

Cities, Communities and Homes: Is the Urban Future Livable?

- **Paper / Proposal Title:**

Bridging the generation gap? Concrete and Terrace house estates of Late-Modernism

- **Format:**

Written paper

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- **Abstract (300 words):**

How to create dense and at the same time livable living space is a constant question-mark in urban and architectural planning. Moreover by reflecting on the need of sustainable approaches, the built legacy of Late Modernism - as a main part of the residential stock in European Cities - has to be considered. For decades, this architecture was criticised as pure rationalism, inhuman and anti-urban, stigmatizing raw concrete. However, in the last twenty years a shift of upgrading and awareness has been taken place. The younger generations have recognized housing as part of their cultural identity and are now inclined to favour its direct bare language. But holistic architectural strategies for its future are still missing, pushing a valuable housing stock into a mass of unattractive housing. The paper analyses the housing estates *Terrassenhaussiedlung* in Graz (Werkbund Graz, 1966) and *Girondelle* in Bochum (Albin Hennig, 1969), a typology based on an urban and "human" concept. It considers the need of differentiation while dealing with the stock, outlining the co-relation between typology and technology in Late-Modernism housing and the process of cultural identification with the habitat. Due to its sculptural and unique character, the built

structure created by modernist technology is not perceived as serial reproduction, but as an urban and livable habitat whereby, the technology of the raw concrete *in situ* seems to be crucial. Aged in decades of its construction, the concrete is coming to its end but, at the same time, patina is covering the structure, suggesting a historically grown urban structure. Due to this architectural language the housing seems to be sensed and read as being of human scale and being a grown living space with an urban character. These aspects illuminate potentials for a unique and urban habitat for the future.

• **Author(s) Biography (200 words each):**

Claudia Volberg graduated as architect from the RWTH Aachen in 2002. After eight years of working experience as architect, she finished a postgraduate Master in Theory and History of Architecture at the ETSA Barcelona in 2010. She gained experience as junior as well as senior architect and PR-Manager in international urbanism-architecture-offices in Spain, Mexico and Switzerland. At *Diener&Diener Architekten* in Basel she deepened her knowledge as project-leader for housing projects, competitions and refurbishment strategies of patrimony ensembles.