CONCEPT

More than thirty-five years ago Kristin Feireiss founded the Aedes Gallery in Berlin. It was the first time that architecture was exhibited and presented as a product of thought processes.

Prior to this, the general opinion had been that architecture was merely something to house exhibits.

The Aedes Gallery introduced the phenomenon of architecture into a specific public domain, bringing urban reality into society in a new way, making it negotiable and political.

This new approach to communicate contemporary architecture led to international critical acclaim. Now the Aedes Architecture Forum is one of the world-renowned institutions and cultural brands for built environment, urban planning and associated fields. It has continually stimulated a critical dialogue with the public and has made a significant contribution to the global discourse regarding architecture and urban culture with outstanding exhibitions, lectures and conferences.

Many significant architects and Pritzker laureates exhibited at Aedes decades before they achieved international fame, including Zaha Hadid, Rem Koolhaas, Herzog & de Meuron, Kazuyo Sejima, Frank Gehry and Wang Shu. Through its numerous displays, publications, and as many events to date, Aedes has provided a platform for the presentation and analysis of avant-garde concepts, visions and built projects.

ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory is the ultimate product of this recent development.
A BRIEF HISTORY OF VENUES

In 1980 Aedes started at Savignyplatz in Berlin, moved under the railway viaduct in 1988 and extended 1995 to Hackesche Höfe in the new eastern part of the city. Today all activities are concentrated at Pfefferberg. The images show exhibitions at these former venues in Berlin, where world renowned and emerging architects alternated in presenting their architectural and urban concepts.
In 2006 Aedes moved to a new location, a former industrial site in the Berlin district Prenzlauer Berg that now houses creative industries. Aedes consists of two exhibition spaces, office premises, a café, and since 2009 the ANCB The Aedes Metropolitan Laboratory totalling about 600sqm.

The new venue was opened with an interdisciplinary exhibition of the artist Olafur Eliasson. Thematic exhibitions such as “AND - Creative Arts in China”, “What Makes India Urban?”, “Measure of Man - Measure of Architecture”, “Smart City - The Next Generation” or “Medellin - City of Knowledge” expanded the curatorial focus.

The ANCB, an experimental urban laboratory, was inaugurated in 2009. Since then, universities, research institutions, governance and industry worldwide have partnered with ANCB in common programs and made the entire Aedes project a place to meet, share, celebrate and to argue – for creative people, scientists, academics, public as well as diplomats or mayors.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Through various kinds of events, exhibitions, debates and performances, this dynamic platform attracts a diverse range of people from different fields and backgrounds. The large number of visitors as well as the global perception of the exhibitions through web communication, newsletters and related partner networks are remarkable. The national and international press also regularly covers Aedes’ activities. Founder Kristin Feireiss was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for her dedication in the field of architecture culture. In particular for strengthening the dialogue with research and education, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of Braunschweig.
THE PROTAGONISTS

The Aedes 'Family' grew over 35 years to become a respectably sized network in which the famous as well as the emerging talents share their positions on what space, city and architecture is, or should be. Their diverse ideas, strategies and designs trace architecture and urban history in this incredible period between the centuries – from the analog to the digital, from physical performance to the web – and document a continuous reflection and what “being an urban inhabitant” means.
With more than 350 titles the Aedes exhibitions have been accompanied by these compact square catalogues. For some it has been their first publication, for others an occasion to include a statement in an internationally acknowledged architecture series.
For many years, embassies and cultural foundations of many countries, have cooperated in the Aedes programme. Since Aedes is not publicly funded, some of its economic base is provided through its cooperation with international companies who continuously support the programme financially. These partners: Zumtobel, Schindler/The Port Technology and Carpet Concept, are actively integrated into the Aedes network and associated with the unique cultural brand of Aedes and its high profile within the fields of architecture and design.
The Climate Machine, Ton Matton, Netherlands, 2007

Smart City: The Next Generation, Opening Performance, 2013


Das Küchenmonument, raumlabor, Berlin, 2008
Aedes has been consistently successful in placing and maintaining architecture at the forefront of public consciousness. Aedes programmes are a constant subject of comment in the arts and culture sections of leading German and international newspapers and in the most widely influential art, culture, urbanism and architecture magazines. Through this media coverage, its newsletters, social networks and its collaborating partners, approximately 100,000 people are made aware of each Aedes exhibition and event.
The Aedes Architecture Forum Team

Under the guidance of Founder Kristin Feireiss and Director Hans-Jürgen Commerell, the team has grown to reflect both its expanded subject areas and new operating formats. Beate Engelhorn, Architect and Curator with a focus on contemporary European and North-American architecture, joined in 2006. Ramona Kleinfeldt, Executive Secretary and Accounts Manager supports Aedes since 2004. Christine Meierhofer has been Graphic Designer since 2003 and personal assistant to the director since 2015 and in 2014 Mayasari Feradina Zoesmar reinforced the curatorial team. The expertise of many freelance colleagues from a variety of fields has informed the work of Aedes and ensured the smooth running of its operations.

Aedes Cooperation Partners:

[Logos of cooperation partners]