inspiring architectures without clients
prof. walter unternacher
Architects can produce unlimited numbers of ideas, visions, concepts, projects, speculative drawings and models etc.

To realize or materialize any of them, power of control over a site as well as human and material resources are needed.

Or in general and more abstract: MONEY

In contrast to an artist, we do not own the physical object based on our design and we have limited control over it.
The 'winner' of the competition was Moreau Kusunoki Architects. The competition took part when nothing was secured and there were financial games between Guggenheim Foundation, collector Carl Gustaf Ehrnrooth and Helsinki Municipality. The project was cancelled by political decision in 2016.

1715 participating architect firms accepted from start to be the game ball between financial and prestige interests, which no other profession would ever do.

Given the fact that each such competition entry needs an investment of at least 1000 hours, that adds up to 1.715.000 working hours. Or better to imagine: with the same investment of hours, a large architect firm of 100 architects could work 429 weeks or 9.5 years.

Architects could connect to all the UN development goals, but architects in my mind again they don't, because architects have become really passive. Architects are not drivers of policies. Architects are only the pawn in many of the political decisions that being made. Very few architects have a political voice...

CJ Lim in an interview  February 2017
since the crisis 2008: the architectural market recovered far less than the construction output in the EU. who is doing the jobs and how?

're of the biggest mistakes that architects make is that they tend to deal with problems that only interest other architects'

'The biggest challenge is to engage with the important non-architectural issues – poverty, pollution, congestion, segregation – and apply our specific knowledge. It's not enough to raise awareness. I want people to leave with more tools. We must share the challenges so we are aware of the coming battles.'

Alejandro Aravena Pritzker Prize 2016 and curator of Architecture Biennale in Venice 2016
challenges and needs for architects

impact, self esteem, economy of architects
R-Urban a reçu le prix européen d’innovation politique - catégorie écologie.

R-Urban strategy has been voted by 1002 European citizens to receive the European Prize of Innovation in Politics in the category Ecology among 170 projects nominated by an experts collective. The Prize was awarded on December 8th, 2017 within the framework of a Gala organized in the great Hall of Vienna’s city Hall.

https://innovationpolitics.eu/showcase/tecategory/55

R-Urban is a grassroots movement for ecological transition. It proposes to enhance the local capacity of urban resilience by building networks of hubs that valorise local resources and support alternative models of living, producing and consuming. R-Urban provides tools, training and resources to facilitate citizen collaborations.
In winter 1985, I started with three young families in Feldkirch/Austria the idea of building a low-cost joint housing project that fulfils our wishes:

- living communal without living collective – in strong rejection to our parents dreams of single-family-houses
- living self-determined in respect to the formation of our home as well as to our economic situation. Design participation and independence from professional housing organizations were clearly defined aims
- living ‘ecological’, which basically meant ‘green spaces’ and to build with ‘natural building materials’ and ‘healthy’ technical systems
- building as economic as possible, including intensive self-building activities

After placing an add in a local newspaper, 55 people came to a first meeting. They all had in common a lot of dreams, many ideas for a more ecological life-style but no building site or relevant money and savings.

The outcome of this initial meeting was three decisions:

- the group started a process of generating a statute for the project: how group decisions should be done, what are the responsibilities and liabilities of each party and what property form the group was looking for
- the group engaged a lawyer to inform about legal traps and to translate the group decisions into a legal contract
- a sub-group was installed to scout possible building sites
'I think that the practice as an 'object – architect' is a phase-out model. Transdisciplinary collaborations, Private-Public-Partnership models, you might like them or not, will certainly be part of our future... Institutions want to have everything 'ready' and controllable... A project should not only be designed but built, financed, operated and maintained. That is actually the model we architects need to look closer... These large scale projects we process actually only by contracts as general planners including all design services (Generalplaneraufträge)'

Markus Peterhans, interview with Walter Unterscheider. April 2017
Hej. Du taler med Mikkel, og jeg er din lokale apoteker. Jeg vil gerne byde velkommen dig til omdrejningspunktet i Rundhøj, hvor der kommer til at foregå mange forskellige aktiviteter i de følgende måneder.

Har du et bud på, hvad du kan gøre, før at idéen bliver til virkelighed?

Tryk * for at komme i gang!

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Du har nu 2 minutter til at indtaste dit svar på spørgsmålet.

Tryk # når du er færdig med at svare.

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Har du en god idé til aktiviteter på omdrejningspunktet?

Tryk * for at komme i gang!