

P012_ The arbors of the architect/ 100 years Tiny House Frankfurt

Short description For refugees of the First World War and people with low incomes, apartments with gardens, huts and small houses were built almost 100 years ago in Vienna as well as in Frankfurt. In Frankfurt, some of them are still in use today. As a unit of garden and apartment, the settlements should not only provide a roof over their heads for many refugees and homeless people, but also make it possible to grow vegetables in the garden to provide themselves with food. The post-war years were the time of the first democracy in Germany, marked by hunger and poverty, but also by many hopes and ideas. The IMM team conducted intensive research on the background and concepts of these arcades or tiny houses and is now focusing on the transformation of today's needs into an adequate appearance. A prototype is developed that can later be produced in small series. These arbors can thus be made available to particularly needy families.



Initial situation There are still numerous allotment gardens in Frankfurt. Especially recently, they have been increasingly used and desired by people of different origins, religions, orientations or beliefs. Without being an exact reflection, these form a mirror of society as a microcosm, in which resentment, group formation but also openness and tolerance are shown.



Why this project? Concepts such as democracy or solidarity are often perceived as too abstract, seem too difficult and intangible. Media-driven disinformation and 'alternative' facts make it easy to 'believe' in them instead of persistently asking questions. In Frankfurt, this inquiry is possible in a special way. Many allotment garden settlements as part of the so-called May-settlements have emerged as testimonies of the first democracy in Germany, are popular and lively and thus a piece of self-lived 'biographical' democracy by each and every one of their owners.

What were we up to? We wanted to illustrate the positives of democracy but also critically question them. Interviews and videos should illustrate this. Plans, dreams of that time and what has become of them should become visible and comprehensible. History about democracy, fascism and change in society can be read from these settlements and should be updated alive with new approaches.

Procedure Team members of the IMM with technical experience and in dealing with social media, conducted interviews and designed an updated arbor. This project was realized from May to September 2021 under Corona-related restrictions. Here is a video of how we started: <https://youtu.be/d6ftReShaVw>

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