

# TO THE

# DEBATE

## PRESERVE THE EXISTING!

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

## IDEAS FOR A NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS IN EXISTING BUILD- INGS

ASSOCIATION OF GERMAN  
ARCHITECTS BDA

18. June 2021

13.00 – 16.00

Online

[www.bda-bund.de/events/neb](http://www.bda-bund.de/events/neb)

Much new construction has taken place in recent years with the promise of a more socially just and ecologically better future. Paradoxically, many resources were initially consumed for this and buildings and entire neighbourhoods were demolished. The existing buildings are too ecologically valuable, the social structures and cultural histories associated with the houses too valuable to accept further demolitions.

And it is becoming increasingly clear that „building, building, building“ is no longer a guarantee against high rents. On the contrary, new construction is largely responsible for the persistently high consumption of land, the overexploitation of increasingly scarce materials such as sand and gravel and, last but not least, a large share of CO2 emissions.

Preserve the existing is the call for a reductive strategy in architecture, which carries out a paradigm shift from exploitation aimed at short-term returns to long-term thinking about the existing. This concern for the existing is free of questions about style and epoch and applies to historical as well as to buildings from the 1950s to the 1980s.

Continuing to build on the existing does not call for radically different architecture, but it does call for a radically different attitude on the part of architects, in politics, in the entire building industry, in questions of financing and among clients.

The Bauhaus, founded in Weimar in 1919, dared to do something, challenged and provoked society and politics with progressive ideas, with a social utopia, and captivated people with fundamental questions about housing and land. Transferring this approach to the present day with the New European Bauhaus, thereby expanding the preservation and repair of the building stock into a comprehensive ecological rethinking that integrates the building industry and the financial sector and that allows people to experience reduction not as renunciation but as gain, is an opportunity that must be taken seriously.

The symposium invites a discussion on ideas for a New European Bauhaus that seeks and develops perspectives for the building stock in a collaborative experimentation, learning and correction.

## **PRESERVE WHAT EXISTS!**

### **MISSION FOR THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS**

Susanne Wartzeck, Präsidentin des BDA, Berlin / Dipperz

#### **I EXISTENCE NEEDS ACTION**

##### **Zentrale Pratteln, Basel**

Tabea Michaelis, Denkstatt, Basel

##### **Grande Halle, Caen**

Nicola Delon, Encore Heureux, Paris

##### **WTC, Brüssel**

Freek Persyn, 51N4E, Brüssel

#### **II SIMPLY CONVERT**

Eike Roswag-Klinge, ZRS Architekten, Berlin

##### **De Flat Kleiburg – Conversion of a residential complex of post-war**

Kamiel Klaasse, NL Architects, Amsterdam

#### **III DONUTS MUST BE FILLED**

Roland Gruber, nonconform, Wien

Uli Böker, Major of Ottensheim

Dr. Armin König, Major of Illingen

#### **IV DISTRIBUTION TO THE EXISTING IN THE INTERCITY**

Jörg Heiler, heilergeiger architekten

und stadtplaner BDA, Kempten

##### **Central Storage Space, Winterthur**

Barbara Buser, Denkstatt, Basel

##### **Tabula Scripta**

Daan Zandbelt, De Zwarte Hond, Rotterdam

## **ON THE STATE OF THE NEW EUROPEAN BAUHAUS: REPORT FROM BRUSSELS**

European Commission, Brussels

Moderation:

Nikolaus v. Peter, EU-Kommission, Berlin

Dr. Thomas Welter, BDA, Berlin