Tool set in use at a cultural probes workshop. (Image: Interaction Research Studio)

Shaping Baukultur: value-based and participatory

This project wants to empower people to reconnect to places and to make an active contribution to transforming them towards sustainability. It explores how participatory processes in the context of the built environment can be improved using cultural probes in a citizen-science approach. It addresses a wide set of stakeholders including architects, urbanists, spatial planners and local authorities.

Das Projekt entwickelt eine partizipative Methode, um Werte und Potenziale bestehender Bauten zu beurteilen. So ermöglicht es den Menschen, eine tiefere Verbindung zu ihrer gebauten Umwelt zu schaffen und aktiv an deren Gestaltung mitzuwirken. Es untersucht, wie partizipative Prozesse im Kontext der gebauten Umwelt mithilfe kultureller Sonden verbessert werden können. Es richtet sich an ein breites Spektrum von Akteur*innen aus Verwaltung, Architektur, Stadt- und Raumplanung.

Introduction: The project explores how participatory processes in the context of the built environment can be improved using cultural probes in a contributory, citizen-science approach. It examines how to integrate expert knowledge into highly participatory, value-driven methods for assessing and extrapolating values and potential.

Methods: Challenging the conventional differentiation between inventoried and non-inventoried constructions, this project affirms that heritage conservation should no longer be treated as an exception, but as an essential part of an urgently needed process of regeneration, conversion and refurbishment. The project will propose a novel methodology aimed at upholding and attaining a high standard of “Baukultur”. The objective is not only research, but also direct implementation in practice, standardisation, and teaching.

Results:
- The team will explore their methodology in extensive site analyses to determine the potential for quality adaptation and to establish new tools and processes for participative collaboration in cooperation with the canton of Fribourg.
- Together with the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects (SIA), the team will establish tools and processes for making assessments and joint decisions that may serve as a basis for converting the Technical Specification SIA 2017 “Conservation value of Constructions” into a new standard.
- The team will introduce this approach as an interdisciplinary course in the BA Curriculum “Architecture” of the Bern University of Applied Sciences.

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