Cities Under Demographic Change
An Architectural Look into the Future

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The demographic change in many western and industrialized societies will influence and change nearly all aspects of our lives. The rising life expectancy is leading to an increasing number of older adults, and of people of a very advanced age. At the same time, fewer children are being born and the overall population is shrinking. These developments pose a new demand on architecture: to accommodate the demographic change. But how will the public space in our cities need to change when the population ages? This question will be explored in this lecture by introducing a virtual German City of the future. This City is an interactive architectural model which was designed and built as part of the exhibition “All Generations in the Boat Together” on a ship called the MS Science. This is an exhibition ship which toured Germany and Austria under the auspices of the German Science Year 2013 “The Demographic Opportunity”. The model shows the main aspects of how the urban space will need to be adapted so that it is barrier-free and suitable for different age groups. The future developments of mobility, housing, and care and supervision will be discussed and the underlying thoughts and supporting data for the design of the model will be outlined.

Dr. Gesine Marquardt's research work is centered around the human response to the built environment. She focuses on how the physical environment can be designed in such a way that it can be accessed equally by all users, regardless of age, disability, or cognitive impairment. Dr. Marquardt obtained a Master’s degree in Architecture at the University of Stuttgart, Germany in 1999. After working as an Architect in the field of Health Care Design she committed her career to research. In 2007 she was awarded her PhD and three research awards. After a postdoctoral stay as a researcher at the Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore, MD, she was awarded funding by the German Research Foundation (DFG) to establish her own research group on “Architecture under Demographic Change”.

The lecture is part of the Dresden-Columbus International Lecture Series on Sustainable Urban Development (DCI). The Dresden-Columbus International Lecture Series addresses topics of high actuality regarding sustainable urban development that are relevant to the development of the two sister cities of Dresden and Columbus (USA). The lectures are a continuation of the successful and long-standing joint program on sustainable development in the urban region conducted as part of a 15-year partnership between Leibniz Institute of Ecological Urban and Regional Development (IOER), TU Dresden and The Ohio State University. The partnership received the Excellence in Teaching Prize of the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) in 2006.

Hinweis: Die Veranstaltung findet in englischer Sprache statt. Der Vortrag der Referentin wird per Videokonferenz live aus Dresden in die USA übertragen.