

The Association of the Friends of the Old City of Aleppo with the
Working group "Aleppo* – Strategies to Rebuild Aleppo"

Invitation Fundraising Event and Panel Discussion of

Rebuilding ALEPPO*

Past . Present . Future

at 'Deutsches Architekturzentrum DAZ Berlin' 22 April 2016

Since the Syrian war began in 2011, Aleppo's personal, human and cultural heritage has been in great danger. Therefore, 'Friends of the Old City of Aleppo' Mamoun Fansa, Lena Wimmer and Carola Simon founded the working group 'Rebuilding ALEPPO*' to develop new strategies to rebuild the city. Because the city archive was destroyed during the war, the association's digital archive is of increasing value. The main goals are to develop the reconstruction of the old city of Aleppo in dialogue with the new city, and to promote awareness regarding cultural heritage and identity to support the emergence of a new and old city, a unified city of Aleppo, in the future. Today, we together have the responsibility to develop solutions for a city that is more than 5000 years old, we have the responsibility to develop solutions that will last more than one generation.

A new vision of Aleppo is needed. In this complex process, the participation of former inhabitants of Aleppo as well as the participation of those with expertise in the old city's rehabilitation such as urban planners, architects, archaeologists, and local craftsmen is highly valued.

Will there be a master plan like the Marshall Plan? What are the main challenges when it comes to the reconstruction and rebuilding of Aleppo? How do you bring a destroyed city back to life? What can we learn from the Old City to develop new housing solutions? Where can the more than 3 million displaced Aleppians temporarily stay during the years it might take to restore their city? What does it mean to rebuild a city in the 21st century if global temperatures are to rise, new technologies are implemented in cities like driverless cars, and the world population is to increase? How to rethink Aleppo as one big city with the new old town mentally and physically connected? How to ensure that architects, archeologists, city planners and thinkers are not marginalized at the beginning of the rebuilding process but seen as a necessary part of the future of Aleppo and its inhabitants? How can the inhabitants be involved in the process of rebuilding of Aleppo?

Syrian and foreign experts are invited to start sharing and debating their thoughts, ideas and memories to begin the dialogue, to find strategies for the process of rebuilding a new old Aleppo. Therefore, we are very happy to start the debate today and welcome you all to our conference for Aleppo's future children.

Program:

Begin: 12.00

Welcome

Representative of the Association of German Architects (*BDA Berlin*)

Presentation of the association and working group

Mamoun Fansa *archaeologist and museum director, Berlin*
Lena Wimmer *architect and researcher, Berlin*
Carola Simon *architect, Dresden*

Opening words

Friederike Fless *President of the German Archaeological Institute, Berlin*

Lecture on the current political situation in Syria

Udo Steinbach *Islamic scholar, Berlin*

Lecture on the Aleppo Archives in Exile

Franziska Laue *architect and researcher, Stuttgart*

Paneldiscussion

Moderator:
Katharina George *urban planner, Kiew*

1. Legitimacy and cooperation with different actors

Marie-Theres Albert *UNESCO Chair in Heritage Studies, Director of the International Graduate School Heritage Studies at BTU Cottbus, Dresden*
Kamal Bitar *architect, UNESCO, Bahrain*
Friedrich Schipper *archaeologist and cultural scientist, Vienna*
Friederike Stolleis *ethnologist and Islamic scholar, Berlin*
Cristina Menegazzi *Head of the 'Emergency safeguarding of the Syrian heritage project', UNESCO, Beirut*
Esra Can Akbil *architect, Nicosia*

2. Reconstruction of Aleppo

Anette Gangler *architect and urban planner, Stuttgart*
Omar Abdulaziz Hallaj *architect, American University of Beirut, Syria/Lebanon*
Adli Qudsi *architect and civil engineer, Aleppo/USA*
Jörn Düwel *Professor for History and Theory of Architecture, Hamburg*
Tamin Qasmo *civil engineer, Aleppo (via Skype)*

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Exhibition

Begin: 19.30

Opening speech: Mamoun Fansa ,Berlin

Poem on Aleppo: Ivo Zanoni, archaeologist, Bern

Report of a Syrian refugee: Anas Maghrebi, Damascus

Musical Performance: Anas Maghrebi, singer of the band 'Khebez Dawle',

And

“Arabic Choir Berlin”

Soon the moment will come when thousands of hands start to pick up the lost and forgotten stones lying in the devastated streets like the collective memory of an old far-away metropolis.

The future of Aleppo is soon to come.

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