

Wulf Daseking

Professor Dipl. Ing. Architect BDA / AoU

Former Chief Planning Officer for the City of Freiburg

* 01.08.1947 in Goslar, Germany

Married, 3 children

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Personal Background

Grew up in the historic city centre of Goslar / Northern Germany

First experiences with the topic urban structures at school – from the ancient world to the modern age. Secondary school final examination essay on “Analysis of the resident structure in a neighbourhood of a historic city centre “.

Degree in Architecture and Urban Planning from the Techn. Uni. of Hannover

Basic principles of urban development; structural planning and project planning, major in residential construction

DAAD Scholarship at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) Zurich

Work on the surroundings of railway stations and on the influences of railway stations on directly and indirectly neighbouring parts of Town Analysis of change processes

Post study: Assistant in the office of Prof. Deilmann in Münster

Several successful submissions to urban development competitions, execution of residential construction as well as projects for Urban Design

Internship – Second State Examination (2. Staatsexamen)

Commission of the city of Goslar for the development of an overall concept for a new part of town for 5.000 residents including urban structure, infrastructure, gardens and public green areas, project planning

Head of Urban planning in Mülheim/Ruhr

Inner City Planning, development of a new part of town for 8.000 residents, development of the city centre, several successful participations in urban development competitions, teaching assignment at Rhein-Ruhr University

Head of Urban Planning in Freiburg since 1984 - 2012

Main focus on: Rieselfeld/Vauban/Inner City Planning, including Central Station Area and Rotteckring, Town Quarter Marketplaces Concept, Development Plans, Project Soziale Stadt (“Social City”), Public Spaces

Development of Citizen Participation Concepts

Development and implementation of more than 150 zoning plans

Setting of approx. 90 public design competitions, some of which had exemplary outcomes

Numerous publications in professional journals

Elaboration of the ‘Charta of Freiburg - Requirements on Urban Development and Planning for the Future’.

Appointed jury member at more than 100 planning and design competitions

Teaching assignments and university lectures (in Kaiserslautern, Karlsruhe, Stuttgart)

Assignment and supervision of degree dissertations

Speaker at ‘Urban Development Congresses’ at home and abroad, amongst others in New York, Washington, Boston, San Francisco, Chicago, Minneapolis, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur, Istanbul, Madrid, Rome, London, Edinburgh, Dundee, Bristol, Oxford, Cambridge, Helsinki, Oslo, Malmö, Krakow,

Memberships

Member of the Architectural Association of the State of Baden-Württemberg

Member of Association of German Architects (BDA / Bund Deutscher Architekten)

Member of the Academy of Urban Development and Regional Planning in Berlin

Member of Forum Building Culture (Forum Baukultur/Berlin)

Member of the DGNB / German Sustainable Building Council advisory board

Honorary member of the "Academy of Urbanism / London" - AoU

Additional Offices

Professor at the University of Freiburg / Faculty of Philosophy – Institute of Sociology

Assistant Professor of UCL / University London – Bartlett School

Associate Professor at the Academy of Administration and Economy in Freiburg

State board examiner for the second state board exam in Bonn

Jury member for urban development competitions and building construction competitions

Speaker on urban development topics at home and abroad

Nominating Jury Member of the "Lee Kuan Yew World City Prize - Singapore"

What cities mean to me – my personal understanding of city concepts

Ever since I started working as a planner, I have been advocating for the development of compact cities with mixed social structures and mixed use, development along public transport infrastructure routes, decentralised urban development, the 'City of the Short Distances' and 'Social Balance', always directly involving the citizens.

Planning has to take into account every detail from the initial idea through to implementation – urban planners are generalists! They have to consider and weigh all factors that affect the planning process in order up with possible solutions. Planning must not just be a question of money – it is, all above all, a question of attitude. Ultimately, it is about balancing the competing demands of 'Economy', 'Ecology' and especially 'Social Issues'. 'Cultural Diversity' is an increasingly important factor in striking this balance. Urban Planning is, to a large degree, 'Social and Environmental Planning'! 'Public Spaces' – which serve as the 'Cities Stages' - are particularly important in this respect.

Civitas – quo vadis ?

Without fail, cities are the product of their political culture, of their administration by unbiased qualified experts and of their institutions – such as universities, academic and research institutes, chambers of trade and commerce, trader's guilds, the cultural scene and engaged citizen. These stakeholders have a decisive effect on urban policies.

Vested interests, modernism, political and professional power struggles must be subordinated to the objectives of urban development. Looking at a city in conjunction with its surroundings and developing them both together is indispensable! Urban regions are going to become more important and more influential in the future.

Continuity, quality, integrity, reliability and the courage to innovate are the basis of all deliberations towards the urban development!

The various professional and political viewpoints absolutely must be the subject of an open and transparent discourse – without limitations or pre-established outcomes.

The 'City of the Future' is the city of open dialogue, not one of suppressed opinions! That city is compact and decentralised, with direct public transport connections.

Urban districts, where the majority of people live, will play an increasingly important role within the urban system. They must be developed not just to provide a wide and diverse range of living spaces, but also furnish, attract and cluster all private and public facilities and infrastructure, to create a 'City of Short Distances'.

In the years to come, the 'Digital Revolution' will change cities and regions beyond recognition. There will be winners and losers as a result. The influx of people moving into urban centres and conurbations is going to intensify. This development will be seen all over the world – with the obvious consequences. This is why maintaining 'Social Stability' will be a key task for the future – possibly the most important task we are facing.

The unabated influx of refugees to Europe, and to Germany in particular, will require completely new solutions for our cities.

Education and training, acceptable living conditions and the creation of job opportunities make up the indispensable foundation on which the required integration rests.

Urban planning of the future also has to face the challenges of the urgently necessary ecological restructuring of cities, as well as the development of concepts to deal with demographic change.

Urban development and planning means: 'Preparing a strategy to prevent arbitrary decision making.' Such strategies must be developed and implemented in a way which meets the needs of the respective urban structure.

This requires common sense and intuition with respect to the locality in question. But it also requires a proactive approach and the courage to take unconventional paths. Planning legislation, regulations and directives, as well as organisational structures in general, must be reassessed with respect to their validity for the tasks at hand, and have to be change, amended or developed where necessary.