Constructing an Urban Future: The sustainability and resilience of cities – infrastructures, communities, buildings and housing.

• Paper / Proposal Title:

"Transport lessons from Germany. An architectural approach"

• Format(s):

Pre-recorded Film /Written paper

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• Abstract (300 words):

Recent global tendencies are changing the mobility pattern of the future and cities keep readapting continuously. From the electric self-driving car technology, the sharing economy, the environmental consciousness to renewal energies, cities need to offer new alternatives in a competitive world. But how does it affect to the public space, the urban infrastructure and the architecture of mobility?

The public transport system in Germany is one of the most advanced in the world. A national-wide system of suburban trains, metro, trams, and buses coordinated between different levels of the administration are present in the main cities of the country. Berlin, the old-new capital updated its infrastructure since the reunification of the country in 1990, becoming a reference in mobility praxis for the XXI century. Geographic North-South and East-West suburban train axis, complemented with a tram network in the former East, a metro network in the former West and a suburban circle line that connect the city periphery in an efficient way. Integrated tickets allow you to move though the city no matter what kind of transport you need to use and the stations do
not have a physical barrier to access them anymore, extending the public space in up and under ground.

Sharing platforms for cars, moppets and bikes are already settled in the city, involving international renowned brands like BMW/Mini (Drive Now) and Smart/Mercedes Benz (Car2go), which are using the existing physical infrastructure to operate: At the beginning, those companies only runned in the area surrounded by the circle line and use the metro network zones to expand. But how is the space related to the new mobility adapting to the new situation? which projects are leading the way? How deep the way we move is shaping the future of the cities?

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

José Ramos-Nieto studied architecture at the ETSA Seville, Spain, and the TU Berlin, Germany, with experiences in both local and international architecture. He is currently researching social processes and public spaces for his PhD at the Technical University of Sevilla, Spain. As a PhD fellow he is exploring the concept of design within the field of urban mobility and urbanism in general. His practice is dedicated to contribute to a more profound understanding of current topics that architecture is increasingly confronted with in context of environment and ecological integration. The Spanish-born architect and founder of studioramos.de specialises on the intersection of infrastructure and designed environments. Design, collaboration and an interdisciplinary approach of thinking are central to meet the needs of his private, national and international clients. The variety of his work from public projects and private homes to commercial spaces, show his expertise in working with different scales of architecture. Interested in the application of technology to the design of buildings and objects, he is exploring the use of interactive media and responsive material. Rosa-María Añón-Abajas is a Doctor Architect and Professor at the Universidad de Sevilla, where she lead the research group "Project, Progress, Architecture" since 2005.