

**AESOP**  
**ECTP-CEU**  
**IFHP**  
**ISOCARP**  
**EUSS 2012**  
**UNIVERSITY OF**  
**WESTMINSTER**  
**LONDON**

**EUROPEAN  
URBAN  
SUMMER  
SCHOOL**



# TIMES OF SCARCITY: RECLAIMING THE POS- SIBILITY OF MAKING

Globalisation, climate change, resource depletion and financial crises are the prevailing – and often crippling – conditions which shape our immediate professional and academic lives and longer-term futures. In our times of rapid change, young planners, architects and designers must develop and adopt new and more holistic approaches to planning and design in order to engage in a meaningful manner with an increasingly urban world and to propose creative interventions that go beyond the immediately physical.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> European Urban Summer School (EUSS) is a joint project of AESOP / ECTP-CEU / IFHP / ISOCARP and SCIBE, hosted by the University of Westminster, School of Architecture and the Built Environment in September 2012. It aims to bring together postgraduate students, emerging and experienced academics and young and established design and planning professionals from all over Europe (and further away) to develop a better understanding of some of the most pressing contemporary issues related to the built environment and to amplify and strengthen the links between planning- and design-relevant research and professional practice.

\*Special thanks to Saskia Sassen for allowing us to refer with our title to her forthcoming chapter 'Complex and Incomplete: the possibility of making' (in 'Complex Urban: Definitions across the disciplines and fields').





**THE STUDY AREA:  
BROMLEY-BY-BOW, EAST LONDON**

**THE CITY**

Image © 2011 Bluesky

51°31'02.88" N 0°05'04.80" W elev 35 m



OLYMPICS 2012



CANARY WHARF

©2010 Google

Eye alt 13.15 km

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2010, the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) launched a new annual event: the European Urban Summer School (EUSS) for young professionals. AESOP wanted to bring together young professionals and both experienced academics and practitioners from across Europe to discuss planning issues and invited European partners from other planning organizations to cooperate in this project. All partners offered their teaching resources at European Urban Summer School. The idea was to facilitate trans-European exchange and to foster a debate on the most important planning topics. It was supposed to promote all involved actors as bodies being able to help politicians and other stakeholders in spatial development and management issues.

The European Urban Summer School is intended as a platform for debate and exchange and is run on minimum fees for participants. Tutors do not get any gratification for their work.

The first EUSS took place in Poland (2010), the second in Portugal (2011).

In 2012, the following organisations have joined the EUSS: European Council of Spatial Planners (ECTP-CEU), International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP), and the International Society for City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP). The event is one of the first projects within the framework of Decade of Planning 2011-2020.

## **TIMES OF SCARCITY: RECLAIMING THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING**

The EUSS is an invitation – a call to arms – to engage in the quest for and development of new ways of thinking about and new tools in response to emerging issues of scarcity – a condition generally defined by the insufficiency of cultural, social or economic resources. But scarcity is about more than simple resource depletion: it is embedded in political, social and ecological systems. How and by whom is scarcity generated, engineered, constructed and perceived? What are we, as practitioners in an urban context, to do under conditions of scarcity in the built environment? The EUSS is an invitation to reclaim the possibility of making the city in our times of scarcity.

London is the capital city of England, the largest metropolitan area in the United Kingdom, and the largest urban zone in the European Union. Located on the River Thames, London has been a major settlement for two millennia. It is now considered a leading global city, the most visited city in the world and its largest financial centre. London will be the host the Summer Olympic Games 2012. In September 2012, the city – its population and infrastructure – will be beginning to recover from the Event and to cope with its legacy.

Participants in the EUSS will work and test their ideas on the case of a 'deprived' East London ward surrounded by highways and railway lines and located in-between central London, the Canary Wharf Estate and the

Olympic site: Bromley-by-Bow. This is a contested urban territory typical of London, with many aspects of social inequality manifested spatially and socially. Sixty-one percent of households in this area are from ethnic minorities (particularly immigrants from Bangladesh); 43% of people aged 16-74 have no qualifications; unemployment is at almost three times the national level; almost 70% of tenure is council housing/housing association. The area features almost five times the national level of overcrowding and residents exhibit exceptionally poor health.

Spectacular event architecture, hastily refurbished façades in anticipation of Olympic visitors and the everyday reality of historically neglected East London all offer the context for EUSS explorations: a charged territory awaiting the engagement of young planning and design professionals and their proposals for intelligent, creative interventions.

## **FORMAT**

This year, the European Urban Summer School will be hosted by London's University of Westminster, founded as Britain's first polytechnic in 1838 and has developed into a hub for business, professional and academic life. The School of Architecture and the Built Environment (SABE) is one of the country's leading centres in the field. The main partner in facilitating the EUSS is the Scarcity and Creativity in the Built Environment (SCIBE) project team.

Potential participants and tutors at the 3rd European Urban Summer School, Times of Scarcity – reclaiming the possibility of making, are encouraged to apply via email as early as possible in order to be considered (see here for details on the application process for participants and tutors). The EUSS 2012 Joint Committee (Deljana Iossifova and Jeremy Till (University of Westminster), Maros Finka (AESOP), Dominique Lancrenon (ECTP-CEU), Piotr Lorens (ISOCARP), Derek Martin (IFHP) and Izabela Mironowicz (AESOP)) will select up to 60 Young Planning Professionals and the most suitable tutors.

Based on existing research into the perception and modes of scarcity in the study area, the SCIBE team will provide EUSS tutors and participants with an in-depth briefing document identifying its economic, cultural, social and environmental assets and shortcomings. Participants will then work from a grounded understanding of contemporary issues in the study area to develop proposals for solutions and test those using long-term future scenarios.

Facilities for lectures and workshops, working space and internet access for up to 60 participants will be provided at the University of Westminster's recently refurbished Marylebone Campus. In order to facilitate communication with the local community in the study area, workshops and events will also take place in the Kingsley Hall community centre during weekends.

## APPLICATION TUTORS

Experienced professionals and academics can apply to teach and tutor at the 3rd European Urban Summer School, 'Times of Scarcity – reclaiming the possibility of making'. The organisers will cover the costs of travel and accommodation for those travelling from outside of London.

Prospective tutors can apply by submitting their CV and a short outline of a lecture or workshop around planning, design or research that they could offer at the EUSS to **scarcefimseuss@gmail.com** with '**TUTOR APPLICATION**' in the subject title. The electronic application process will close on 1 July 2012 and selected tutors will be notified by 1 August 2012.

## APPLICATION PARTICIPANTS

Prospective participants – Young Planning Professionals\* - can apply to the 3rd European Urban Summer School by submitting their response to the following task:

**IDENTIFY ONE INSTANCE OF 'SCARCITY' IN THE CONTEXT OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND PROPOSE A PHYSICAL OR PROCESS-RELATED RESPONSE.**

Issues and responses may be presented as text, drawings, photographs, videos or in any other desired form. The electronic application process (via email to **scarcefimseuss@gmail.com** with '**PARTICIPANT APPLICATION**' in the subject heading) will close on 31 May 2012. The selected participants will be notified by 30 June 2012. The participation fee of 200£, non-refundable and payable upon registration by 31 July 2012, will cover teaching and teaching materials (not travel or accommodation).

\* A **Young Planning Professional** is any person involved in planning with less than 5 years of professional experience.

## INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR YOUNG PLANNING PROFESSIONALS 2012

The Directorate responsible for planning at the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment (I&M) is encouraging young planning professionals to provide new ideas on the forms, methods and possibilities in spatial planning needed to face present-day challenges facing our human settlements. It is therefore using the European Urban Summer School (EUSS) as the main forum to organise an International Young Planning Professionals Award (YPPA), giving them the opportunity to present their proposals on planning methods, explaining why these ideas can be considered innovative and of a broader, more general application.

The competition aims to promote innovative ideas on spatial planning in Europe and arouse thinking on the role of the urban planner in time of rapid



urban transformation in economic, demographic and political terms. The theme of the competition will be decided year by year by the promoter institutions.

The theme of the YPPA in 2012 is '**ADAPTIVE CITIES: NEW IDEAS FOR ACTION. TRENDS, PERSPECTIVES AND CHALLENGES OF SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT IN A PHASE OF DE-GROWTH AND DECLINE IN EUROPE**'.

Please visit [HTTP://GOO.GL/PYBA5](http://goo.gl/pyba5) for full information and details.

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

31 May 2012: Application deadline

15 June 2012: Notification of selected participants

31 July 2012: Final registration deadline (incl. payment of registration fee)

21-30 September 2012: 3rd European Urban Summer School

## **QUESTIONS?**

Please write to Dr Deljana Iossifova at [scarcetimeuseuss@gmail.com](mailto:scarcetimeuseuss@gmail.com) with '**QUESTION**' in the subject line.