

## **FORWARD ARCHITECTURE students shape social practice** **Summer school for students in the framework of the Sto Foundation**

The summer school takes place in the context of the 17th Venice Architecture Biennale, which is organised under the theme of "How will we live together?".

The summer school **FORWARD ARCHITECTURE – Students shape social practice** brings around 50-60 students from 7-10 renowned European universities to the Biennale in Venice for three days. During a several-day academy as part of the Biennale Sessions/Education Programme, they will discuss and jointly develop different approaches for a future coexistence.

The question of how we want to live together in the future must be reconsidered – at different levels: individual in relation to the immediate environment of family and neighbourhood, but also in a spatial, political and global context. Answers to the most pressing questions must be found in order to make a common coexistence possible in the future. This is no longer just about housing. It is about strategies how and in what scope (open) spaces are appropriated and used. It is about dealing with nature reserves around metropolitan areas and the question of how much land can still be sealed before thinking about a vertically stacked city. It is about basic attitudes to life and how public space can be designed to be barrier-free and usable for all. It is about the question of grey energy and about spaces that are newly created through a changed work-life balance beyond living and working in the cultural and educational sector. It is about future forms and models of living, places of encounter and the rethinking of buildings such as petrol stations, parking garages and the like as remnants of yesterday or future mobility hubs. It is about participative methods outside the known boundaries and about lived neighbourhood as a link between next and past generation. In the end it is about so much more, but above all about equally involving all people in a community life, regardless of all possible differences. Old models have become obsolete in the face of increasing social injustice, environmental damage and climate change. The young generation in particular is calling for a rethink and is making itself heard loudly with the help of movements such as "Fridays for Future". They want to have their say and bring their own impulses, ideas, suggestions and not least answers into the debate about a future worth living for all. This movement is taken up by the project "FORWARD dialog – two generations, two perspectives", currently being developed by AIT-Dialog in cooperation with the offices SEHW Architektur and LXSX Architekten, and brings together future generations of planners with established offices. The summer school **FORWARD ARCHITECTURE-Students shape social practice** advances this idea by bringing it to an international level. In the European university context, the aim is to identify differences and find commonalities, to keep an eye on global megatrends and to take up local trends and currents in the development of cities, neighbourhoods and buildings.

Think global, act local: 7-10 universities from different cities will be working on a concept for the overarching topic of "How will we live together" from the 2020 summer to 2021 winter semester. The detailed task was to be defined by the universities. The aim was to develop concepts for future coexistence in a specific local situation. For the summer school, five to eight students per university are invited to the Biennale Sessions to present their results in a discussion forum. In the further course of the project, mixed teams of students from the different universities will bring the local solutions developed to the European level. Freely based on Richard Buckminster Fuller's groundbreaking work *Operation Manual for Spaceship Earth*, an operation manual or toolbox is to be developed that will provide answers to urgent questions about the future – it is high time, 50 years after the publication of his work.

As a conclusion of the summer school in Venice, the results will be discussed with invited established and young architectural firms in the AIT-ArchitekturSalon Hamburg. Possibly a publication and touring exhibition of the results is planned.