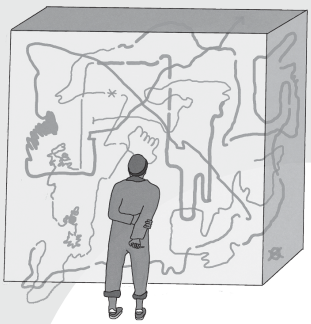
CAMPAIGNING THE COMMONS: VISUAL AND SPATIAL FORMS FOR POLITICAL COMMUNICATION AND DEMOCRATIC ENGAGEMENT



Arbeitsgruppe Informationsdesign (AI)

ARBEITSGRUPPE INFORMATIONSDESIGN (AI) investigates the social and political conditions of design. Within The Esch Clinics, we contribute to a process that seeks to include underrepresented communities in the formation of urban policy. We work across disciplines and publics to translate spatial and social research into practical tools for governance. (AI) also co-develops a public-facing campaign that communicates urban realities in ways that are accessible, political, and engaging.

We position ourselves between disciplines, institutions, and roles. Our work is framed as inquiry more than service—grounded in asking, listening, and translating, and not necessarily delivering fixed outcomes in the first place. We aim to approach each output not as a neutral form, but as a diagram of forces: shaped by social, spatial, and political conditions, and shaping how knowledge circulates. Rather than simplifying, we celebrate complexity and make it legible. Our process begins with questions: What are the forces shaping this place? Who is speaking, and who is not? Who do we want to reach out to? What histories inform this moment, and what futures are foreclosed?



Our engagement in The Esch Clinics builds on a context-sensitive research approach. We work through observation, documentation, and exchange, adjusting our methods to specific situations and the encounters that emerge on site. By the observation of everyday spatial practices, lived experiences, and those whose voices are often excluded from political processes, we seek to understand and communicate the urban commons as a relational and situated field. This groundwork informs the development of a public campaign, which will support the civic handover of policy recommendations.

We approach design not as decoration or neutral delivery, but as a mode of public negotiation and co-production. Our aim is to clarify and point out complex meaning, not to resolve or fix it. We aim to develop communicative structures that invite for debate, foster encounters, and create space for reflection. These formats are shaped by the frictions, aspirations, and challenges that define the urban context in transformation, and are intended to communicate beyond academic discourse or administrative language.

ARBEITSGRUPPE INFORMATIONSDESIGN (AI) is a collective of communication designers with diverse areas of expertise. It serves as the professionalising research and project branch of Studiengruppe Informationsdesign (SI), a teaching program at Burg Giebichenstein University of Art and Design Halle, sharing its values and approach. In collaboration with institutions and organisations committed to supporting marginalised communities and addressing socially relevant issues, the working group develops interdisciplinary projects at the intersection of design, research, and mediation. Its focus lies on topics that receive little attention in public discourse and on perspectives that are often overlooked.

Arbeitsgruppe Informationsdesign (AI), AG Esch: Carla Westphälinger, Matthias Görlich, Pawel Wolowitsch, Marcel Strauß, and Fabian Wohlfart

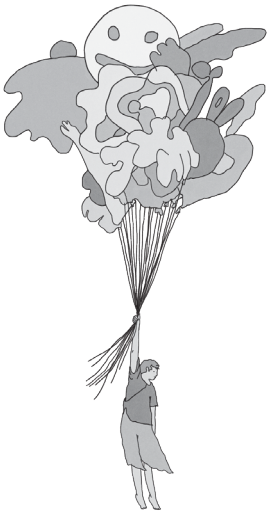
With Robin Höning (Endboss), Lieselotte Düsterhus, Eva Simone Ruof, Clemens von Wedemeyer, Anita Osorio, Noemi Biasetton, Fatima Rougi, Camille Marie Fillioux, Denis Scuto, Steve Falz, Muhammad Hamza

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This work requires both methodological care and political awareness. We understand our practice as a form of critical spatial and political inquiry: embedded in Esch's post-industrial and migratory context, and committed to contributing tools for democratic urban governance that reflect lived reality. By opening new perspectives through situated engagement, we aim to support forms of local decision-making shaped not only by institutional expertise, but by the expectations, knowledge, and everyday experiences of those who inhabit the city.



Illustrations by Carla Westphälinger

CAMPAIGNING THE COMMONS: PARTICIPANTS

Arbeitsgruppe Informationsdesign (AI)
Robin Höning (Endboss)
Lieselotte Düsterhus
Eva Simone Ruof
Clemens von Wedemeyer
Anita Osorio
Noemi Biasetton

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ENDBOSS is an interdisciplinary studio for spatial questions and answers at all scales. We come from architecture and urban planning, visual arts and literature, social sciences, open space planning and construction. According to our self-image, the built space and the variable free spaces in between are responsibly design tasks, which we approach with each project in a new way, with different means and in different team constellations. We try to avoid routines and method suitcases – instead, we constantly work on our maneuverability in uncertain terrain with growing success. We feel most comfortable in this area because we are convinced that unpredictability and unprogramming are, or should be, two decisive factors in our planning and concepts of cohibitation. Endboss: Robin Höning, Ivana Rohr

LIESELOTTE DÜSTERHUS (she/her) studied architecture at the Technical University of Berlin and ETH Zurich. She works as an architect and teaching assistant at EPFL Lausanne and has collaborated with offices in Berlin, Zurich, and Basel.

EVA SIMONE RUOF (she/her) is an architect and researcher. She studied at TU Munich and PUC Rio de Janeiro before graduating from ETH Zurich. Eva worked as a Research and Teaching Assistant at ETH Zurich and as an architect for Bruther, among others. Starting this August, Eva will be a resident in the Pivô Pesquisa program in São Paulo. Together Eva and Lieselotte investigate spaces of physical gathering and their role in shaping

LOCAL GUESTS

FATIMA ROUGI is the DemocracyNext Local coordinator in Esch, Communications Philharmonie Luxembourg, and President Family Planning Luxembourg

CAMILLE MARIE FILLIOUX is a PhD candidate at the University of Luxembourg

STEVE FALTZ is an industrial engineer and the Mobility advisor for City of Differdange

DENIS SCUTO is the Chair History and Migrations at the Luxembourg Centre for Contemporary and Digital History (C2DH)

MUHAMMAD HAMZA is a Master in Architecture Student at the University of Luxembourg

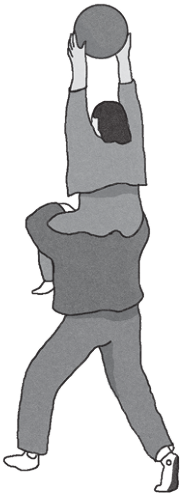
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CLEMENS VON WEDEMEYER (Germany, 1974) lives and works in Berlin and holds a professorship for media art at the Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig. The artist and filmmaker studied photography and media at the Fachhochschule Bielefeld and the Academy of Fine Arts Leipzig and graduated as Meisterschüler of Astrid Klein in 2005. He participated in group shows such as the 1st Moscow Biennale (2005), the 4th Berlin Biennale (2006), Skulptur Projekte Münster in 2007, and dOCUMENTA (13) (2012) and had solo shows among others at MoMA PS1, New York, ARGOS Centre for Art and Media, Brussels, the Barbican Art Centre, London, and Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago.



ANITA OSORIO (Colombia, 1981) is an architect, researcher and educator based in Harlem, New York. She obtained a MA in architecture from Faculdade de Arquitectura Universidade do Porto. Her research focuses on visual cultures and archives engaging with process-based practices to construed modernity and contemporary ideas of the city and architecture with a cultural, economic and sociopolitical understanding. She is the founder and initiator of LEAC, a three year urban laboratory and archive related to southern Colombian histories in the context of tropical modernity, coloniality and public space. She currently teaches at The School of Public Architecture, MGC, at Kean University.

NOEMI BIASETTON is a design researcher, writer and editor based in Venice. Her academic studies focus on design cultures and visual representation, with a specific interest in how these are deployed within the social and political dimension. Her practice includes the production of essays and articles, the organization of talks and lectures, and the contribution to research projects for cultural and educational institutions. She is the author of SUPERSTORM. Design and Politics in the Age of Information (Onomatopee, 2024).