



ARAB SPRING – DESIGNING POLITICS?

2011

What is it all about?

Ulm is the place in the world that has set itself the task of conducting a discourse on the social responsibility of the designer and defining the democratic quality of design.

What Ulm searched for and formulated is an answer by design to the crimes of the Nazi regime: The Scholl siblings fought for things to be different, and the Hochschule für Gestaltung in Ulm opened up alternative approaches to educating designers. On that basis, IFG Ulm continues to represent the conviction that the work of designers and architects cannot be reduced to aesthetic, technical and commercial factors.

Design always rests on a social and political foundation, and acts upon that foundation in return. What does this vision mean to us today?

“Culture and politics [...] belong together because it is not knowledge or truth which is at stake, but rather judgment and decision, the judicious exchange of opinion about the sphere of public life and the common world, and the decision what manner of action is to be taken in it, as well as to how it is to look henceforth, what kind of things are to appear in it.”

Hannah Arendt (The Crisis in Culture: Its Social and Political Significance, in: Between Past and Future: Eight Exercises in Political Thought, New York 1961, 223)

With the promotion programme »Designing politics – The politics of design«, IFG Ulm is taking up this discourse which started over 50 years ago, and is investigating its current relevance. Today, Ulm is once again searching for what is different:

- How can designers in future define their work in an extended and mediating field of relationships which also includes social and cognitive processes?
- Is there a way for designers to initiate and regulate intervention and participation in the field of social transformation?
- What design opportunities are linked with a view to action, networking and conditioning above and beyond formal clarity?

Ulm is looking for examples of projects which make the change from an economy of reification to an ecology of transformation. The IFG does this in organising hearings and projects. Ulm is about directing the gaze behind the surface of the design process and which reveal that design diffuses transformational action into the space occupied by commercial and political decision-making.

IFG Ulm's hearing and projects are intended to encourage projects to develop consequences which leave a lasting mark on our social and physical environment.

Ulm remains the place where Designers may engage in the progressive (scientific) discourse of form, space and visibility.

Foundation HfG Ulm und IFG (www.hfg-ulm.de)

The arab spring – a task for design?

Program, wednesday, 30th November 2011:

14.00–14.30 h: Welcome and introduction to the topic, Dr. Regula Stämpfli, Director IFG Ulm, Dr. René Spitz, design critic – Ulm yesterday and today **14.30–15.15 h: Rencontre d'un Civic Designer** – How exactly is the public space designed? Examples of practical design by Ruedi Baur, **15.15–16.00 h: Redesign Arabia** – Will Design save the (Arab) World?, Sven Anwar Bibi **16.00–16.30 h: Discussion.**

16.30–16.45 h: Introduction of the five workshops under guidance by Mémia Taktak, Mohammed El Hebeishy, Wahide Abolvahab, Haytham Nawar und Doreen Toutikian

16.45–18.00 h: Workshops

- Gruppe A: **Communication institutes/politics** (nature, democracy, costs, expansion, metaphorical language),
- Gruppe B: **Infrastructure** (nature, conceptual design, costs, energy, organisation),
- Gruppe C: **Education** (nature, conceptual design, costs, metaphorical language, content),
- Gruppe D: **Communication civil society** (financing, design, utilities, distribution),
- Gruppe E: **Religion** (metaphorical language, dialogue, legislative design).

18.30–20.30 h Presentation of results and closing plenary session, **20.30–22.30 h Dinner** in the HfG. **22.30 h Arabian Night** Open End

Notizen:

