

LETZTE ÜBERPRÜFUNG

Grenzwachturm Schlesischer Busch

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LÜ 5/06 raumlaborberlin:

LIVING IN THE TOWER. Building Intention: Housing Estate Schlesischer Busch

08. June - 30. July 2006

Opening at the beginning of the planning phase: 8th June, 3 - 10 pm

Opening at the exhibition of the planning results: 6th July, from 7 pm

With the project "Living in the Tower. Building Intention: Housing Estate Schlesischer Busch" records the group of architects **raumlaborberlin** for eight weeks the former border watch tower in Schlesischer Busch as part of the series "Letzte Überprüfung". Starting point is the border watch tower with its functional architecture, its history and relevant regards. As so called leadership point the border watch tower in Schlesischer Busch fulfilled a special function in the system of the Berlin Wall. 18 subordinate watch towers were guided, and the electronic border security systems controlled, from here.

Since the downfall of the Wall there is a space which has lost its function, running through the new resp. old middle of what is now one city - Berlin. After the usage of almost 30 years there has developed a vacuum along this stripe of 44 kilometres length between front and hinterland wall, which is hardly tolerable for parts of the public. Others saw in this unique emptiness in the middle of a metropolis a breeding ground for temporary and continual urban uses. While some wished for the fast joining together of the city and the healing of its wounds, others felt regrets because of the disappearance of traces of history.

At Schlesischer Busch there is only the watch tower left to inform the unknowing ones about the by-gone story of the public area which is now a park. Nearby, at the Heidelberger Straße, the district border between Treptow and Neukölln, the youth circus Kabuwazi and a discount store of Plus have established. A big top and a supermarket hall, usually building types of the temporary you would find rather in suburbs, give the former wall stripe the character of the periphery.

The project "Living in the Tower" draws the attention to this perception. The watch tower, which is under preservation order, as the most prominent relic of the Berlin Wall in Berlin-Treptow, is liberalised for the plan game to be changed into an ordinary building type of the periphery - the detached house. In the first phase from 8th June until 5th July, Francesco Apuzzo and Axel Timm from **raumlaborberlin** will shift their planning office to the watch tower, and work on situations of changed usage in sketches and models together with visitors of the exhibition as potential "clients". A building sign at Puschkinallee not only informs about the project and "wins" visitors of the exhibition as participants for the plan game, but also a selected building intention is presented here weekly. During the second phase from 6th July until 30th July the created drafts will be exhibited in the tower.

raumlaborberlin is a group for architecture and urban development. Project related the members of **raumlaborberlin** work together with specialists of other professions. **raumlaborberlin** is a pool of knowledge and resources. Besides architecture tasks **raumlaborberlin** also devotes its attention to urban development, action, landscape architecture, design of public areas and artistic installations. Further information at www.raumlabor_berlin.de.

Letzte Überprüfung is a project of the Kunstfabrik am Flutgraben e.V. and is guided by Svenja Moor (0163-2313222) and Ines Tartler (0178-3875171). Further information at www.kunstfabrik.org.

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