

THE CITY KNOWS NO UPPER LIMIT!

BEYOND WELCOME: ANOTHER PLANNING IS POSSIBLE!

Hamburg has a „refugee problem“? No, Hamburg has a housing problem.

For decades real estate developers and politicians have treated our cities as if mainly high earners inhabited them, as if people with low income and the homeless had no right to the city – and as if the worldwide flows of forced migration weren't able to reach Europe. The arrival of more than one million refugees fleeing war, poverty and terror has clarified that this way of city-planning is irresponsible. Suddenly it becomes clear that a policy that has constantly feared „ghettoisation“ when it comes to social housing will fail to cope with the historic challenges of our time.

The neoliberal city has been unable to develop concepts for good, affordable and sustainable housing, it has turned the social housing scheme into a subsidy-scheme for investors - and all this lapses have come back to bite. Now it's high time to talk about new ways to continue building our cities.

Thus, on May 28 we call for a parade of choreographed blocks, leading into a public hearing under the motto „A different planning is possible“. We will start at Karolinenplatz / Messehallen, following a suggestion of the Hamburg Chamber of Architects: Why does Hamburg need an exhibition center, unused for most of the year, in such a central location? How about moving it to outskirts and reusing the exhibition site? We end our parade at the square in front of the empty Axel Springer-house – a former editorial building of 90.000 square meter that would make a perfect example for a different kind of planning, the right place for a public hearing to debate on a city in which ‚higher and more‘ does not only benefit those who can afford it.

What we need is a planning that includes platforms of access and mediation and brings together the new neighbourhoods, a planning which organises a sustainable form of social housing by bringing cooperatives and new forms of communalisation into the game – instead of encouraging privatisation of public space for the benefit of the real estate sector under the premise of building new housing for refugees. Last but not least, we need a perspective on housing, where origin and status do not matter.

We will not leave the city to the Not-in-my-Backyard-citizens, who instinctively demonise the planned arrival-quarters as „ghettos“.

Furthermore, we don't believe that the deportation campaign, promoted by the governing Social Democratic and Green Party – affecting hundreds of people every month – produces any relief. Instead, it is a cruel attempt, doomed to failure, to appease right-wing sentiments. Therefore, we also call for the manifestation „Migration is a Right! Deportation is a Crime!“ that takes place on May 14.

We believe that city has no upper limits. Newcomers don't remain strange in cities. Densification is the essence of the city - it produces spaces, provides chances and makes us all smarter.

28th MAY: PARADE & PUBLIC HEARING

**Start of the parade at 2pm at Karolinenplatz / Messehallen
Public hearing from 4pm at Axel Springer Platz**

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