

P012_The garden houses of the architect

Brief description

As an element of the New Frankfurt, garden houses were designed and built 100 years ago by architect Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky. Some of them are still in use as testimonies to the spirit of the Bauhaus and the spirit of optimism of the Weimar Republic. Interviews will be conducted with their current owners to consider how such a garden house could be built to meet today's needs. A prototype is to be developed, which will be built in a small series in a later project and made available for use by families in need and single parents.

Initial situation

In Frankfurt there are numerous small garden sites with owners of great diversity, be it origin, religion, orientation or ideology. Without being an exact reflection, they form a microcosm of society in which resentment, group formation, but also openness and tolerance can be seen.



Why this project?

Concepts such as democracy or solidarity are often perceived by many as too abstract and become less concrete. In Frankfurt, this is possible in a special way. Many small garden estates were established there as part of the so-called 'May-Siedlungen' and as testimonies to the first democracy in Germany. They are popular and lively and thus, through each and every one of their operators, a piece of 'biographical' democracy lived out for themselves.

What are we going to do?

We want to make the positive aspects of democracy clear and vivid, but also question them critically. With interviews and videos, the garden owners will be able to tell their 'story' about the garden houses, in order to bring to life a piece of the history of democracy that was written in Frankfurt and the Rhine-Main area.



Procedure

IMM team members with hand-crafted experience and familiar with social media will make individual appointments, design an updated garden house with expert assistance, evaluate video footage, and post some of it. (Realization: May to October 2021)

This project can also be realized under restrictions. The online available and again newly planned 'City Walks' are an example of this: https://imm.org/imm_projekte/001_neuebruckefrankfurt_001.html or <https://youtu.be/d6ftReShaVw>

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