

Design for a democratic society was an urgent matter in post-war Europe. Swiss sociologist, journalist, professor and the founding father of strollology, Lucius Burckhardt (1925–2003) pioneered an interdisciplinary analysis of man-made environments focused on both the visible and invisible aspects of our cities, landscapes, political processes and social relations. Acutely aware of how our interventions and decisions shape the world, and how the changing world shapes us, his life-long concern was not only the prerequisites of architecture, urban planning and design but also their long-term impact. Teaching and practice in all three disciplines are still much indebted to his keen observations and critique. This compilation, the first of Lucius Burckhardt's texts to appear in English, introduces his groundbreaking theory of environmental design, in posthumous tribute to a prescient thinker.

Biography

Lucius Burckhardt, born in Davos in 1925, PhD in Basel, was, as of 1955, scientific assistant at the Social Research Center of Münster University in Dortmund. After a guest lectureship at Ulm School of Design in 1959, he undertook several teaching assignments from 1961 to 1973 and later on guest lectureships in sociology at Architecture Department of ETH Zurich. From 1962 to 1973, he simultaneously worked as editor-in-chief of the journal "Werk". From 1976 to 1983, Lucius Burckhardt was First President of German Werkbund, as of 1973, professor of socio-economics of urban systems at Gesamthochschule Kassel. He was corresponding member of German Academy for Urban and Regional Spatial Planning, Chevalier dans l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres, member of the Foundation Committee of Saar University of Visual Arts from 1987 to 1989, and founding dean of the Design Faculty at the Bauhaus University in Weimar, from 1992 to 1994. In 1994, his work was awarded with the Hessian Culture Prize for outstanding achievements in the realms of science, ecology, and aesthetics, the 1995 Federal Prize for Design Promoters, and the Swiss Design Prize 2001. In 2003, Lucius Burckhardt died in Basel.

Book publications: "Wir selber bauen unsre Stadt" (with Markus Kutter), Basel 1953; "Achtung: die Schweiz" (with Max Frisch and Markus Kutter), Basel 1955; "Die neue Stadt" (with Max Frisch and Markus Kutter), Basel 1956; "Reise ins Risorgimento", Cologne/Berlin 1959; "Bauen ein Prozess" (with Walter Förderer), Teufen 1968; "Moderne Architektur in der Schweiz seit 1900" (with Annemarie Burckhardt and Diego Peverelli), Winterthur 1969; "Der Werkbund in Deutschland, Österreich und der Schweiz", Stuttgart 1978 (translated into Italian, French, and English); "Für eine andere Architektur" (edited with Michael Andritzky and Ot Hoffmann), Frankfurt/Main 1981; "Die Kinder fressen ihre Revolution" (edited by Bazon Brock), Cologne 1985; "Le design au-delà du visible", Paris 1991; "Design = unsichtbar", Ostfildern 1995; "Wer plant die Planung? Architektur, Politik und Mensch", Berlin 2004; "Warum ist Landschaft schön? Die Spaziergangswissenschaft", Berlin 2006; "Design ist unsichtbar", Berlin 2012.

www.lucius-burckhardt.org

Jesko Fezer (* 1979) is a Berlin-based architect. In cooperation with “ifau” he realized projects in Munich, Stuttgart, Berlin, Utrecht, Graz, New York and London. He is co-manager of the thematic bookshop “Pro qm” and working as author, curator, artist, and exhibition designer. Jesko Fezer taught at various universities and is researching and writing on post-war modernism, design methodology, process based urbanism, participation and the politics of design. He is professor for experimental design at the HFBK (University of Fine Arts) Hamburg.

Martin Schmitz (* 1956) studied under Lucius Burckhardt in Kassel, author of “Currywurst mit Fritten – Über die Kultur der Imbißbude” 1983, curator of the movie program at documenta 8 in 1987 and the “Dilettantism” conference in 1995. Lectureships in Saarbrücken, Weimar, and Kassel. Curator of documenta urbana symposium “Kunst plant die Planung”, Kassel 2007, and the international convention “Spaziergangswissenschaft: Sehen, erkennen und planen”, Frankfurt am Main 2008. Co-publisher of the books of Lucius Burckhardt: “Wer plant die Planung?”, “Warum ist Landschaft schön?”, and “Design ist unsichtbar”.
www.martin-schmitz.de