356)
  * "If today's planners want to contribute to the transformation of the cities, they will have to become accomplices of and found their own potentialities of threat." (p. 356)

Richard Sennet - The open city (2007)
* "The idea of a cellular wall, which is both resistant and porous, can be extended from single buildings to the zones in which the different communities of a city meet" (p. 296).
* "Democratic space means creating a forum for these strangers to interact" (p. 296)

Christian Schäftig (2007)
* "social changes demand new concepts of housing"
  * "Integrative housing as a new form to provide space for different social groups and lifestyles and a possibility for interaction"
  * "create a possibility for shared benefits"

Kim Dovey (2008)
* "buildings and places inevitably construct and symbolize socially constructed identities and differences of persons, classes, cultures, institutions and nations." (p. 18)
  * Identity inherent in the built form establishes strong power structures, "mediating who we are and where we belong" (p. 18)

Asha Amin - The Good City (2008)
Reitte, E. Sigloz, Ch. Christodora, K. Open City: Designing Coexistence. Amsterdam: StW, p. 143
* "The city that extracts an opportunity for individuals and collective advancement out of urban multiplicity."
FRICION ≠ FRICION - SITE I BORNHOLMER STRASSE

OVERVIEW

LOCATION
The site is allocated at the edge of the inner city of Berlin. It is a purely residential area with good living conditions, yet limited public green and open spaces. During the separation of the city the area was cut by the border (wall) between the two German states.

FIELD OF FORCES
“Strong diverging local interests and limited economic and political pressure”
Despite its very good infrastructure connection to the inner city, the site is allocated far enough to avoid major inner city economic or political pressure. The restricted economic pressure on the neighbourhoods allows for a variety of local initiatives, building associations and residential low budget activities to activate and shape their quarters.

TYPE OF FRICTION
“Broken residential quarters, separated by a large infrastructure barrier”
The mainly block structure is split by a dominant traffic infrastructure and the still remaining empty space of the former ‘death strip’ along the wall. This separation resulted in completely different development of the sites along the barrier, mainly characterised by social and sociocultural strong differences.

POTENTIALS
The area illustrates a high degree of citizen’s engagement, local activities and building associations initiating local investment. On-going residential activities highlight the interest in outdoor activities.
Further the site provides a great amount of open and green spaces along the infrastructure barrier and former border, which are currently under used or restricted and inaccessible.

EXAMPLE
This area is an example for many other residential areas in Berlin, allocated outside the major zones of political and economic influences, and which where cut by the former Berlin wall and hence developed very distinct social and sociocultural structures.
MAJOR FRICTION -
Different Social groups separated by infrastructure barrier

Great amount of elderly, average development index and unemployment rate
Great amount of residents with foreign background, high unemployment
High development index, low amount of residents with foreign background and low unemployment
Unemployment

Development Index

Residents with foreign background

Residential and mixed use

Major traffic spaces

Spacious large scale housing areas

Low density light industry areas

Social Structure

Functions

Spatial Structure

Source: http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de
The purely residential area is characterised by the strong friction between specific social groups and opposing lifestyles. The east side (Prenzlau Berg- Pankow) of the traffic intersection and line of the former Berlin wall, is characterized by a great amount of young families, intellectuals and academics, and still remaining alternative groups that had moved into the formerly badly maintained area right after the reunification. The west side (Wedding) in contrary shows a great amount of residents with foreign background. During the 1960th the area was a badly maintained neighbourhood that hosted a large amount of the ‘guest-workers’ mainly coming from Turkey. Today the area illustrates a specific multicultural lifestyle, yet also characterized by a high unemployment rate and a low development index. Both areas have their own centres and interaction is limited. Still the differences in social structure and lifestyle result in numerous conflicts, such as gentrification discussions and shared educational institutions.

Both residential areas are mainly build in the 19th and beginnings of 20th century. The dense block structure is almost entirely renovated within the eastern side resulting in fairly high rental prizes, while Wedding in the west still shows a high amount of badly maintained build structure. The dense block structure is opposed by a wide and open traffic intersection right between the different neighbourhoods.

Both areas illustrate a high degree of social initiatives and residential activities that establish a great potential for the development of the area. Building associations became an important element for the development within Prenzlauer Berg. Further can be observed that there is a great amount of outside activities, yet not enough public open spaces.
Diverging social groups and lifestyle (Turkish background, young families, academics and alternative lifestyle) restricted open spaces

Dense residential block structure versus open and wide infrastructure

Strong identity of gardening and outdoor activities

Engaged residents, initiatives and building associations

Fricitions

Potentials
Former line of the Berlin wall

- Public transportation
- Temporary and residential initiatives
- Existing green along edge of traffic intersection
- Traffic intersection
- Restricted or under used open spaces
- Sport areas
- Neighbourhood gardening
- Public parks
- Biotope
- Cemetery

Areas developed within the ‘social city program’

- High amount of residents with foreign background, high unemployment
- Low unemployment, many young families, academics and well situated residents
FRICHTION ≠ FRICHTION - SITE I BORNHOLMER STRASSE
SCENARIO AND STRATEGIES
A seam of social and open spaces with a high benefit for all

What if the existing barrier transforms into a new seam for the different quarters, providing a neutral ground for shared activities with positive associations for all?

What if the strong local engagement is channelled into shared initiatives between different groups, together appropriating spaces along the seam?

What if additional cooperative housing structures allow for improved living conditions together and strengthens the structural friction into positively used edges along the new seam of shared activities?

STRATEGIES
The strategies hereby fuel the strength of the existing local forces and channels them into shared activities on re-appropriated neutral ground.
FRICTION ≠ FRICTION - SITE I BORNHOLMER STRASSE
STRATEGIES

- Encouraging participation and bottom up initiatives
- Enhance meetings and interaction between different groups
- Support peaceful coexistence
- Encouraging the creation of a shared sense of belonging
- Making use of existing social capital
- Encouraging alternative financial models
- Strengthening and complementing existing functions
- Ensuring public and private functions
- Ensure functions integrating different target groups
- Maintain and encourage temporary usage and flexible program
- Reconfiguration, Linking daily supply with interactive program
- Strengthening the very own specific spatial identity
- Ensuring compositions, flexible in structure and design
- Ensuring structures that allow easy disassembly
- Encourage high quality design for longterm interventions
- Encouraging non-monetary or low cost interventions
- Balancing between generic and authentic design
- Ensuring complementing spaces of openness and closure
- Making use of available spatial resources
CASE STUDIES

MULTICULTURAL PROJECTS

Hannover Kronsberg, International housing, 2003
International gardens, Kreuzberg, Berlin

COMMUNICATION | SHARED ACTIVITY

Raumlabor: Cantierre Barca, Torino, 2011
Turkish markets Berlin, Kreuzberg

FLEXIBLE TEMPORARY INSTALLATIONS

Raumlabor, Kitchen monument
Raumlabor, public space installation - 'chairs'

PUBLIC SPACE AND SOCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Karo, open air library, Leipzig, 2005

Thinking friction - uncover the true colours of Berlin 47
FRICTION ≠ FRICTION - SITE II SCHIFFFAHRTSKANAL

OVERVIEW

LOCATION
The site is allocated right between the governmental district and historic centre of the city on one hand and an underprivileged residential neighbourhood on the other hand. The former Berlin wall, cutting through the area, left an area of different usages, isolated residential neighbourhoods and abandoned spaces behind.

FIELD OF FORCES
"Strong political and national interests versus quiet local voices"
The proximity to the centre progressively increases the economic and political value of the site and raises the pressure on the still available empty surfaces. The still remaining empty areas are progressively filled up with usages dominated by one interest group- the national and economic interests. The local forces on the other hand are very fragile and initiatives are only partly developed.

TYPE OF FRICTION
"Fragmented area with very different spatial, functional and social structures"
The site is characterized by a diffused functional and structural mixture and still remaining large empty areas, due to war destruction, ‘death strip’ along former border and functional restructuring processes. The result is a highly fragmented area within social and cultural contrasting structures.

POTENTIALS
The area provides a great amount of different open and green spaces, currently fragmented and partly under used.

EXAMPLE
The area is an example for sites, which over long time have been allocated at the edge of interest and just recently moved into the focus due to its direct vicinity to newly established zones of political and economic influences.
MAJOR FRICTION -
Different Social groups and a functional fragments

[Map illustrations]

- Great amount of residents with foreign background
- High development index, low unemployment
- Industrial and light industry
- Special services and core services
- Green spaces
Corresponding to the new (old) political centre including Reichstag, ministries, and central station, new additional functions are attracted, such as a new headquarter for the National Intelligence Service (BND), luxury housing for the representatives and commercial infrastructure. Those usages claim the remaining empty spaces along the former Berlin wall and the abandoned industrial sites and thus progressively extend there zones of influence towards the existing traditional residential block structure.

Those neighbourhoods are strongly characterized by its multicultural lifestyle, affected by the great amount of residents with Turkish background that live there since the 1960th when ‘guest-workers’ were needed for the growing economy in West Berlin. A rather high percentage of the residents is unemployed, and houses are still to a large extend badly maintained. Due to the spatial and structural fragmentation of the area, some housing areas are fairly isolated and the opposition to the highly valuable political and economic zone of influence is increasingly experienced as a threat to those traditional residential quarters.

To address this friction within a very strong and one sided field of forces it is essential to recognize the potentials of the area. The great amount of fragmented under used or restricted green and open spaces, together with some left over spaces provide a chance to create a protection zone for the residential neighbourhoods and to link and integrate isolated areas. Existing reconstruction programs, such as the ‘social city’ projects further provide a great potential to continuously strengthen the residential neighbourhoods within.
National interests versus local needs (governmental centre, high investment new developments, residents with foreign background, families)

Functional fragments and opposing usages (industry, cultural and political institutions, housing)

Great amount of diverse open and green spaces (memorial park, playground, neighbourhood park, waterstream)
FRICHTON ≠ FRICHTON - SITE II SCHIFFFAHRTSKANAL
ANALYSIS - CONCLUDING MAP

- Former line of the Berlin wall
- Important streets
- Public transportation
- Religious institutions
- Cultural institution
- Political institutions
- Special services
- Industrial and light industrial sites
- Traffic area
- New ongoing constructions
- Restricted or under used open spaces
- Sport areas
- Neighbourhood gardening
- Public parks
- Cemetery
- Areas developed within the ‘social city program’
- Area considered for IBA 2020
- High amount of residents with foreign background, high unemployment
- Low unemployment, well situated residents, academics
A green buffer zone declaring defined zones of influences

What if the great amount of open and green spaces are transformed into a buffer zone, which offers high quality open spaces for both sides and declares a clear line between the different zones of interest?

And what if in the same time the currently fragmented residential areas are strengthened and integrated into a well connected neighbourhood?

STRATEGIES
The strategies suggested here seek at the strengthening and protecting of the residential areas. The fragmented housing areas are connected through additional shared social services and green links between the areas. The fragmented open and green spaces are complemented and developed into a continuous green buffer zone between the local residential neighbourhoods and the strong superior usages. This zone spatially declares a limitation for the political and economic centre, yet provides functions with a high quality for both zones.
green barriers - giving amenity value to infrastructural barriers

international gardening

flower park and neighbourhood gardening

open sport fields, skatepark

green waterfront

panke- river park as inner neighbourhood green

humboldtthain-park for diverse neighbourhoods

International school and kindergarten social and commercial services

green connections between neighbourhoods

wall-park - historic memory protection zone between superior interest zone and housing area

Inter-cultural meeting point: cinema and exhibitions

chausseestrasse - green backbone
FRICTION ≠ FRICTION - SITE II SCHIFFFAHRTSKANAL

STRATEGIES

a. strengthening local economy
b. Encouraging participation and bottom up initiatives
c. Strengthening the very own distinct socio-cultural identity
d. Support peaceful coexistence
e. Encouraging the creation of a shared sense of belonging
f. Making use of existing social capital

j. Encouraging alternative financial models
k. Strengthening and complementing existing functions
l. Ensuring public and private functions
m. Ensure functions integrating different target groups
n. Maintain and encourage temporary usage and flexible program

r. Strengthening the very own specific spatial identity

u. Ensuring compositions, flexible in structure and design
v. Ensuring structures that allow easy disassembly
w. Encourage high quality design for longterm interventions
x. Encouraging non-monetary or low cost interventions
y. Ensuring complementing spaces of openness and closure
z. Making use of available spatial resources
STRATEGIES

CREATING A GREEN NET
IBA Emscher Park - Landscape Plan
WEST 8: Hasselt Masterplan, 2000

REAPPROPRIATE PUBLIC SPACE FOR ALL
Barcelona

GREEN AND OPEN SPACES FOR ALL
Neighbourhood gardens
Waterpark

Barcelona
Prinzessinengarten Berlin
Skatepark
FRICTION ≠ FRICTION - SITE III ENGELDAMM

OVERVIEW

LOCATION
The site is allocated along the river banks of the Spree, right between the historic centre of Berlin in the west, a newly developing business and entertainment centre in the east and residential neighbourhoods in the north and south of the river.

FIELD OF FORCES
"Stalemate between economic pressure and very strong local actors"
Due to the close proximity to the city centre, the economic pressures and political interest to develop the area are enormous. Yet the surrounding residential areas are characterized by a tradition of protest, critical movements and residential initiatives. Hence they form a strong counter force against the economic interests and demand equal rights when discussing the development of the area.

TYPE OF FRICTION
"Diverging residential neighbourhoods separated by an axis of superior usages."
The area is characterized by large abandoned industrial areas, and remaining spaces of the former ‘death-strip’. Due to this separation, the adjacent residential neighbourhoods illustrate social and structural strong differences. Both areas show high interests upon the usage of the Spree riverbanks.

In the same time powerful superior functions are extending their boundaries from the historic centre in the west and the businesses in the east towards the available surfaces.

POTENTIALS
The prominent location is a great potential for the development of the area, since it allows for a strong political will and economic interest to invest. The strong local empowerment guarantees a balance and provides the chance to establish a sustainable mixture of local and superior usages and involved actors. The local movements further illustrate a wish to identify with the area and to invest with engagement, workforce and ideas.
The river itself establishes a great potential, separating yet also connecting the two quarters.

EXAMPLE
The area is an example of how to act with very strong economic pressure on one hand and strong public empowerment on the other hand.

MAJOR FRICTION -
Different Social groups and a functional axis between housing

Great amount of elderly people
Great amount of residents with foreign background, rather high unemployment
Former industry, current light industry and new constructions of superior usages
Special services and superior usages
Dwellings
The area is characterized by multiple interest conflicts upon the development of existing large former industrial areas along the river Spree. The central location attracts on one hand large investors with economic interests to establish large scale business and light industry buildings along with luxury housing. On the other hand the area illustrates strong residential movement that aim at maintaining those areas for residential usages, local housing and existing temporary activities providing amenity and recreation value for all. The political will in this situation is split by the wish to develop this area with a sensitive approach, in accordance with the residents, yet seemingly opposed by the need for economic investment for the cities stagnating budget.

The adjacent residential neighbourhoods are in itself strongly diverging and create a dynamic friction between spacious and green large scale housing mainly on the north side of the river Spree and traditional block structure, often still destroyed by WWII in the south. While the socialist row houses are dominated by a high amount of elderly people, the block structure in the south is characterized by a rather multicultural and young social structure with very different alternative lifestyles. A great amount of Turkish residents effect the image of the area with diverse local economies as much as the alternative artists and academics with their specific lifestyle.

As much as the very prominent location along the river Spree and its available surfaces provokes frictions it is a great potential for the development of the area. All interest groups and forces (economic, political and residential) show a great will to act. Existing residential activities, initiatives and dynamic local economies provide a great potential to complement the superior demands and the political and economic will are necessary to develop the prominent location with a benefit for all Berlin residents. The already manifested high amount of energy developed by those groups is a great chance to develop the area.
Former line of the Berlin wall
Public transportation
Temporary and local initiatives
Religious institutions
Cultural institution
Political institutions
Special services
Industrial and light industrial sites
Traffic area
New ongoing constructions
Restricted or under used open spaces
Neighbourhood gardening
Public parks
Spacious and green large scale housing area 1960th
Areas developed within the ‘social city program’
Great amount of elderly people
High amount of residents with foreign background, high unemployment
What if the zone of influence of the superior usages was confined and local usages and green connections linked the Spree riverbanks with the adjacent residential quarters?

What if the mutual blocking of action was broken through a new start organised by a development association for all?

STRATEGIES
The strategies suggested here seek at a fresh start proclaiming a work together rather than against each other. After a fresh start based upon shared discussions and acceptance strategies address new ways of organising and financing the development process and new typologies in structure and function seek at creating a neighbourhood that gives justice to all actors involved.
FRICITION ≠ FRICITION - SITE III ENGELDAMM

STRATEGIES

a. Strengthening local economy
b. Increase cross-border planning and development discourse
c. Encouraging participation and bottom-up initiatives
d. Strengthening the very own distinct socio-cultural identity
e. Enhance meetings and interaction between different groups
f. Support peaceful coexistence
g. Encouraging the creation of a shared sense of belonging
h. Making use of existing social capital
i. Create a balance between top-down and bottom-up approaches
j. Encouraging alternative financial models
k. Enhance new cooperations and networking
l. Increase connections within public transportation
m. Maintain and encourage temporary usage and flexible program
n. Reconfiguration - Linking daily supply with interactive program
o. Ensuring compositions, flexible in structure and design
p. Ensuring structures that allow easy disassembly
q. Encourage high quality design for long-term interventions
r. Encouraging non-monetary or low cost interventions
s. Balancing between generic and authentic design
t. Ensuring complementing spaces of openness and closure
u. Making use of available spatial resources
CASE STUDIES

CROSS GENERATION PROJECTS
S. Forster, generation housing, Mannheim
Generation gardens, Kreuzberg

APPROPRIATION FOR COMMUNITY USAGE
AAA: Passage 56, community building
Kiki Blofeld, Bar, Café Berlin

FLEXIBLE PROGRAMMING AND LOCAL SERVICES
D. Adjaye: London, Idea store
Vocational training centre Potsdam

LOCAL AND SUPERIOR USAGES FOR ALL
Thurock Learning Campus, South East Essex
Building Association, Freiburg
I selected site III- Engeldamm for my further concept design. The available surfaces offer a huge potential for the development of the area and all three forces of economic, political and citizens interests are visible and willing to act. This situation provides the possibility for me to explore my research question not only on a strategic level but moreover allows me to investigate and create specific spatial design solutions.

Three main frictions waiting to be worked on:
1. Stagnating conflict between local and superior interests
2. Social differences and diverse lifestyles
3. Structural contrast between spacious green row housing, block structure and large scale solitary buildings.

Three main potentials to be used:
1. Local empowerment
2. Political and economic will to act
3. Prominent location
FRICCTIONS

Stagnating interest conflict between local and superior interests

Social differences and diverse lifestyles

Structural contrasts

POTENTIALS

Local empowerment

Political and economic will to act

Prominent location
EXCURSUS
TOP DOWN VERSUS BOTTOM UP

The previous planning approaches for the development of the Spree river banks is characterized by the conceptual plan “Planwerk Innenstadt”, which demands a continuous block structure for the entire city, and the parallel ongoing constructions based upon the strategic plan for the “Mediaspree” development.

Ref: http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de
On the other hand, several temporary usages and residential initiatives appropriated under used spaces along the riverbanks for recreational purposes.
CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - SITE III ENGELDAMM

OVERALL AIM

The aim is to cut the knots of interest conflict and make use of the inherent positive energies by proposing a new start based upon alternative strategies for the organisation of the planning process, and for the development of new spatial and functional typologies. The projects seeks at a spatial design that gives justice to the very different actors and interests represented within the area.
While the available surfaces demand a new structure and a clear organisation, the concept aims at a parallel flexible system for changing usages and societal demands. The design seeks at representing the atmosphere of an open and multicultural society.

First studies for an interwoven structure
The strategies suggested here seek at a fresh start proclaiming a work together rather than against each other.

1. Declaring a fresh start: Shared discussions, Acceptance, Enable investments
2. Creating a development association: Ensuring planning reliability for all actors, Accompanying process, Financing, Initiating
3. Creating three zones for an interwoven neighbourhood
FRESH START!!!

Declaring a fresh start for all

Development association for the organisation of the planning process and the reliability of the project according to all actors involved

3 zones for an interwoven neighbourhood
CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - SITE III ENGELDAMM
OVERALL STRATEGIES I + II

Fresh start at the round table and a development association

Declaring a fresh start for all

Space for shared discussions

Acceptance

Enable investment
A development association is created in order to brake the knot and enable positive synergy effects between the different actors by using their specific potentials. The result is a spatial development of the area that exhibits all facets as equal contributions to a sustainable development.

Actors involved:

Land owners
Berlin city (Municipality)
Berlin state
Social and cultural Institutions
Local and superior investors
Protest initiators
...

Bringing different actors with local and superior interests together

Ensuring planning reliability for all actors and different spatial development interests

Enable alternative investment possibilities for the distinct interest groups, including financial funding as well as investment of local knowledge, working force and engagement.

Accompanying planning process and providing opportunities for discussion and reflection

Initiating process and eventually competitions or other events within planning process.
CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - SITE III ENGELDAMM

OVERALL STRATEGIES III

Three zones for an interwoven neighbourhood

Zone I: Providing a mixture of superior and local light industry usages, incorporating existing light industries and institutions, build upon a system of different unit sizes and interactive programming.

Zone II: Providing public and private green and open spaces, linking the area to the adjacent neighbourhoods and ensuring an interwoven structure between build and open spaces.

Zone III: Creating open housing typologies as mediator between the existing local residential structures, the Spree riverfront and the light industry usages in zone I.

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - SITE III ENGELDAMM
BUILD STRUCTURE
Joining fragments and making history visible

The architectural witnesses of the industrial past and the former separation of the city are included into the concept. They are made accessible through new program and design and in the same time effect the build structure of the surrounding. The open and green row house structure is combined with intersecting volumes. The open and interwoven structure creates a reference to the adjacent structures and allows for a neighbourhood permeable and flexible in accessibility and function.

Existing

Spacious and green city
Block structure

Large scale solitary buildings
Remaining industrial buildings

Proposal
CONCEPT DESIGN - SITE III ENGELDAMM

BUILD STRUCTURE

Joining fragments and making history visible
CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - SITE III ENGELDAMM

PROGRAM

Combining superior and local demands by offering different programmatic possibilities

The assigned program (local | superior) is based upon the previously defined sizes of plots and the possible build volumes. While the areas in close proximity to the residential quarters are highlighted by mainly smaller units for local usages, the areas adjacent to the existing large scale superior usages at the edges are mainly characterized by large scale superior usages.
CONCEPT DESIGN - SITE III ENGELDAMM

PROGRAM
Combining superior and local demands by offering different programmatic possibilities

Viktoria storage as student housing and hotel adjacent to residential structure
Boat deck and Spree promenade invite for local and superior usages
International housing with interwoven social infrastructure

"Thinking in CHN" - uncover the true colours of Berlin.
CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - SITE III ENGELDAMM

GREEN SPACES
Public and private open spaces for all, and green links highlighting the interwoven structure

Public green connections link the existing neighbourhoods to the riverfront where the intersection with the superior Spree promenade is highlighted through one of the architectural historic witnesses, special open and green spaces or additional public functions within the build structure. The newly developed housing areas further illustrate a high degree of greeneries.
Existing temporary usages on green and open spaces are integrated into the design and complement the design public spaces along the promenade.
connect superior and local green structure
provide a superior promenade along the riverbanks
revitalizing the “spacious green city”
offering green spaces for temporary appropriation
creating highlights along waterfront as public parks or plazas
CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - SITE III ENGELDAMM

ACCESSIBILITY

Reclaiming the waterfront and integrating it into a well connected network

The Spree promenade on both sides of the river is integrated within the infrastructure net of the adjacent residential areas. New streets incorporate existing important links, yet also adapt to the differentiated units corresponding to superior or local usages. Additional foot bridges connect the formerly highly disconnected sides of the river and allow for an easy accessibility to the public transportation net. Additional bus stations are suggested along the new development.
CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - SITE III ENGELDAMM
ACCESSIBILITY
Reclaiming the waterfront and integrating it into a well connected network
CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - SITE III ENGELDAMM
REFERENCES

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
Cultural centre Freiburg

BUS AND BIKE TERMINAL
Central station Essen

CITY BEACH | APPROPRIATED GREEN SPACE
Kiki Bliofeld Berlin

FORMER POSTSTATION-CLUB AND EVENT SPACE
Edelbett Hamburg

START UP CENTRE AND WORKSHOPS
Social work centre Potsdam

TEMPORARY USAGE WATERFRONT
Bar 25, Berlin

FLEXIBLE OPEN SPACE
Flea market Berlin Mauerpark

OPEN AIR LIBRARY
Karo, Open air library, leipzig

CONCEPT MASTERPLAN - SITE III ENGELDAMM

REFERENCES

FORMER ICE FACTORY - FOOD RESEARCH FACTORY

Edelfett Hamburg

SOCIAL HOUSING

Rheinauhafen Köln

DECK - PROMENADE

River plank Fürth

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CHILDREN FACILITIES

Gillmo Youth centre Kranichstein

MULTIPURPOSE HALL

D. Mandrup: Holmbladsgade, Copenhagen

PROMENADE

Riverbank Stralau

DECK

West 8 - Toronto Waterfront
A public promenade highlights the Spree riverbanks. The intersections with the green links into the neighbourhood, are emphasized by public usages, historic buildings and meeting points. Examples are the open air library with café, the former ice factory with beer garden and the food factory with adjacent herb garden.

A social housing complex responds to the existing residential neighbourhood. The multi-functional hall mediates between the existing large scale office building in the east and the new structures.
Perspective looking from the bridge “Schilling-brücke” towards Alexanderplatz.

On the left side of the river: Former ice fabric with the new research centre “food fabric” and the Spree promenade in front.

On the right side: Existing superior cultural and business usages with a complementary temporary green space.
The centre of this detail is characterized by a cooperative housing complex. International housing, cross-generation housing and possibilities for diverse building associations are integrated into one spatial structure, yet allowing for flexible adaptation according to the specific usages. Social infrastructure and neighbourhood gardens are integrated into this structure.

The line of the former Berlin wall in the west, is highlighted by a water basin and a public green space, accompanied by a wall-café and a migration museum.

At the eastern edge of the image, a new foot bridge connects the southern neighbourhoods to the ‘east station’ (Ostbahnhof) in the north.

The former Viktoria storage building is transformed into a new programmatic structure, combining student housing and a hotel.

Along the public Spree promenade you can find a deck for the tourist boats to access the neighbourhood.

The green links into the existing neighbourhoods are emphasised by tree alleys and a big canopy of trees next to the new student-hotel.
A green corridor connects the residential neighbourhoods in the north with the Spree river-banks. Along the corridor you can find sports facilities for all. Residents, business people, young and old can find diverse opportunities for health and sports on indoor and outdoor spaces (climbing wall).

A vocational training centre and a production school are allocated within a line of alternating build and green spaces parallel to the east-station. Here courses are offered for the diverging social groups in the adjacent neighbourhoods, and flexible offices spaces allow for different people to find an easy accessible temporary workplace.

A new bus and bike station highlights the superior transport link of the east-station and is combined with a market hall offering not only daily necessities for the residents but also a place for diverse restaurants, and other food places.
Perspective looking at the open air sport facilities for all, between Spree waterfront and “health centre”. The graffiti wall as a historic witness of the temporary usage Maria Club is integrated into the design.
CONCEPT DESIGN - SITE III ENGELDAMM

TIMELINE - DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

FRESH START!!!

Declaring a new start based upon:
- Shared discussions
- Acceptance
- Enable investments
- Provide space
- Create development cooperation

Development organisation:
- Ensuring planning reliability for all actors
- Accompanying process
- Financing
- Initiating

- Land owners
- Berlin city (Municipality)
- Berlin state
- Social Institutions
- Actors of Social city program
- Local and superior investors
- Protest Initiatives

CONCEPT - SITE III ENGELDAMM
CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS

The work on three different sites showed me the importance to consider the very specific types of frictions and their close interrelation to the location and the inherent forces, when developing strategies. Depending on the existing field of forces, sometimes it might be necessary to protect certain areas and sometimes it is possible to create spaces with shared usages.

The project shows that there are alternative ways on how to represent the changed society of Berlin. The open and liberal minded city cannot aim at a spatial conformity as suggested by the concept “Planwerk Innenstadt” and its nonstop block structure, ignoring all local differences and demands. New typologies are necessary and possible.

The project showed to me that it is possible to develop a plan that gives justice to the very different interests and that provides a structure within a very diverse area, yet in the same time offers room to move, for the different actors.

Hence the project illustrates a way on how to use the energies within existing frictions and channel them into positive and constructive synergy effects.

Yet I realize that this result can only be a starting point within the process of development and that the next step needs to be a shared discussion between all actors.

The project gave me courage to continue investigating those new approaches. I am looking forward to experience those projects in reality.

Let’s not only think friction but DO IT!
ADDITIONAL RESEARCH
SCIENTIFIC DATA BERLIN

SOCIAL DIVERSITY
The changes in demographics and the combined challenges are visible in the spatial structure of Berlin’s inner city. While the amount of elderly people is continuously increasing, they are to a great extend segregated to the outskirts of Berlin with the exception of a small area surrounding the eastern centre of former DDR. In order to avoid complete segregation, the inner city needs to progressively provide spaces for a diversity of age groups. On the other hand do the demographic changes as well include a lack of young children. Regarding the general amount of kids, the inner city illustrates a higher density in the northern parts. Yet looking at west Berlin up to 80% of the kids are from families with migration background. It is thus important to consider migration as well as a potential in facing demographic challenges. The inner city of Berlin further illustrates a high degree of fluctuation. This process provides a dynamic atmosphere and an authentic character of change and possibilities. The split between the city into the former socialist DDR and the capitalist BRD is still strongly noticeable in the elections. Central Berlin is dominated by a left wing oriented population with a great support for the green party.

SOCIOCULTURAL DIVERSITY
The inner city of Berlin is characterized by a great amount of sociocultural diversity. Large parts of the residents with foreign background came from Turkey during the 1960th as “Gastarbeiter” for the growing industries in Germany. They were mainly allocated in the badly maintained and hence cheap neighbourhoods from the 19th century. The contract originally aimed at a 2 year temporary employment, resulting in a lack of integration policies from the German government. Yet the majority of workers stayed and established a new home in those neighbourhoods. After the de-industrialisation large parts of the immigrants became unemployed and today Berlin needs to face great challenges in large parts of the inner city areas. Parallel Berlin is experiencing an increasing popularity on an international level and attracts not only economic migration but further a great amount of tourism. Berlin as the capital of Germany enhances international migration.
SOCIOECONOMIC DIVERSITY

Despite its status as the capital of Germany, Berlin is characterized by a very limited financial budget and largely depends on national subsidies. Since the isolation of west Berlin, the city has been a spot of financial investment in image yet not resulting in any development of own economic growth. The financial situation is largely based upon depth since the reunification processes and Berlin’s average earnings are comparably low comparing to the rest of Germany. Due to this financial situation and an comparably low economic force, the rental prices are still incredibly low, even in the inner city boundaries. This results in an incredible socio-economic diversity, hosting very different social classes within the inner city.

While the governmental district and the historic centre show a very high status index, low unemployment and high rental prices, some of the directly adjacent areas are characterized by high unemployment, low development index and a corresponding low rental market.

The areas displaying a lower social and status index correspond to a large extent to the areas with a high degree of foreign people and residents with foreign background.

Can this still existing juxtaposition of economic differences within the inner city of berlin be used as a potential and as a chance, avoiding the increasing segregation of low income areas towards the outskirts?

Due to the limited financial budget of the city the focus for the cities development needs to be further increasingly set on non-monetary potentials. Berlin is already today exemplifying a great amount of those interventions initiated by residents without and financial budget or support from the municipality. This social recourse can be used in order to compensate for the lack of economic strength on governmental level and other investments.
FUNCTIONAL DIVERSITY

Most of European capitals progressively show a segregation of residential areas out of the central districts. In the case of London the inner city largely develops into the node of finances and power whereas the centre of Paris is to a great extent reduced to representational functions. Berlin in opposite still demonstrates a large amount of residential housing areas within the inner city. The governmental district and the adjacent historic centre are surrounded by a diversity of residential neighbourhoods. Further does the inner city also include all kinds of social services in direct vicinity to representational buildings and badly maintained open spaces. Adjacent to representational green spaces, abandoned left over spaces and huge vacant industrial areas can be found and next to the tourist attractions and historic centres, light industries are still remaining. This functional diversity is a potential, yet increasingly facing politics and restructuring processes that lead to a segregation of light industries into the outskirts and limited investment into representational functions.
SPATIAL DIVERSITY

The inner city of Berlin exhibits an extraordinary spatial diversity. Due to several historic incidence and restructuring processes, Berlin is characterized by a great amount of vacant, left over spaces within the inner city boundaries. While the destroyed areas after the second world war have to a large extend been rebuild or replaced, the reunification and the accompanied destruction of the wall led to enormous vacant and abandoned spaces within the inner city of Berlin. Dense residential areas are cut by large open spaces.

Berlin has been one of the biggest industrial cities in Europe, hence due to the shift from an industrial to a knowledge based economy, there are incredibly many left over build and open spaces within the inner city. This juxtaposition of density and openness of spatially fixed and spatially flexible unused areas, is giving Berlin a very unique potential for the development of new and sustainable approaches regarding the spatial planning and design of the inner city. Those historic and ongoing restructuring processes further resulted in a distinct mixture of typologies and urban structures. Those imply different usages of space and distinct relations between open and build spaces.
Source: http://www.stadtentwicklung.berlin.de
ADDITIONAL RESEARCH
MODEL: MAJOR SOCIAL AND STRUCTURAL FRICTIONS SITE III- ENGELDAMM
ADDITIONAL WORK IN PROGRESS
SCENARIO AND STRATEGIES FOR THE THREE SITES

OVERALL AIM

The goal is to investigate opportunities for urban design to encourage diversity and to spark the inherent positive energies to create a counter-force to the ongoing segregation processes.

The aim is to allow for independent and differentiated neighbourhoods with their very own specific identity, yet to avoid segregation into isolated entities and gated communities.

In contrary, the aim is to ensure an integrated and open network that incorporates complementary spaces of diversity where the positive synergy effects between the different areas contribute to a sustainable urban development.

SITE I
BORNHOLMER STRASSE

Independent sociocultural, diverse neighbours functionally and spatially separated by a restricted hole

"What if the friction itself becomes an experimental meeting field where diversity is experienced?"

SITE II
ENGELDAAM

A social- and spatial static hub surrounded by sociocultural dynamic movements

"What if one distinct area with a strong identity allows other diverse areas to sustain and maintain a dynamic synergy?"

SITE III
SCHIFFFAHRTSKANAL

Functional fragments lost in movement

"What if a dynamic net serves as a flexible backbone integrating the diverse fragments as dynamic nodes?"

ADDITIONAL WORK IN PROGRESS
POTENTIALS AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITES

Site I - Bornholmer Strasse
Site II - Schifffahrtskanal

Site III - Engeldamm
ADDITIONAL WORK IN PROGRESS
TIMELINE AND ACTORS INVOLVED DURING PLANNING PROCESS

TIMELINE

SPATIAL

FUNCTIONAL

SOCIAL

ACTORS

Site I - Bornholmer Strasse
Site II - Schifffahrtskanal
ADDITIONAL WORK IN PROGRESS
TIMELINE AND ACTORS INVOLVED DURING PLANNING PROCESS
Site III - Engeldamm
Thinking Friction
Uncover the true colours of Berlin

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