

---

# SHRINKING CITIES

---

## Content

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>p. 2</b>
The Shrinking Cities Project	
International tour	
Shrinking Cities at Cranbrook and MOCAD	
<b>Cranbrook Art Museum</b>	<b>p. 5</b>
Exhibition 1 – International Research	
Investigated regions	
<b>The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD)</b>	<b>p. 8</b>
Exhibition 2 – Interventions	
Concepts of action	
<b>Shrinking Cities publications</b>	<b>p. 10</b>
<b>Contact</b>	<b>p. 11</b>

---

### INTRODUCTION

---

Since the beginning of the industrial age approximately 200 years ago, populations, economies, cities, and prosperity have been growing nearly continuously, and mostly at a rapid pace. Growth seems to become a matter of course. This historic epoch is drawing to a close. The populations of old industrial nations such as Italy, Germany, Japan, and Russia are beginning to grow smaller, and the process of urbanization has reached its zenith and is declining. Between 1950 and 2000, more than 350 large cities across the globe, including over 60 in the United States, lost a significant share of their inhabitants and economic activity. Shrinkage leads, as expansion once did, to fundamental shocks, which result in societal reorientation through changes in visions, modes of action, and methods. The phenomenon of urban shrinkage is based on several transformation processes. Four representative urban regions have been chosen for this investigation, and each has its own specific cause of shrinkage: Here in Detroit, the cause has been suburbanization; in the textile region of Ivanovo, Russian Federation it is post-socialist change; in the region of Manchester/Liverpool, United Kingdom it is deindustrialization; while in the Halle/Leipzig, Germany region it is a combination of all three of these factors.

What do we do with cities that are contracting? Is shrinkage necessarily bad? Can it be managed in a way that helps to shape a dynamic new city? Shrinking cities call existing urban models, social practices, and values into question, and thus call for fundamental cultural reflection and reevaluation. In dealing with shrinking cities, classic urban design and city planning come up against their limits. Can differences take a positive turn instead of fostering social polarization? Is urbanism conceivable without density? Can slowness itself represent quality? What role does property play in the use of space? Can unused spaces and materials be used in different ways? Are there informal practices that can be read as positive models for action? How do mentalities and identity crises influence urban space?

#### **The Shrinking Cities Project**

Since 2002, "Shrinking Cities" - a project of the German Federal Cultural Foundation [Kulturstiftung des Bundes] - has investigated the worldwide phenomenon of urban shrinkage focusing four urban regions: Detroit (USA), Halle/Leipzig (Germany), Manchester/Liverpool (Britain), and Ivanovo (Russia). In a second phase of the project, ideas for alternative models of action and intervention were developed. A network of more than 200 artists, architects, academics and local initiatives participated in four years of investigations. The results of the project (2002-2006) were first presented in exhibitions at the KW Institute for Contemporary Art, Berlin (fall 2004); the Zentrum für zeitgenössische Kunst (ZfzK), Halle-Neustadt; and the Galerie für Zeitgenössische Kunst Leipzig (Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig; winter 2005/06). Several books and digital publications have been published. Recently, the Shrinking Cities exhibition is shown in New York, Tokyo and Detroit.

#### **International tour**

Between the fall of 2006 and the summer of 2008, the Shrinking Cities project presents its work at several venues. International venues include: Biennale di Venezia, Italy, 2006; Pratt Manhattan Gallery and Van Alen Institute, New York, 2006; University of Tokyo with AkiDeCo Museum, Japan, 2007; E-Werk, Saarbrücken, Germany, 2007; Dortmund, Ruhr Valley, Germany, 2007; German Architecture Museum (DAM) Frankfurt, Germany, 2007/2008; Pro Arte Institute, in cooperation with the State Museum of History St. Petersburg, Russia, 2008.

The international tour is funded by the German Federal Cultural Foundation [Kulturstiftung des Bundes].

## SHRINKING CITIES

### **Shrinking Cities Exhibition at Cranbrook Art Museum & the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) February 3 - April 1, 2007**

This two-part exhibition analyzes the problems and then offers imaginative actions for regions that have undergone decline by introducing projects by more than 200 artists, architects, filmmakers, academics and international teams from over twelve countries, including twenty artists based in Michigan. The goal of the exhibition is to conceptually and physically unite the city and the suburbs in this dialogue about new urban models. The presentation of Shrinking Cities in Michigan is a collaboration between Cranbrook Art Museum and the Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD).

Cranbrook Art Museum hosts part one of the exhibition, *Shrinking Cities, International Research*, which examines the phenomenon of urban decline in four city regions: Detroit, USA, Halle/Leipzig, Germany, Manchester/Liverpool, United Kingdom, and Ivanovo, Russia.

The Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) host part two of the exhibition, *Shrinking Cities: Interventions*. This part is divided into five areas: Negotiating Inequality, Self-Governance, Creating Images, Organizing Retreat, and Occupying Space. Commissioned projects range from artistic interventions and self-empowerment strategies to new legal regulations and utopian visions.

#### **Cranbrook Art Museum**

4454 Woodward Avenue  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303  
Phone: 248-645-3323  
www.cranbrook.edu  
Wednesday - Sunday: 11 am - 5 pm  
Fourth Fridays: 11 am - 9 pm

#### **Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD)**

39221 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201  
Phone: 313-832-6622  
www.mocadetroit.org  
Thursday - Saturday: 12 - 8 pm  
Wednesday and Sunday: 12 - 6 pm

#### Opening Reception: Shrinking Cities

Friday, February 2  
6 - 9 pm, Cranbrook Art Museum and MOCAD  
9 pm-12 midnite, Music at MOCAD: Odu Afrobeat and Human Eye  
\$10 cover charge

---

#### **Take the Bus: Shrinking Cities Shuttle Bus**

A free bus will run every Saturday and Sunday between Cranbrook Art Museum and MOCAD for the duration of Shrinking Cities to provide easy access for the museums' visitors to this two-part exhibition.

#### Shrinking City Bus Schedule:

Saturdays and Sundays, February 3 - April 1  
Cranbrook to MOCAD: 12 pm, 1:30 pm, and 3 pm.  
MOCAD to Cranbrook: 12:45 pm, 2:15 pm, and 3:45 pm

Additional service on February 23

## SHRINKING CITIES

*Chief Curator:* Philipp Oswalt, Berlin

*Project Directors, Cranbrook Art Museum:* Gregory Wittkopp, Brian Young, Roberta Frey Gilboe, and Abigail Newbold

*Project Directors, Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD):* Marsha Miro, Mitch Cope, and Jeseca Dawson

*Assistant Curators:* Anita Kaspar, with Anke Hagemann, Berlin

*Program Coordinators:* Mitch Cope, Gregory Tom, and Elena Ivanova

*Exhibition Design:* meyer voggenreiter projekte, and Sebastian Hauser, Cologne

*Exhibition Graphic Design:* Tanja Wesse and 1kilo, Berlin

*Project Management, Project Office Philipp Oswalt, Berlin:* Peter Boragno, Anita Kaspar, Nicole Minten-Jung, and Anke Hagemann, with Giovanni Piovene

*Public Relations:* Astrid Herbold, Berlin, and Felicia E. Molnar, Cranbrook

*Curatorial Team:* Nikolaus Kuhnert (archplus magazine, Berlin), Kyong Park (International Center for Urban Ecology, Detroit), Walter Prigge (Bauhaus Dessau Foundation), Barbara Steiner (Museum of Contemporary Art Leipzig) / *Local Curators of the Exhibition Part 1, International Research:* DETROIT: Mitch Cope (artist / curator, Detroit), Kyong Park (artist / curator, New York) with DCDC / Dan Pitera (architect, Detroit); IVANOVO: Sergei Sitar (architect / publisher, Moscow), Alexander Sverdlov (architect, Moscow / Rotterdam); MANCHESTER/LIVERPOOL: Joshua Bolchover (architect, Manchester), Paul Domela (curator, Liverpool), Philipp Misselwitz (architect, Berlin)

*Shrinking Cities* is presented at Cranbrook through the support of the Museum Committee of Cranbrook Art Museum; the members and fundraising activities of ArtMembers@Cranbrook; contributors to the Annual Fund of Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum; and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs. Cranbrook Art Museum's 2006-2007 Exhibition Season is sponsored by LaSalle Bank. Free admission for all visitors and tour groups to Cranbrook Art Museum during the *Shrinking Cities* exhibition is sponsored by MASCO.

---

**CRANBROOK ART MUSEUM**

---

**Exhibition 1 – International Research**

Cranbrook Art Museum will host part one of the exhibition, *Shrinking Cities, International Research*, which examines the phenomenon of urban decline. The four focus cities Halle/Leipzig, Manchester/Liverpool, Detroit and Ivanovo are explored and represented in diverse forms of documentation by artists, architects, filmmakers, journalists, and researchers. Themes include a worldwide study of shrinking cities, the change of urban landscapes, everyday practices, and political conflicts under the conditions of urban decline.

The topics range from neglect and the appropriation of spaces through changed forms of work to the development of innovative subcultures and criticism of existing planning cultures. The resulting cross-references, which reveal what is common to shrinking cities as well as their individual characteristics, placed regional practices in the course of urban shrinkage within a superordinated context and emphasized that urban shrinkage is a global problem and an opportunity for cultural renewal.

**Investigated Regions**

---

**Suburbanization: Detroit (Michigan, USA)**

**Population loss: -51% (1950–2004)**

Detroit is a moving city: As the city of Detroit is shrinking, metropolitan Detroit is expanding. Detroit is a city founded on the concept of mobility, but mobility is also its downfall. Racism was one of the driving forces for the shrinkage of the city. The constant growth away from the city has fragmented the region into black and white, rich and poor, urban and suburban, resulting in one of the most segregated cities in the United States.

Detroit became the icon of the failure of the modern metropolis in the American consciousness, and thereby a projection screen for the apocalyptic fantasies of mass media and pop cultures. Recently, there is renewed development in Detroit's city center with new casinos, sports arenas, restaurants, night clubs, strip joints, chain stores, expensive condominiums and lofts, catering to suburbanites while the surrounding neighborhoods are still being bulldozed and forgotten and tens of thousands still leave the city each year. Those fleeing Detroit regard their city as an undesirable and dangerous place, beyond repair. Those who live in Detroit have discovered the art of survival, building a culture isolated from the mainstream, creating a unique way of living and a new kind of city. Ironically, this same isolated ingenuity and creativity has significantly influenced and enriched international popular culture.

---

**Deindustrialization: Manchester/Liverpool (North West, UK)**

**Population loss: -44.9% Manchester (1930–2002)**

**Population loss: -48.5% Liverpool (1930–2002)**

After decades of decline, Manchester and Liverpool have become known in the last 10 to 15 years as prime examples of successful regeneration. With their prestige projects, re-invigorated city cores and ever increasing house prices, both cities should be inspirational for any shrinking city that turn-around is still possible. This remarkable transformation in Liverpool and Manchester was initiated through the emergence of a new musical subculture that made use of vacant buildings. The cities' image shifted from being depressed post-industrial towns to being cities of culture at the cutting edge of urban cool. Both city administrations and

savvy developers opportunistically took a proactive role in using this potential to instigate public-private partnerships that created a feverish rate of building projects in and around the core of each city. As well as this process of re-definition, the de-industrialization of the region gave rise to new post-Fordian types of employment such as the call centre industry, which is typified by insecurity, over-flexibility and low pay. A heightening of social tension within inner neighborhoods has resulted in an increased desire for security. Much attention is paid to defensibility when designing new residential developments, and existing buildings are equipped with entire arsenals of security devices. This discrepancy between the branded image of the city and more local conditions reveals that the current status of each city remains fragile; the revitalization of the city core has been accompanied by a continuing crisis in the outer inner city areas that are characterized by high unemployment, abandonment, and continued population loss. Areas of growth lie adjacent to areas of intense deprivation – unfortunately the often promised “trickle down effect” has simply not occurred. To this extent the urban landscape of both these cities and the region itself is polarized; success and failure lie side by side.

---

**Peripherization: Halle/Leipzig (Saxony-Anhalt / Saxony, Germany)**

**Population loss: -25.4% Halle (1989–2003)**

**Population loss: -17.6% Leipzig (1989–2003)**

After the German reunification in 1990 a dramatic shrinkage of the population in eastern German cities occurred. The rapid de-industrialization of eastern Germany, which was not just due to the poor condition of facilities, but had also to do with serious economic policy mistakes and western German influence and interests, led to long-term unemployment of 20 percent. In view of the poor prospects at hand more than one million people moved to the old (West German) federal states. Massive, publicly funded suburbanization policies led to an increased thinning out of the cities, which already had 350,000 vacant flats in old buildings before the wall came down. There are now 1.3 million vacant flats and the prognosis for 2030 puts the number at two million. By 2050 the population of eastern Germany could be half of what it once was.

In spite of the trillions of marks and euros in subsidies, the promised *Aufschwung Ost* (Eastern Recovery) never occurred. The funds did little more than buy a period of social peace, which is now quite fragile due to the current economic austerity measures. After a phase of general urban shrinkage, relative winners and losers have developed in the past few years: While several cities such as Leipzig, Jena and Weimar were able to be stabilized, former mono-industrial areas such as Bitterfeld-Wolfen and Hoyerswerda and the peripheral rural regions in the north and along the Polish border find themselves in an unrestrained period of decline. The gulf in the standards of living between eastern and western Germany continues to grow. The new federal states are turning into the economic periphery of the prosperous economic areas in western and southern Germany.

---

**Postsocialism: Ivanovo (Ivanovo Oblast, Russian Federation)**

**Population loss: -6.8% (1990–2002)**

In the textile region northeast of Moscow the economic structures collapsed with the end of socialism and the Soviet Union, and the industrial production sank to a fifth of what it was. The number of births fell dramatically since 1989 and life expectancy declined significantly. Particularly young people with a better education left Ivanovo in search of work.

The project of Soviet modernization and urbanization of the territory remained incomplete. Small communities still exist today without basic infrastructure, and large construction projects were abandoned. Central planning has been replaced by small architectural undertakings of individual interventions.

## SHRINKING CITIES

Here globalization is a synonym for the ruptures in the economic network and internationalism, and for the decline in technology and in the modern division of labor. Machines were dismantled, the airport was closed. The city life adapted itself to the rhythms of agrarian production cycles, since many city residents were forced to revert to subsistence farming on the lots of their dachas or gardens. Pre-modern and post-industrial practices overlap and develop new lifestyles.

The ideology of the collective identities of factory and party has been eroded. It has been replaced by the flood of information through globalization, a universal individualization and a cultural cosmopolitanism of Barbie, Nike, and Coca Cola. At the same time, local traditions are being called upon to bolster identity. With the de-industrialization, the factory lost its central function in cultural and public life – no comparable structures have been developed. The modern regime of factory labor has yielded to a postmodern patchwork of individual arrangements and initiatives on the basis of a finely woven social network.

---

MUSEUM OF CONTEMPORARY ART DETROIT (MOCAD)

---

**Exhibition 2 - Interventions**

Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit (MOCAD) will host part two of the exhibition, *Shrinking Cities, Interventions*, which presents strategies for action. It is divided into five areas: "Negotiating Inequality", "Self-Governance", "Creating Images", "Organizing Retreat", and "Occupying Space". Commissioned projects range from artistic interventions and self-empowerment strategies through architectural, landscape, media and performance interventions, to new legal regulations and utopian visions.

To initiate strategies for action, the architectural magazine "archplus" staged an idea competition, while the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation made direct commissions and the Gallery for Contemporary Art Leipzig awarded artists grants. The majority of the projects were developed in close cooperation with citizens, local groups, and institutions.

**Concepts of action**

---

**Negotiating Inequality**

Social ideals and images of space in the Modern period bore the stamp of equality. Equal opportunities regarding living standards are to this day the proclaimed aim of federal republican regional planning policies in Germany. Yet until this point, with the onset of shrinking processes, it has become clear that spatial equality is no longer a realistic target. On the contrary: the negotiation of inequality is today on the political and social agendas. To what extent can spatial inequality be productively conceived? What chances for experimentation does it offer? Does inequality offer scope for diversity or are social divisions inherent in it?

---

**Self-Governance**

The crises of state organization and economic development have put inhabitants' self-organization in the spotlight. They are expected to take the matter of economic, social, cultural and urban developments in hand. Cutbacks in the welfare state and the deterioration of public infrastructure and social services are generally accompanied by the notion that society's responsibility for equal opportunities and support should fall on the individual citizen who, however, is provided neither with the necessary resources nor the authority to make decisions. The other side of the coin is that the "gaps" made available by state withdrawal offer possibilities in shrinking cities for the development of social and cultural initiatives of a liberationist nature, which can give rise to viable, socially integrative and culturally ambitious activities.

---

**Creating Images**

In today's media dominated society, a city's image plays as essential a role as do the so-called "hard-tools", namely economics and planning. Images mold perceptions of a city, be these the insider perspective of its inhabitants or the views held by people from elsewhere. Precise marketing budgets, cliché-ridden reports in the media, artistic image production or personal memories are only a few amongst the many cornerstones on which an overall image is constructed, negotiated and discussed. Shrinking cities in particular endeavor to overcome the negative effects of urban crisis on their reputation by investing heavily in creating a positive image; and by either strengthening or inventing local highlights in order to boost their economic, social or cultural standing.

---

---

**Organizing Retreat**

Shrinking means the dissolution and degeneration of traditional urban structures. It is impossible to completely halt these processes. The task of architects and urban planners is thus restricted to regulating and elaborating these processes. They are faced, in this regard, with a wholly new task for which nothing in their previous experience has prepared them. Dealing with the demands of architecture and infrastructure in shrinking cities thus requires architects and urban planners to remain open, both to new methods and experiments and to innovative ideas about what a city and its planning can be.

---

**Occupying Space**

The capitalist logic of extracting the optimal surplus value from everything runs up against a wall in shrinking cities. Foreclosure sales and bankruptcy are the order of the day, private investors few and far between. The spatial vacuum and its attendant weak economy demand new financing and trade concepts. Usual modes of utilization must be extended to include temporary, ephemeral, non-bureaucratic and self-organized models that both exploit the potential of the space available in shrinking cities and give local protagonists the chance to take on disused land or property and use these in unconventional ways.

---

**SHRINKING CITIES PUBLICATIONS**

---

**Shrinking Cities, Volume 1: International Research**

Ed. Philipp Oswalt, 736 pages, more than 500 illustrations (most in color)  
Hatje Cantz, Ostfildern, 2005  
ISBN-13 9783775716826, \$ 55

Citing concrete examples from Manchester and Liverpool in Great Britain, Detroit in the United States, Ivanovo in Russia, and Halle and Leipzig in Germany, this volume compares living conditions and cultural change in shrinking urban regions. Artistic intercessions help sensitize the public to a global phenomenon that poses a new social challenge. (Essays by Robert Fishman, Linda Grant, Dave Haslam, Susanne Hauser, Klaus Müller, Klaus Ronneberger, Thomas J. Sugrue, Kevin Ward, and many more. Photos by Stan Douglas, John Ganis, Ken Grant, Bas Princen, Tom Wood, and many more.)

---

**Shrinking Cities, Volume 2: Interventions**

Ed. Philipp Oswalt, 864 pages, more than 450 illustrations (most in color)  
Hatje Cantz, Ostfildern, 2006  
ISBN-13 9783775717113, \$ 55

This book provides an international overview and critical discussion of concepts and strategies for shrinking cities from the fields of architecture, landscape design, urban planning, the media, performance, and art. The approaches discussed range from artistic responses and selfempowerment projects to architectural and landscape interventions, strategies of media communication, and city marketing, to new legal regulations and utopian designs. A series of essays critically discusses current projects in North America, Europe, and Japan, as well as important historical positions in architecture and art. (Essays by Ash Amin, Regina Bittner, Wolfgang Engler, Robert Fishman, Dan Graham, David Harvey, Juan Herreros, Bart Lootsma, and many more. Projects by Will Alsop, Ruedi Baur, Florian Beigel, Chaos Computer Club, Crimson, Jeremy Deller, M. J. Ginzburg, Gordon MattaClark, muf, Hidetoshi Ohno, OMA, Cedric Price, Andreas Siekmann, Robert Smithson, Superflex, Oswald Mathias Ungers, and many more.)

---

**Atlas of Shrinking Cities**

Ed. Philipp Oswalt and Tim Rieniets, 160 pages, with numerous color maps,  
English/Germany  
Hatje Cantz, Ostfildern, 2006  
ISBN-13 9783775717144, \$ 55

Which cities shrink? Where are these cities? What processes lie behind shrinkage? *Atlas of Shrinking Cities* has approximately 30 world maps, 50 diagrams, 40 city portraits, 15 lexical essays, and an index of cities to document this global phenomenon and make it comprehensible visually by means of an innovative graphic presentation.

---

In addition, the digital publications **Shrinking Cities—Complete Works Vols. 1 + 2**, which include numerous film and audio contributions and extensive research material, are available from Arch+ Verlag Aachen. [www.archplus.net](http://www.archplus.net).

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**CONTACT**

---

**Detroit:**

Felicia E. Molnar  
Public Relations Director  
Cranbrook Academy of Art and Art Museum  
PO Box 801  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48303.0801  
Phone: 248.645.3329  
Fax: 248.646.0046  
FMolnar@cranbrook.edu  
www.cranbrook.edu

Jessica Dawson  
Museum of Contemporary Art Detroit  
4454 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48201  
Phone: 313.832.6622  
Fax: 313.832.4665  
jdawson@mocadetroit.org  
www.mocadetroit.org

---

**Germany:**

Dr. Astrid Herbold  
Schrumpfende Städte - Shrinking Cities  
Eisenacher Straße 74  
D-10823 Berlin  
Phone: +49 (30) 81 82 19-06  
press@shrinkingcities.com  
www.shrinkingcities.com

---

*Shrinking Cities* is an initiative project of the Kulturstiftung des Bundes (German Federal Cultural Foundation) in cooperation with the Project Office Philipp Oswald, the Gallery for Contemporary Art Leipzig, the Bauhaus Dessau Foundation and the magazine *archplus*.

---

**KULTURSTIFTUNG  
DES  
BUNDES**