

Press Release | Exhibition

local & transcultural

PLAYZE architects | Berlin, Basel, Shanghai



NINGBO URBAN PLANNING EXHIBITION CENTER_playze & Schmidhuber. © CreatAR Images

Exhibition: 27 August – 5 October 2022

Opening: Friday, 26 August 2022, 6.30pm | **Access only via Christinenstraße!**

Venue: Aedes Architecture Forum, Christinenstr. 18–19, 10119 Berlin

Opening hours: Tue–Fri 11–6.30pm, Sun–Mon 1–5pm, Sat 27 August 2022, 1–5pm

Download press pictures:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/11ukv3o8qwe62gj/AAB8Mpr68rguhaMXOleM9D-Ea?dl=0>

Shortly after their foundation 15 years ago, the young architects of *playze* attracted attention with the project *Tony's Farm* and as local partners of the *German pavilion for Expo 2010*, both in Shanghai. Meanwhile, *playze* developed into a successful diverse architecture network founded by Pascal Berger from Switzerland, He Mengjia from China and Marc Schmit from Luxembourg. In 2021, they expanded their studio network by founding *playze timber* in collaboration with Maximilian Schröder as co-founder, focusing on the design of rigorously sustainable timber projects.

Team members from 14 different countries work in three studios, based in Berlin, Basel and Shanghai. While these individual “architectural embassies” specialize in and operate within their local environments, the network is international and transcultural. The great openness to understand different ways of work combined with structured communication characterizes *playze* and enables them to operate with and mediate between different cultures. The

acquired knowledge and explorations of cultural differences are the breeding ground for their design work.

The exhibition

The exhibition presents an insight into the experience of the studios, which are associated with a high degree of social compatibility. Typical building themes and common working methods are critically questioned and tested for their practicality, while profound, complex, almost philosophical theses leave room for many stories from different perspectives.

Under the title *local & transcultural*, *playze* pose questions about economics, politics, mobility, digitalization, globalization and environmental protection, culture and social issues and answer them with stories from their building processes and experiences.

These offer a very individual as well as extraordinary insight into the projects and take the visitor on a journey with the hurdles around the planning, implementation up to the realization of the buildings. The stories show that *playze* develops creative solutions to unforeseen problems and adapts to local conditions. As each question is answered with an example of a project, the visitor gets an overview of the extensive oeuvre.

The exhibition is divided into two rooms. The first room welcomes visitors in a coffee house atmosphere with an open kitchen. Monitors are placed at the tables as "table neighbors" where project participants from around the world share their experiences and provide a behind-the-scenes look at issues such as cultural misunderstandings, copyright infringements, legal disputes, but also positive surprises.

On various occasions during the exhibition period, food will be prepared in the kitchen and shared with invited guests, creating a space for casual discussion and interaction.

In the second exhibition space, eight projects are presented as complex axonometric art drawings printed on large wooden panels, while additional working materials, sketches, models, films and other fragments are displayed on long tables, giving an insight into the process of creation.

The projects

The projects of *playze* are realized in China, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland. They range from Berlin projects such as the interior design of the *Schankhalle*, *Pfefferbett Hostel* next to Aedes on the Pfefferberg and the conversion and expansion of a historic bathtub factory into a residential community with co-working spaces near Treptower Park to the largest organic farm in Shanghai producing OFDC-certified vegetables and fruits and an urban planning museum in Ningbo, as well as numerous other architectural and urban planning project.

Many of the projects are conversions and extensions of existing buildings with a

change in intended use. The main focus is on social responsibility in living and housing by applying human needs and scale, a focus that has mostly been adopted in Europe, but is still quite new in China.

The exhibition will present among others:

Dreisnitz

Urban and architectural renewal of a mixed-use area with industry, sports, residential, gastronomy and cultural offerings
Basel/Switzerland, ongoing

Moos

Conversion and extension of a historic bathtub factory into communal housing co-working spaces
Berlin/Germany, 2022

Holliger Tower

Cooperative housing tower with a unique hybrid concrete and timber structure
Bern/Switzerland, 2020

Ningbo UPEC

Urban planning exhibition center, competition in collaboration with Schmidhuber from Munich
Ningbo/China, 2019

Refugium Beelitz

Conversion of a historic sanatorium into studio residences and facilities for the community
Beelitz-Heilstätten/Germany, 2018

Xingfuli

Transformation of a chemical factory into a neighborhood with shops, restaurants, cafes, offices and *playze* studio
Shanghai/China, 2018

Tony's Farm

Reception, offices, and packaging center of an organic farm
Shanghai/China, 2011

Further information:
www.aedes-arc.de

Speaking at the opening

Hans-Jürgen Commerell Aedes, Berlin
Mengjia He founding partner *playze*
Pascal Berger founding partner *playze*
Marc Schmit founding partner *playze*

Public Debates

The exhibition will be accompanied by several discussion events.
More information [HERE](#)

We thank the Aedes cooperation partners

Zumtobel, Cemex, Camerich, Erwin Hymer Group

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For further information and images please contact

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REFUGIUM BEELITZ_playze. © Andreas Schwarz



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REFUGIUM BEELITZ_playze. © playze



XINGFULI_playze. © playze/Zhu Siyu



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TONY'S FARM_playze. © Bartosz Kolonko



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SHAOXING GUESTHOUSE_playze. © playze

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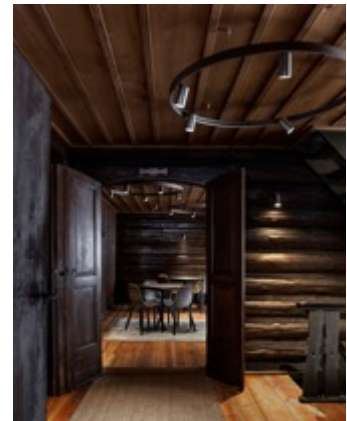
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