

PRESSE RELEASE

For the eighth time, on March 5 and 6, 2020, architects and medical professionals, managers and decision-makers met in the Berlin Academy of the Arts to discuss future developments in the healthcare building sector.

Under the keyword RETHINKING HOSPITALS, an international panel from architecture and healthcare discussed current trends in healthcare and their implications for future hospital planning.

Since Christine Nickl-Weller (Nickl & Partner Architekten) started the symposium as part of her research and teaching at TU Berlin, the event has developed into a meeting place for lively exchange between representatives from practice, research, industry and administration. Since 2018, the symposium has been organized by the European Network Architecture for Health <http://www.enah.eu/> and supervised by a top-class advisory board.

During a relaxed get-together in the creative atmosphere of *Freiraum-in-the-Box*, the new cultural location in Berlin Friedrichshain, speakers and participants met on Thursday evening to get in the mood for the lectures of the following day. This was achieved above all by the enthusiastic lecture by the Spanish architect and RIBA award winner Benedetta Tagliabue, who presented her new Kálda St. Pau Cancer Center in Barcelona.

Prior to that Magnus Nickl – as a representative of Christine and Hans Nickl Foundation - recognized three promising student projects, which had emerged as winners from the 1st *Architecture for Health Students' Award* <http://www.enah.eu/award>.

At the start of the actual symposium on Friday, March 6, Eckart von Hirschhausen, founder of the *Humor hilft Heilen* foundation, greeted the audience from afar by video message. As a *Scientist for Future*, he is committed to sustainable and climate-friendly hospital construction that focuses on people's concerns.

In her opening speech, Christine Nickl-Weller emphasized above all the need to revise the restrictive regulations of the German construction sector in order to clear the way for buildings that can react more flexibly to the rapid developments in healthcare.

In their subsequent greetings, the President of the Berlin Chamber of Physicians, Günther Jonitz, and the Managing Director of the Institute for Architecture at the TU Berlin, Philipp Misselwitz, represented the two fields of interest - healthcare and architecture - which are to enter into a dialogue with one another in the symposium.

The following four sessions covered a wide range of topics relating to current issues in the healthcare building system, from questions of policy changes in health care, to the location of large clinics in an urban context, up to the discussion about the role of the hospital in times of climate change. In the session *The Death of the Hospital as we know it*, Reinhard Busse, Professor of Management in Health Care at the TU Berlin, presented in an impressive sequence of facts and figures why there should be different, but above all fewer, hospitals in Germany.

Jan Hazelzet, Professor of Healthcare Quality at the Erasmus Medical Center Rotterdam spoke about the role of digitally supported patient-reported outcomes and their future importance for integrated health care, and Wolfgang Straff from the Federal Environment Agency explained the agency's recommendations with regard to climate-friendly building and urban planning.

In each of the sessions, ground-breaking planned or already completed projects in Germany and neighboring European countries were presented, such as the *Krankenhaus Nord* in Vienna (Albert Wimmer ZT GmbH), the *Universitätsspital Zurich* (Sander Hofrichter Architekten), the children's hospitals in Dublin, London and Liverpool (BDP) or the small forest cabins of *Friluftsykehuset* (Snøhetta). The *Healing Algorithms*, a computer-aided evaluation tool, with which the Danish office LINK Arkitekter is going to evaluate their future hospital projects for health-promoting factors, evoked lively discussions.

The common ground of the speakers was that only *integrated* approaches, which include the perspectives of all stakeholders in planning and healthcare, can lead to successful healthcare buildings.

Due to the corona-related exceptional situation, two announced speakers (Günther Vogt, VOGT Landschaftsarchitekten and Nirit Pilosof, Technion Israel Institute of Technology) could not participate. And Sebastian Redecke (editor at Bauwelt) stepped in for Lars Steffensen (TU Berlin, Architecture for Health) as moderator of the 4th session. Despite all odds the majority of the participants had come and met during the breaks in the foyer of the Academy of Arts to network and discuss.

After a long day full of information and impulses, Christine Nickl-Weller released the audience with an urgent appeal, especially to AKG e.V. (German organisation of Architects for Hospital Construction and Health Care) to actively support the still difficult appointment process for the professorship of the chair *Architecture for Health* at the TU Berlin. This unique subject in the German university landscape has to be filled in the long term, she urged.

Stefanie Matthys, Managing Director of the *European Network Architecture for Health*, announced the 9th symposium in this series for March 2022 and invited to actively contribute to the network by pointing out that "it is the interdisciplinary and transnational exchange that defines the spirit of the symposium".

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