Berlin, Germany - A city having experienced industrial transformation, population loss, and a strong creative movement, provides the ideal case study for identifying how distress is being mitigated within the city’s least desirable neighborhoods. In the end, the study aims to identify Creative Local Governance and Neighborhood Resiliency measures to better inform Community Development Planning.

PROJECT OUTLINE

1. Measure Distress in Berlin
2. Distress measure in Selected Sites
3. Current Action Plans
4. Informality in Context

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Creative Local Governance & Neighborhood Resiliency

How are Neighborhood Management plans mitigating distress in Berlin?

Urban Informality - Day labor, street vending, and squatting have become means of survival for the urban poor. Rather than turning the blind eye or criminalizing these processes, making way for informality to occur may prove to be more effective than the tactics employed by fanatics of urban farming, beautification, and the notion that the urban poor need more green space to play in.

How can we make way for informality?

In South Florida, progressive signage & vegetation placement provide shade & designated areas for day labor to occur.

Neighborhood Plans in Berlin allow for informality to exist within the confines of a given neighborhood boundary.

Criminal drug activity has become an ‘anchor’ for this distressed community. The neighborhood team hopes to relocate and retrofit the ‘community center’ in hopes of improving quality of life for residents.

Low rents, a high stock of residential units, and a diverse community make Wassertorplatz an ideal location for new immigrants. The neighborhood team seeks to improve social development and integration with public art, workshops, and educational programs.

Vacant inner-neighborhood structures are being re-purposed in order to establish a new community center (anchor). These would become places for exhibitions, workshops, performances, and cultural exchange.

Lack of orientation and direction is daunting for the newcomer, so public art helps them get around.

With neighborhood management, a Nigerian kitchen was opened and also serves as a meeting place.

The Role of Informality in the Formulation of Inventive Community Development

Informality in Context

Zentrum Kreuzberg

Distress Measures

Unemployment
Long Term Unemployment
Welfare Recipients
Child Welfare Recipients

Wassertorplatz | Zentrum Kreuzberg
Unemployment | 15.58% | 17.85%
LT Unemployment | 5.83% | 6.78%
Welfare Recipients | 37.31% | 37.57%
<15 W. Recipients | 72.07% | 76.3%

Introduction

Neighborhood Distress Levels

Neighborhood Plans in Berlin allow for informality to exist within the confines of a given neighborhood boundary.

Urban Design as a tool for Crime Prevention & Community Development

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