

Assoc. Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Architect Dunja Karcher



Assoc. Professor¹ of Architecture: Design and Construction
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Dunja Karcher is an architect, educator, and founder of the Make Contact Institute for the promotion of academic collaboration between Germany and Arab countries.

She has her own architectural practice and is experienced in the design and delivery of construction processes, including major projects. Her many years of design and construction management experience have given her an understanding of interdisciplinary craftsmanship.

Her work is focused on the principles of resilient design and applied research. As an architect and educator, she emphasizes the holistic view, which may range from urban planning scale to building detail; from genius loci to social and economic boundary conditions. The construction sector is one of the most problematic in terms of its consumption of resources, energy, emissions and waste in the context of the climate crisis. Her focus is on this sector with the greatest potential for the development of new, climate-friendly construction methods. To achieve this potential, change must begin at the university level. She emphasizes the importance of developing students' capacity to make objective judgements and to consider human scale as the main focus of their work.

Prior to this position:

2004-2008: Lecturing, visiting professorship and cooperative positions at several German and international universities.

2009-2010: Professorship in Architectural Design and Building Construction.

2011-2016: Professorship in Architectural Design and Mentoring. Both at Munich University of Applied Sciences (MUAS) in Germany.

2017-2021: Professorship in Architecture, focus Housing, at the German University in Cairo, Egypt. (since 2019 also at the Campus in Berlin)

¹ Subject to the approval of the Berlin Senate.

Education

Prof. Dunja Karcher graduated in architecture from the Technical University of Munich (TUM) in 1993. She holds a Ph.D equivalent in Green Building Design from the Technical University Munich (TUM), under the supervision of Professor Hermann Schroeder.

Work

- Member of the Bavarian Chamber of Architects
- Since 1997 she acted as leading architect for the planning team Karcher/Jammernegg/Kohman Architects GbR. in Munich, in the Office for Architecture, Conversion and Extension Planning and Interior Design: Housing, Schools, Healthcare and Industry Projects.
- 2020 – present: External Consultant for the excavations in Asswan, Egypt DAI The German Archaeological Institute Cairo.
- 2017 – present: Research projects, consulting and workshops within the Institute Make-Contact e.V. - Institute for Cooperation in Design Process - Promoting university-collaboration between Germany and the Middle East

Research Interests

- Forward-looking housing and settlement concepts; sustainable construction and social housing; resilience strategies for architectural design and building construction.
- Vernacular architecture and building development, planning and building with clay and natural materials.
- Learning from the spontaneous; informal settlements.
- Utilization of unused urban space, urban resilience strategies.
- Lifelong learning; development of "new" sustainable impulses for studying, learning and teaching.

Selected Research

- Karcher, D. 2017. "Motivation und Erfolg im Studium sichern, Bessere Studienbedingungen gestalten" Fachbezug von Anfang an – Mentoring-Programm in Studiengang Architektur, wbv, Munich University of Applied Sciences, (BMBF) Federal Ministry of Education and Research. 63-75.
- Karcher, D. 2016. Eine Buehne fuer Parec: space, stage and architecture. Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Munich, Germany
- Karcher, D. 2015. Objekte zum Verweilen: object, space and architecture. Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). Munich, Germany.
- Karcher, D. and Edler-Golla, M. 2014. Notfall – Kreativitaet als Ueberlebensstrategie. Wordpress. Munich University of Applied Sciences and SEBSON. Dortmund, Germany.
- Karcher, D. 2008. Al Shams Oasis: Sustainable Construction and Social Housing in the UAE. Part I&II: Implementation Planning. Strascheg Center for Entrepreneurship (SCE) GmbH, Munich, Germany and SCHOTT AG, Mainz and SCHOTT Solar AG. Alzenau, Germany.