

**ULRIKE REINHARD, MAY 2023**

# **CITIES AS BIOSPHERES**

**An Art-Driven Lab for a More Responsible Urban Architecture**



Dehli, India, ranks among the top polluted cities in the world.

# URGENCY TO ACT



**40% OF CARBON EMISSIONS  
RESULT FROM BUILDINGS.**

**... WE WANT TO REDUCE  
THIS SIGNIFICANTLY.**

# OUR VISION

**Artists add a different way of thinking to “normal” processes.**

**Art-driven concepts / solutions for “Green City Jungles” enrich, enhance and diversify already existing solutions from architects and start-ups.**

**Therefore ARTISTS can be THE CATALYST to turn the wheel towards “Green City Jungles”, reduce pollution and come up with transformative concepts.**

**“TRANSFORMATIVE IDEAS DO NOT ARISE FROM DAY-TO-DAY  
PROCESSES OF EXPERIMENTATION AND DATA  
ACCUMULATION – **BREAKTHROUGH MOMENTS THAT DISRUPT  
ACCEPTED THINKING** OCCUR OUTSIDE THE ‘SYSTEM’!”**

**THOMAS KUHN, THE STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC REVOLUTIONS**



# THE LAB

- Rules & Process
- The Purpose
- Phase 1
- Phase 2
- Facilitators





# THE LAB – RULES & PROCESS

- The rule is that there are no rules.
- The lab itself is an open process. This means we aim to fulfil our vision, yet we leave it open how it will be achieved.
- The approach is to let it unfold, to notice everything and to give space to whatever significant is emerging.
- Every evening after dinner we cherish Circle Time. All participants come together and share their experiences.



# THE LAB – THE PURPOSE

- With an unconventional approach we want to create **promising solutions to reduce significantly the pollution in our cities and create “cities as biospheres”**.
- Thereby we focus on **existing buildings / architecture**. We do NOT include new constructions.
- We are moving forward in two phases.

# THE LAB – PHASE 1

- ... includes a 2-3 weeks **residency**.
- Participants need to apply (see next chapter) with **an idea / a project to reduce pollutions in our cities**.
- During the residency they will work on their objective.
- **Cooperation / collaboration** between participants is **optional**.
  
- At the end of phase 1 all participants together with the facilitators, selectors and advisory board will select the **3 most promising** ideas / projects. Promising in a way that it can become a solution ready to be marketed.



# THE LAB - PHASE 2

- We shall support the creators of the most promising solutions over the course of 3-6 months to develop a powerful pitch for potential investors to invest in their solution.

# THE LAB – FACILITATORS

- The core team (see last chart), all of them have facilitated multiple open processes, provide the safe space for the work to unfold.
- If needed, various forms of assistance (technical, know how ... ) will be provided.



# PARTICIPANTS

- Who can apply?
- Application
- Selection
- Finance





# **PARTICIPANTS – WHO CAN APPLY?**

- creative people from various backgrounds (artists, architects, scientists, city developers)



# **PARTICIPANTS – APPLICATION**

- **The application will be online and each applicant has to pay a minimum fee of 50 USD to file the application.**
- **The application needs to include an idea / a project the applicant is planning to work on during the residence.**
- **The idea/project needs to address the overall goal of the residency to create a green city jungle.**

# **PARTICIPANTS – SELECTION**

- There will be six selectors (three from our team and three from outside) who will look at all the applications and then decide on the 12 most promising proposals.



# **PARTICIPANTS – FINANCE**

- We provide max. 3000 USD for each selected proposal. This money covers travels, stay and food.
- Commercial entities can apply – they have to take care of their own costs.
- Potential “sponsors” are NOT sponsor of a specific proposal, they fund the Lab itself. This applies for the Phase 1.



# THE LOCATION: FAZENDA

- The Land
- Infrastructure / Facilities
- How to reach





# FAZENDA – THE LAND

- The fazenda is located in the hills of Minas Gerais (1200 m elevation), lush, green nature with lots of forests.
- It's sacred land, indigenous people used to live and practice their rituals there.
- It is very rich in minerals, especially crystals.
- Lots of water.
- 30 minute drive to the next small town.



# FAZENDA – FACILITIES

- Sleeping facilities for 20 people
- Open door kitchen with huge dining table
- Workshops
- Sauna with natural pool
- Hiking trails
- Waterfalls

# FAZENDA – HOW TO REACH

- By bus from **Rio de Janeiro**: To Resende (3 hours), local taxi to Bocaina de Minas (approx. 40 USD, 2 hours, mostly unpaved roads)
- By car from Rio de Janeiro: 210 km, approx. 4.5 hours
- By bus from **Sao Paulo**: To Resende (6 hours), local taxi to Bocaina de Minas (approx. 40 USD, 2 hours, mostly unpaved roads)
- By car from Sao Paulo: 320 km, approx. 6.5 hours



# CORE TEAM

- Regina Cohen, Shaman and co-owner of the Fazenda
- Ulrike Reinhard, ideator and free soul
- Mannan Gupta, co-conspirator – because he might steal some ideas for his masters thesis

