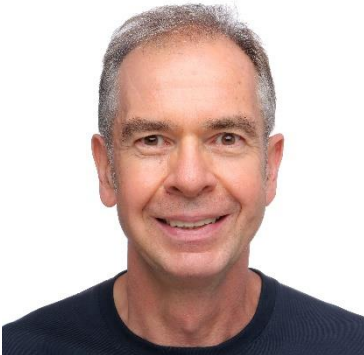


# Prof. Dr.-Ing. Christian Gänshirt, Architect AKB



**Professor of Architecture and Urban Design**  
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Christian Gänshirt is an architect and urban designer, researcher and educator based in Berlin, Germany. He works on the intersection of contemporary architectural design theory and architectural theory for sustainability.

He was a Visiting Professor in the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies, Politecnico di Milano, Italy, and a Senior Associate Professor at Xi'an Jiaotong- Liverpool University in Suzhou, China, where he directed the MArch programme (RIBA part 2). He was a Visiting Professor the University of Hong Kong, and an Interim Professor heading the Architectural Theory and Design chair at Kassel University, Germany. He taught at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), the Berlin University of the Arts (UdK), Leibniz University Hanover, and the Brandenburg University of Technology.

He was a project architect in the office of Álvaro Siza, and worked with architect José Paulo dos Santos, both in Oporto, Portugal. He is registered with the Berlin Chamber of Architects (AKB) since 1996, when he set up his own practice. He serves on the advisory board of [www.flusserstudies.net], co-edited the Internet architectural theory magazine [www.cloud-cuckoo.net], and published internationally in magazines, journals, and newspapers. His book Tools for Ideas – Introduction to Architectural Design has been published in German, English and Chinese.

## Education

**Dr.-Ing.** (Doctor of Engineering, Ph.D. equivalent)

Dissertation on **Werkzeuge des Entwerfens / Design Tools**

Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus, Germany, 2007

**Dipl.-Ing.** (Architecture Diploma, MArch equivalent)

Karlsruhe University of Technology (now KIT), Karlsruhe, BW, Germany, 1990

## Visiting Studies

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, VD, Switzerland, 1987-1988

Supervisor: Prof. Luigi Snozzi

## Research Interests / Thesis Supervision

His current research is in the area of architectural theory for sustainability, where he's co-organizing an international research network with the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies at the Politecnico di Milano and Lancaster University. The goal is to rethink the theoretical basis of architecture (understood as the way of conceiving the built environment, encompassing all design disciplines), and it's relation with wider systems, in order to develop robust concepts of sustainability.

His long-standing research interest is architectural design, which he considers the practice underlying all design disciplines, and which he has been studying under different angles: It's practice and production (design tools and processes); it's theory, history and sustainable futures; it's outcomes, and the ways those are publicly discussed and evaluated (criticism). In 2007, he proposed a new theory of architectural design, based on a media-based analysis of design practices (see: *Tools for Ideas*, Basel, Boston, Berlin 2007, Beijing 2011, Berlin 2012, Basel 2020).

This approach was shifting the focus of design research from design methodology to design toolology, i.e. to a phenomenologically oriented theory of the activities, media and apparatuses used as design tools. The enlarged 2020 edition of *Tools for Ideas* offers a new focus on sustainability, exploring three design practices promising a more sustainable built environment: Digital, research-based, and social design.

## Selected Research

- Richard Brook, Andrea Canclini, C. Gänshirt, Francesca Zanotto (eds., 2025):  
Towards an Architectural Theory for Sustainability  
Routledge Research in Architecture Series (tbc)  
Abingdon-on-Thames: Routledge, c. 250 pp. (in preparation)
- Christian Gänshirt (2022): 柏林洪堡论坛:有争议的记忆——柏林宫局部重建 /  
Humboldt-Forum Berlin: Contested Memories. The Partial Reconstruction of the  
Berlin Palace, in: *WA World Architecture* / Shijie Jianzhu 2022/11, Nr. 389 (ISSN  
1002-4832), Beijing: Tsinghua University, pp. 116-121
- Christian Gänshirt (2022): From Memories to History, in: Teresa Cunha Ferreira (ed.):  
Partilhar Memórias. Piscina de Marés | Sharing Memories.Ocean Swimming Pool.  
Álvaro Siza,1960-2021. FAUP - Faculdade de Arquitectura da Universidade do Porto,  
Edições Afrontamento, 2022, pp. 56-60
- Thomas Wortmann, Christian Gänshirt (2022): Architektonisches Entwerfen im  
Zeitalter der künstlichen Intelligenz. [Architectural Design in the Age of Artificial  
Intelligence. A Progress Report and Prognosis.] In: *Manege für Architektur* Nr. 2,  
Automationen: Architektonische Intelligenz in den 2020-Jahren, München, pp. 28-29
- Christian Gänshirt (2020):  
*Tools for Ideas*. Introduction to Architectural Design

Third, revised and expanded edition, Basel: Birkhäuser, 2020, 400 pp.

Werkzeuge für Ideen. Einführung ins Architektonische Entwerfen

Dritte, aktualisierte und erweiterte Auflage, Basel: Birkhäuser, 2020, 400 pp.

- Christian Gänshirt (2017): The Presence of the Atlantic Ocean - Swimming Pool on the Beach at Leça de Palmeira, in: Harry Mallgrave (ed.): The Modern Project: Companion to the Twentieth Century. Volume IV: Twentieth-Century Architecture, edited by David Leatherbarrow, and Alexander Eisenschmidt, The Wiley- Blackwell Companion to the History of Architecture series, Hoboken, NJ: Wiley- Blackwell, 2017, pp. 525-538
- Christian Gänshirt (2012): Die gesellschaftliche Dimension der Architektur. Fragen zum Selbstverständnis von Entwerfenden, in: Archithese, International thematic review for architecture, Nr. 6.2012, Architektur / Architecture, Zürich: Niggli, pp. 62-67
- Christian Gänshirt (2011): Architekturkritik und das Elend der Welt. Das Parkhaus 1111 Lincoln Road in Miami Beach von Herzog & de Meuron, in: Archithese, International thematic review for architecture, Nr. 4.2011, Architekturkritik – Criticism / 40 Jahre archithese, Zürich: Niggli, pp. 52-57
- Ulrich Conrads, Eduard Führ, Christian Gänshirt (eds.) (2004): Zur Sprache bringen. Kritik der Architekturkritik Theoretische Untersuchungen zur Architektur Bd. 4, Münster, New York: Waxmann, 2003, 264 pp.