

CityLab—New Ideas for the City

miastolab.medialabkatowice.eu

Katowice | 14–17 November 2013

Exhibitions	PLACE	TIME
CityLab: Presentation of Medialab Katowice's 19 projects and workshops delivered in 2013	City of Gardens Art Gallery	14-18 Nov Opening 16 Nov, 7.30 pm
KatoVis Competition – Award Winning City Infographics	Education Hall	17 Nov
Medialab Visualised: Exhibition of Medialab Katowice's visual identification by Paulina Urbańska.	KATObar	Opening 15 Nov, 9.00 pm

Lectures | Education Hall | Sunday 17 Nov | 1.30pm – 6.00pm

- ▶ Edwin Bendyk: *The Concept of Smart Cities* (in Polish)
 - ▶ Grzegorz Młynarski: *Improving Space through Data* (on openness, access to information and reclaiming public space) (in Polish)
 - ▶ Verena Gerlach: *Typographic Research in the Cityscape of Katowice– Discovering the Core of a Multidimensional Layer Cake*
 - ▶ Marek Kultys: Reversal of Roles: *Visualisation and Speculation for City Design*
 - ▶ Christopher Burke: *Pictorial Education with Isotype* (opening lecture of the project Modern City in the Making. Katowice 1865–2015)
 - ▶ Studio NAND: *Understanding Through Visualisation*
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SELECTION OF THE DESIGN OF A NEW NEON SIGN FOR KATOWICE

A vote will be held among the lecture audience to decide which of the neon signs designed as part of Verena Gerlach's workshops should be on display in the city centre.

KatoVis

Presentation of artworks and results of a competition for Katowice infographics.

PRESENTATION OF WORKSHOP RESULTS

Led by Anna Maj. Registration at: miastolab.medialabkatowice.eu/program-2/

Debate | Sunday, 16 Nov | 4.00 pm

A Guide to Combating Helplessness: Debate on Spatial Democracy

A Guide to Combating Helplessness is a set of tools, both intellectual and legal, that allow people to stand up for their right to the city. Written by social activists with several years' experience, is a response to widely spread helplessness in the face of Poland's urban chaos.

The debate will be attended by Lech Mergler (co-author), Tomasz Nawrocki and Aleksander Krajewski and moderated by Paweł Jaworski

Presentations/Shorts | Archibar | Saturday 16 Nov | 9.00 pm

Authors of the projects give 7-minute-long presentations Medialab's accomplishments in 2013.

Led by Aneta Ozorek

City Walks | 17 Nov | 10.00 am – 12.30 pm

- ▶ Post-war Katowice Modernism – a walk led by Katarzyna Wolny, author of a book on post-war modernist architecture (English)
- ▶ Katowice Modernist Architecture – a walk led by Zofia Oslislo, author of the album Katowice Modernist Architecture 1927-1939 (English)

Details and bookings at
miastolab.medialabkatowice.eu

Workshops | 14–17 November

- ▶ Studio NAND: Sensor City
- ▶ Verena Gerlach: Neon Sign for Katowice
- ▶ Alek Tarkowski and Grzegorz Młynarski: How to use data for the city's cycling policy-making
- ▶ Christopher Burke: Transformation and visualisation. A Seminar on Isotype as Part of the Project Modern City in the Making. Katowice 1865–2015

LECTURES

► **Verena Gerlach:**

What is the typographic identity of Katowice?

Typography and lettering are helpful for orientation. Beside pictograms, they are essential for signage systems, ads and shop signs. But is it really true? Especially when one looks at the typography and lettering in a city like Katowice? While urban planning is improving in the city, typography and lettering seem to lag behind. Most signs seem to happily follow the restless chaos of the sloppily-designed, foil-plotted 1990s outdoor ads. There are but a few well designed signs to illuminate the city's typographic gloom. Could the existing lettering be used for archeologic research and what does it say about the present and the future? Being a professional typographer, Verena Gerlach tries to answer these questions from a visitor's perspective. One of the answers is: The lettering culture of Katowice is quite unique and Verena kept getting lost in the city quite a lot!

► **Marek Kultys Reversal of Roles:**

Visualisation and Speculation for City Design

Visualisation means giving physical form to what remains hidden, invisible, abstract or scattered over time or space. We can use it to organise and describe reality, including processes occurring in the community as well as the mechanisms and structures of power. Visualisation provides information about the performance of cities, organisms and systems. This type of visual description of the current state of affairs may be called affirmative visualisation. Is it possible, however, to use the process of visualisation in a critical way, so that it does not provide information about the current state of mechanisms and processes, but what they could/should be like in the future? Can such speculation within the visualisation process be a source of inspiration? Can it help us come up with new cities, organisms and systems?

► **Christopher Burke:**

Pictorial education with Isotype

Isotype was initially called the Vienna Method of Pictorial Statistics. Developed during the 1920s for education in a socialist context, it was intended to 'represent social facts pictorially' and to bring 'dead statistics' to life by making them visually attractive and memorable. The creators of Isotype, led by Otto Neurath, concentrated on social themes such as housing, economy, and health, and so their work retains lessons for us today. In the international scope of their work we can perceive themes which seem to be increasingly relevant: globalisation, social welfare, war and migration as well as the relationship of trade to international politics.

► **Studio NAND:**

Understanding Through Visualization

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