

sufficiency strategies in urban architecture

Sufficiency is one of the three columns of sustainability. Nevertheless, until now little attention has been paid to it in the architecture and urban planning. Research topics about sustainable architecture currently focus on improvements in energy efficiency, the integration of active systems into buildings or creating synergies by interconnecting urban spaces.

Increasing demands of the society have currently halted all efforts. Energy demands have been lowered in Germany from approx. 210 kWh/sq. m a (1949) to 150 kWh/sq. m a (2012). But all these savings have been “equalized” by the increasing surface demand per person from 19 sq. m (1949) to 43 sq. m (2012). Therefore all measures remain ineffective until sufficiency strategies are developed and practiced.

Architects and planners can contribute to that by designing surface- and space efficient buildings and cities which take account to all claims of design and comfort. There are various exercises which offer great potentials in designing great new architecture.

TU Darmstadt and its School of Architecture have, for many years, been intensively engaged in this field. Exemplary among a multitude of projects is the en EnEff-City research project UrbanReNet, the active houses for the Solar Decathlons of 2007 and 2009, or the Efficiency House Plus in Existing Buildings in New Ulm. The long term collaboration with TU Munich, School of Architecture, Building Technology and Climate Responsive Design and the new collaboration with the departments Energy Center and Façade Structures, both TU Darmstadt, adds to our technological and systematical design competence in terms of developing new approaches for sustainable urban development.



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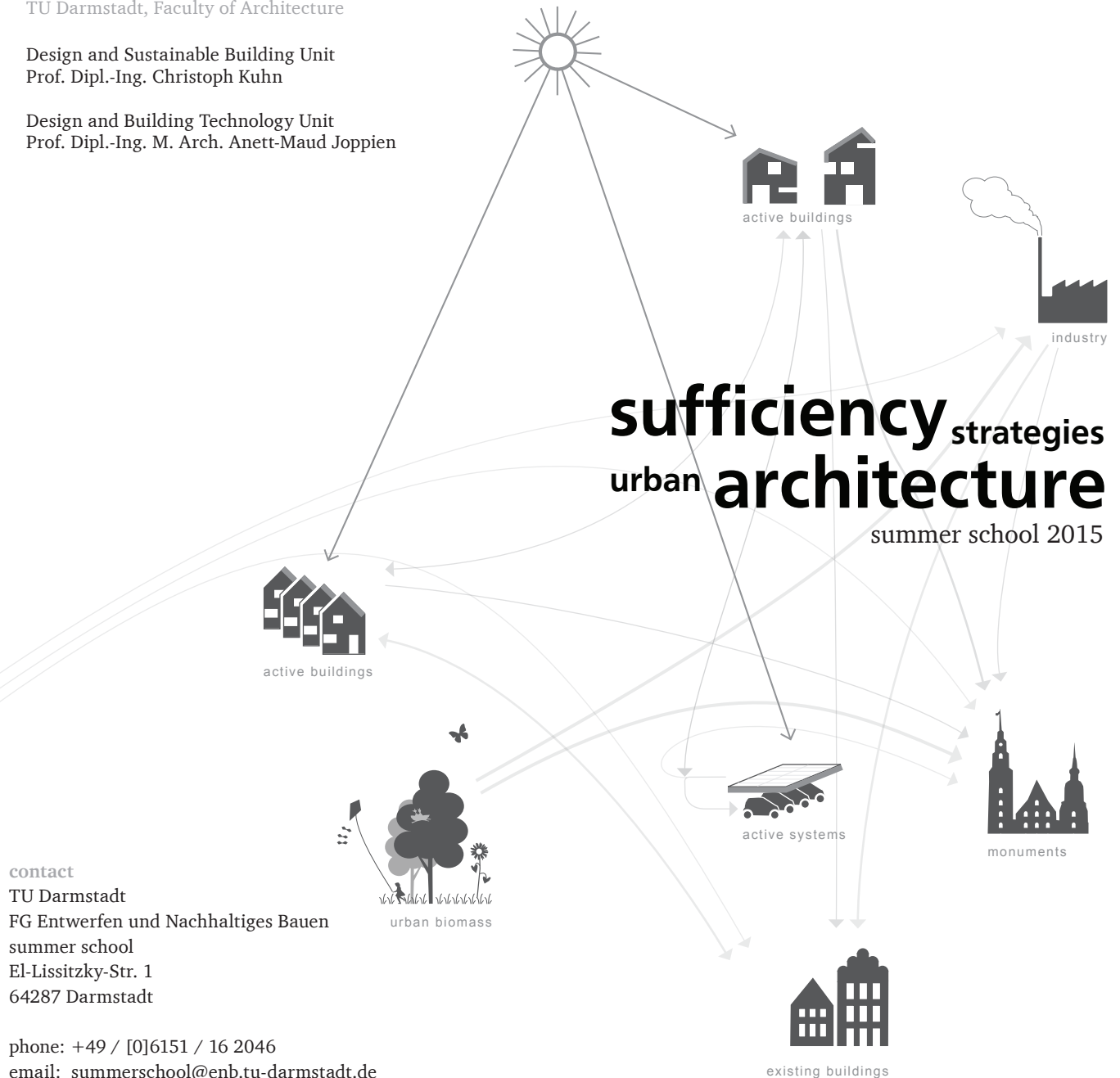
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