Berlin is a city that has changed tremendously over the past 25 years. From a war-torn city split in half for four decades that had to face bankruptcy, deindustrialisation and unemployment after reunification, it has shifted to become one of the most dynamic, creative and popular places to live in, work at and travel to. Its unique history and the international reputation as a party – Mecca and creative hotspot have spurred a development and regeneration process that sets it apart from other growing cities in Germany.

But what sounds like a benefit for the whole city also has its downsides. Space is getting scarce. Where Berlin once offered open land and deserted buildings that where happily occupied by the creative, the alternative and subculture, regeneration is taking place. Areas that once hosted clubs, studios for artists or spaces to explore different forms of living are getting more interesting for international investment, tourists and new classes of residents. These spaces face market-based exploitation, repurposing and gentrification, which lead to rising rents, displacement and the disappearance of the alternative places that made Berlin attractive in the first place. Some would argue that the very core of Berlin’s identity is at stake.

Berlin is over! At least if you believe the media that periodically likes to write the city off. But is it really? It certainly is at a decisive point in its post-reunification history that will determine which way it will go.

The Genossenschaft für urbane Kreativität eG (Cooperative for urban creativity) and Mörchenpark e.V. as cofounders of Berlin based urban village Holzmarkt, invite you to explore with us how this change in the urban fabric can be shaped in a sustainable way that complies with the public interest. We will have insight in alternative projects of city making and want to offer a platform for city makers to come together, learn from and with each other and generate ideas for cooperation and alternatives to the common practices. Last but not least - to have a good time together!

Together with Amsterdam based platform Pakhuis de Zwijger, Deltametropolis Association, Stipio, Inspiring Cities and AIR we welcome you to come to Berlin and take part in this Metropolitan Field Trip that aims at giving insight in the current trends and shifts of the city’s development.

Genossenschaft für urbane Kreativität eG (GuK – Cooperative for urban creativity) joins together entrepreneurs and creators to facilitate the sustainable development of the urban quarter “Holzmarkt”. To their members, they offer not only a profitable and safe investment opportunity, but also the confidence to create public value, as well as access to an exciting network. www.gukeg.de

Mörchenpark e.V.
“Room for gardening, ideas and creative leisure” is the motto of the association Mörchenpark e.V. The Mörchenpark was found to recreate the green part of the Holzmarkt Quartier.

The association engages the public and all interested citizens in the development of the gardens and green areas of Holzmarkt. Everyone can participate or join over 600 members in an association-family or support the project with a little donation!

The Mörchenpark is a green part of the Holzmarkt neighbourhood along the banks of the Spree. www.moerchenpark.de
Holzmarkt
Holzmarkt is a new urban quarter in the making.
Once home to notorious Bar 25 and then destined to be sold to the highest bid as part of the Media Spree redevelopment project, it is now being turned into a creative hotspot including a night club, restaurant, artist’s studios, offices for startups and scientists, workshops and townsmen's homes, all accessible to the public under the premise ‘Spreuer für Alle – Spree riverfront for everybody’.
Address: Public Transport: Holzmarktstraße 25 10243 Berlin Station: Ostbahnhof

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(Pakhuis de Zwijger)
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Riverfront for all or Prime Real Estate for the Few?
Radialsystem v
Once, the Radialsystem was one of twelve waste water pumping stations throughout the city and dates back to the late 19th century. Dissolved in 1999 it was turned into a centre for arts, performance and dance. The underlying idea is the combination of tradition and innovation, old music and contemporary dance, visual arts and new media, culture and entrepreneurship. By combining allegedly contrary aspects they create a dialogic principle of differences that has made the Radialsystem V a top-class space for music and dance performances.
Address: Holzmarkt: 33 10243 Berlin I 5 Ostbahnhof
Kotti & co
Kotti & Co is a self-organised community of tenants around Kottbusser Tor in the district of Kreuzberg. They are protesting against high rents and displacement in their neighbourhood. In May 2012 they build a Gekonderte (turf bomb expression for informal settlement) as a centre for their protest and the community.
Address: Kottbusser Tor I UL UB Kottbusser Tor

Back to the Roots
Tempelhofer Feld and Allmendekonotor
The former airfield in the heart of Berlin got famous for its vital role during the Berlin blockade and the Berlin airlift, where it served as the destination point for the famous candy bombers. Dissolved as an airport in 2008 and subject to regeneration plans that were halted by a public referendum, it is now used for recreational uses, contains a nature protection zone and a vast area dedicated to urban gardening, managed by the ‘Allmendekonotor’. Here we will learn how the public reclaimed an urban space from investment driven interests to become an important urban commons in the city. To reach the Feld we will pass through the quarter of Schillerkiez, that, after a long period of run-down slum under near Tempelhofer air corridors, now enjoys rapid gentrification processes with new cafes, bars and shops opening at every corner.

Conference for City Makers
The Gensammtung für urbane Kreativität (Cooperative for urban creativity), the Mörchenpark eV in cooperation with the Paikau de Zwijger (Amsterdam) and New Europe - Cities in Transition, are hosting the Players of Change – Conference for City Makers under the Motto ‘Let the city be our playground’ on October 10th, 2015 at the Holzmarkt.
It will serve as a platform for new and unusual urban projects from Berlin to discuss pressing issues between experts, city officials as well as creatives and the public to get inspiration and build networks.
Each project will have three minutes to present itself to the participants, including the questions that they have. Then they meet in small groups to work together in three 25-minute pitch camp stages on their questions. The project therefor have the opportunity to discuss with different groups of participants, each with different backgrounds and perspectives.
To do this we provide a moderator and documentary material for each group. The results are presented to all participants and will be reviewed in a panel discussion at the end of the conference.

Markthalle Neun
Within the heart of Kreuzberg we will start our third day of the trip. We will have a brunch and a guided tour in one of the most extraordinary food markets in Berlin - the 120 year old Markthalle Neun. Markthalle Neun is a good example for an urban conversion, shifting away from big supermarket chains, back to regional vendors and farmers. It offers space for a traditional weekly market, a street food market and offers a platform to strengthen the regional food industry, discuss sustainable farming and city planning. It is a space for the residents of the quarter to meet up and participate in urban life.
Address: Eisenbahnstraße 42-43, 10997 Berlin I UL Gültzer Park

Mediaspree vs. Spreuer für Alle
This former border area around the old eastern harbour is subject to a major restructuring process that started after reunification. It was supposed to become a major hub of media and cultural businesses. It already sports a large area for music and sports events and major music, fashion and lifestyle companies. But the project has sparked large protests for neglecting citizen’s interests, participatory possibilities and green neighbourhood structures.

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Berlin House of Representatives
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Address: Niederkirchnerstraße 5 10117 Berlin S+U Potsdamer Platz / S Anhalter Bahnhof

Prinzessinnengärten
The Prinzessinnengärten (princess’s gardens) are an urban gardening project in the heart of the district of Kreuzberg that serves as a place for education, as a community centre and a space for leisure. A citizens initiative cleaned the old wasteland of scrap and turned it into a mobile garden where every plant and tree can be moved, including four bee colonies, a kitchen and a café.
Address: Prinzessinnenstrasse 25 – 38 Prinzessinnenstrasse 15 I UB Moltkplatz

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