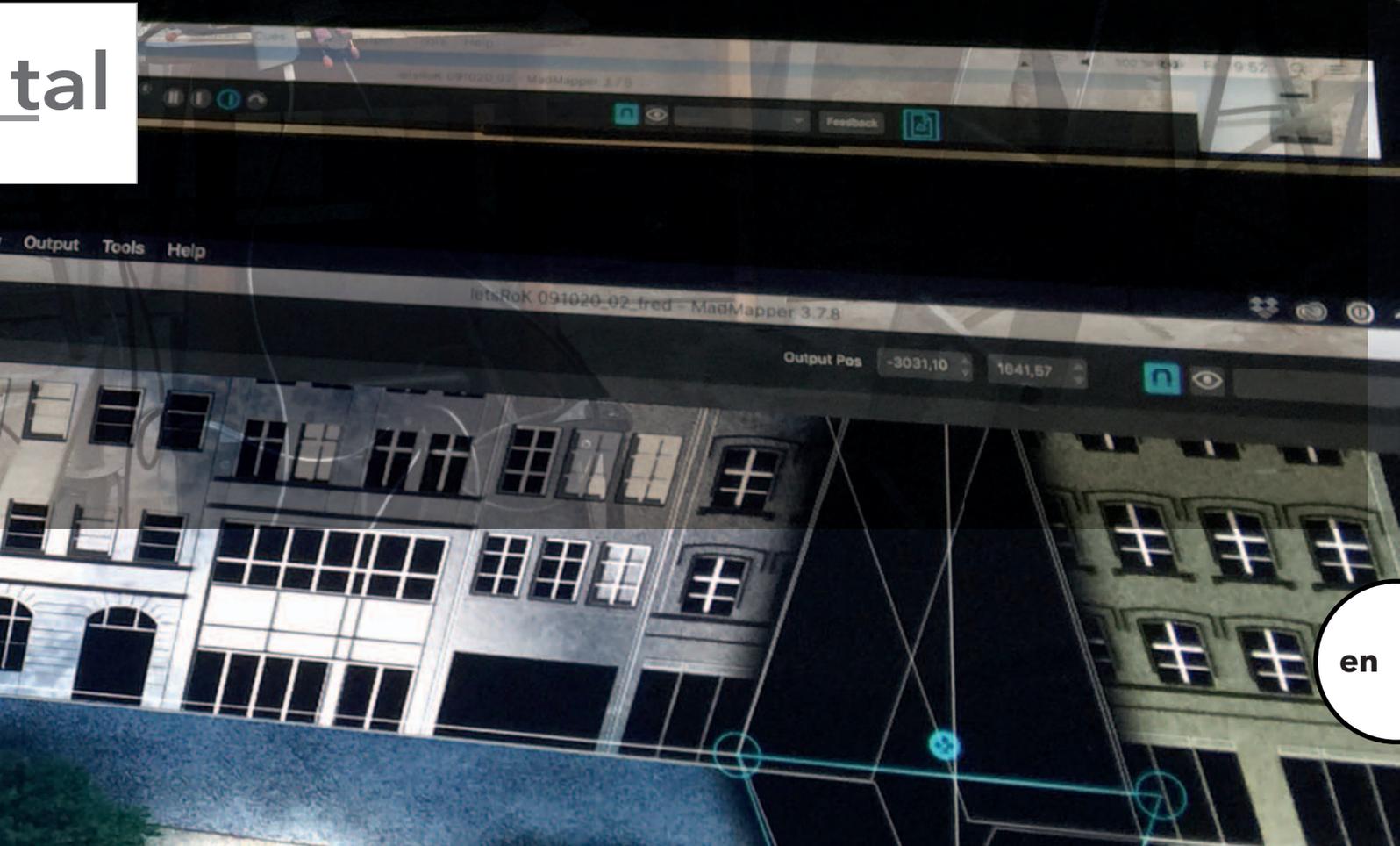


Elmar Zorn_The project "Belebtes Tal" - introduction

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For almost ten years, the Munich-based architect Markus Uhrig has been bringing his ideas and plans to redesign the old town area between Isartor and Marienplatz, the **Tal**, to the public in Munich. Newspapers and the TV stations have taken up his ideas again and again.

However, nobody else has classified the condition of this "most important urban legacy from the high middle ages", "this unique monument" of the "most important entrance to the city", as a "disgrace in the recent history of Munich planning" as did Dr. Gottfried Knapp, the architecture and art critic of the *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, in a lecture (not yet published before the editorial deadline for this publication) entitled "Why something must finally happen in Munich in the **Tal** and at the Isartor."

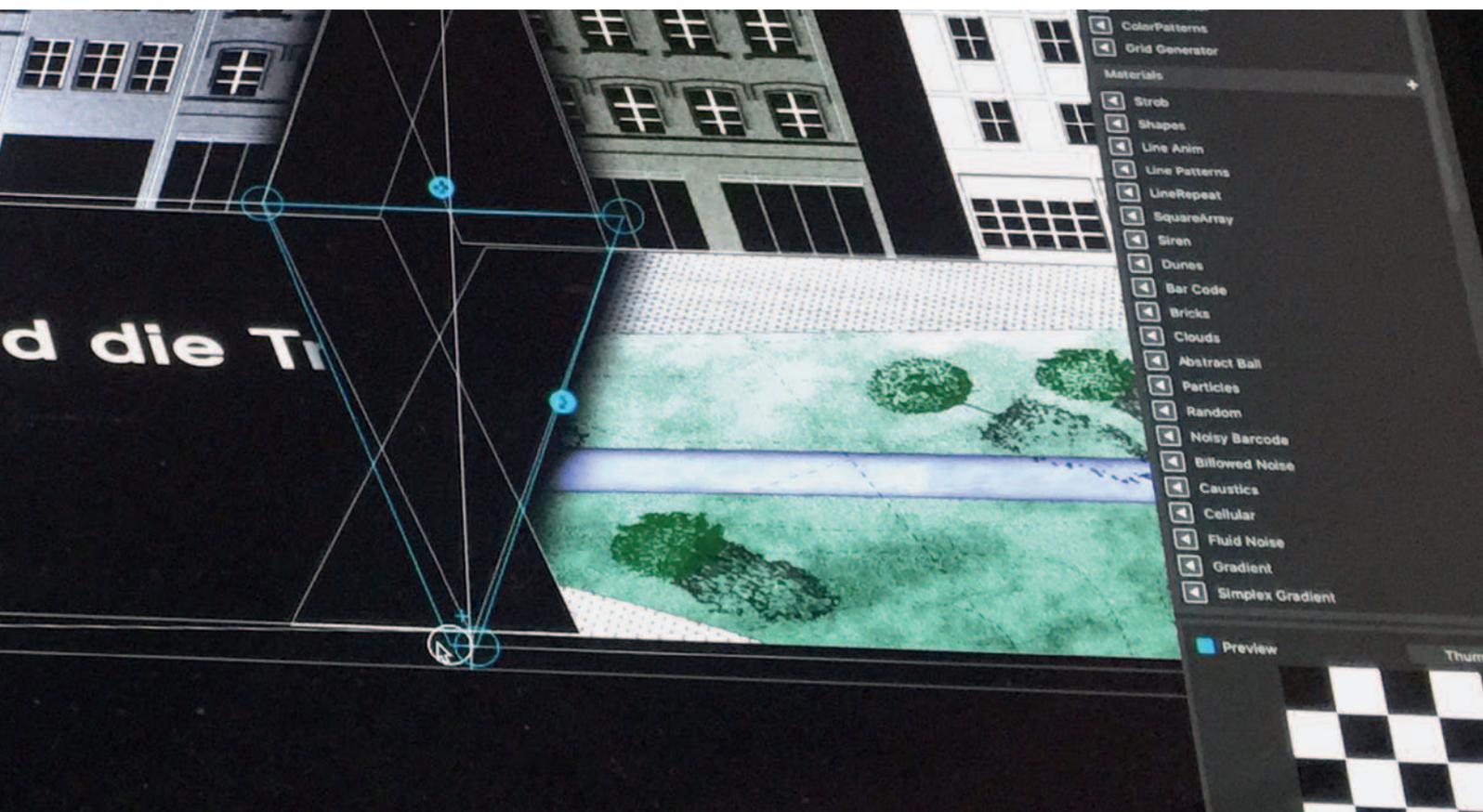
It seems that the turning point in public life that has happened to all cities

worldwide as a result of the lockdown measures to combat the pandemic, with the abundant consequences of increasing vacancies on office floors, with the rampant closings of shops and restaurants, the awareness of the need to act has sharpened in these inner cities and is now meeting with broader consensus.

In Munich there were recently – from October 8th to 10th, 2020 – action days under the title „Visions for Herzog-Wilhelm-Straße“, organized by the Verein Green City, together with City Partner Munich, the Evangelical City Academy Munich, the BayernForum – Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and the department for work and economy of the LH Munich. Conceivable designs of watercourses and green oases around Sendlinger Tor were demonstrated and discussed.

This program here under the title "**Belebtes Tal**" was originally intended to be held at the invitation of the Munich artist Markus Heinsdorff at the Venice Biennale of Architecture and subsequently in the halls of the Pasinger Fabrik. As you know, the Biennale had to be postponed, so the order has now been reversed.

In Pasing, it made sense to present this program as part of a comprehensive exhibition on the subject of Corona under the title "Social Distancing ... Empty Spaces" – an exhibition about the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic from the point of view of the artists in Munich and far beyond. The small working group of artists, curators and urban planners, which had formed around Markus Uhrig, undertook to work out his ideas for a project that would take place during the next City Foundation Festival – if



the organizers there agreed and the citizens of Munich gave their support – and entrepreneurship – could and should be realized on June 13th, 2021! The corresponding project proposal will be presented in this exhibition “Belebtes Tal” in Pasing, followed by a roundtable discussion.

In contrast to the aforementioned days of action on the subject of Herzog-Wilhelm-Straße, the working group was made up of experts who on the one hand have an external view of Munich, but on the other hand know Munich well. These are Jochen Boberg, the former director of the museum services of the Berlin Senate, who spent twelve years in Munich (on the board of the art association, planning the art program for the Olympic Games and setting up PädAction and the MPZ) and the former Munich resident urban planner Rolf Külz-Mackenzie, who worked as a curator

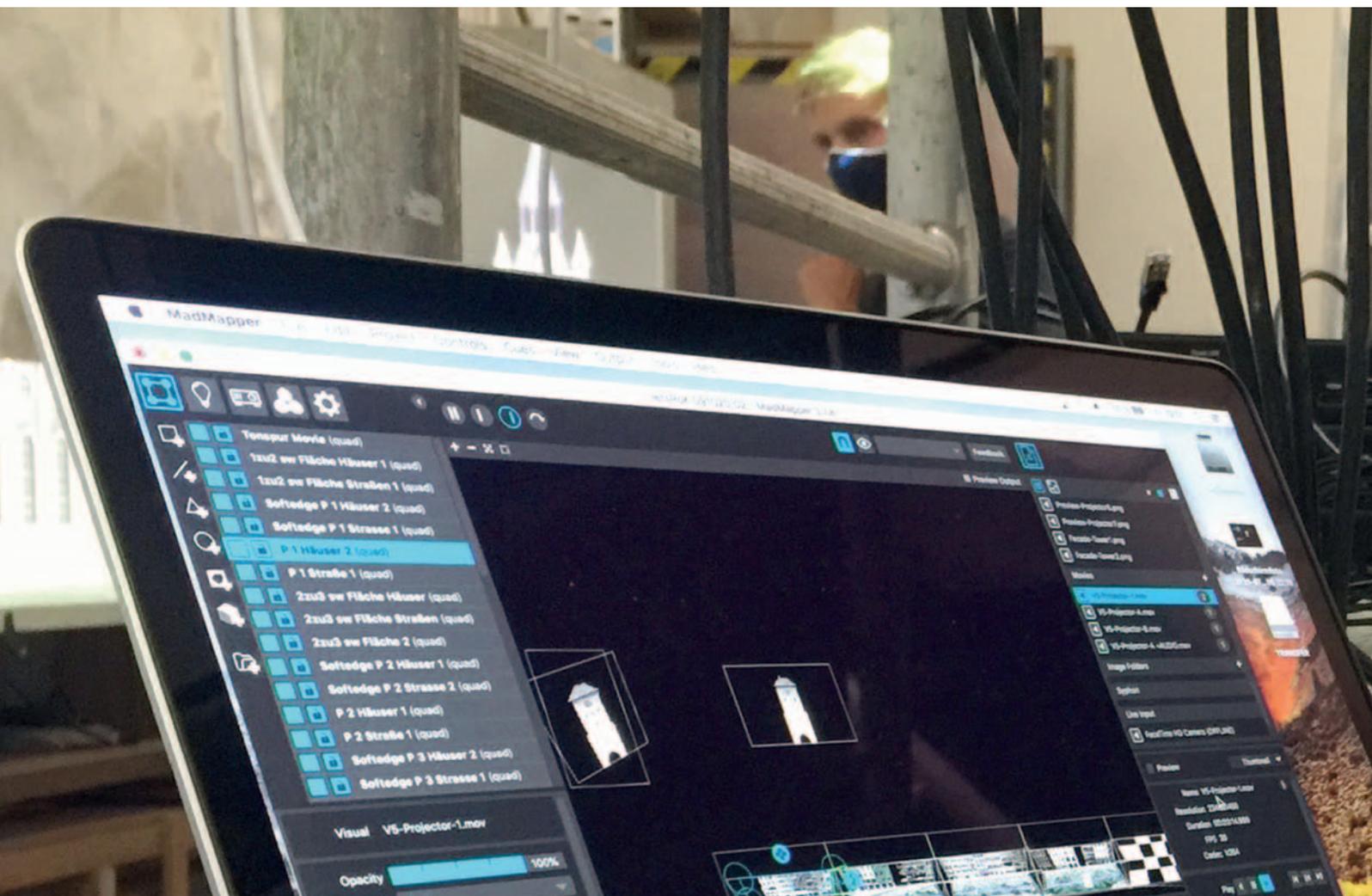
and lecturer in Brazil and Croatia and curated an exhibition of Berlin galleries in the whiteBOX in the Werksviertel in Munich in 2010.

Together with the Berlin artist Lukas Taido, who grew up in Munich, the son of the well-known conductor, musician and composer Eberhard Schoener, the team worked on a program proposal as a simulation model for the planned event in June 2021, which they will take to the Pasinger factory on October 23rd, 2020 to show and explain.

For this series of publications, Jochen Boberg has taken Markus Uhrig’s redesign idea further under the guiding principle of a “utopia of a human-friendly city” in order to create a real utopia of metropolises as places of progress for everyone. He sees the **Tal** as a non-place, not as a place to linger, a place to rest and talk: “The Metropolis with a Heart

has an open wound”. Of course, he sees the pandemic as a great possibility and opportunity, provided that the redesign of the **Tal** does not only take place as an extension of the pedestrian zone, but also by means of additional interventions the gate can be released from its chains to become a gate again.

Markus Uhrig has expressed exhaustively his basic concept for the redesign, which was derived from the city history of Munich, the focus of which is a partial opening of the Munich city streams. During a tour of the **Tal** that he took with the Berlin author, artist and publisher Ulrike Damm, they talk about Uhrig’s view of the **Tal**. In her recorded interview with Uhrig, the basis was laid for the development of ideas that are to be discussed and pursued further during a panel discussion in the Pasinger factory in the kindly dedicated pres-



ence of Munich city Planning Officer Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Merk. Residents, passers-by and flâneurs as well as all the citizens of Munich are invited to participate in the discussion and in the further development of the project. Therefore, the City Partner Munich are also invited to the first roundtable discussion. The moderation of the discussion is in the hands of the Munich-based architecture critic and publicist Wolfgang Jean Stock, as a knowledgeable and curious observer of Munich architecture and its art scene, its traditions and innovations, in the context of their external effects. In his contribution, Rolf Külz-Mackenzie provides a small outline of the cultural history

of the terrain in order to highlight the new, eminently important relevance of the city streams for a tolerable future life in the city in times of unstoppable global warming, as is argued in Uhrig's project. This can also be seen in the other approaches and initiatives of the Munich city administration and citizenry, as dismantling measures in Munich's previously sealed old town are also fortunately starting to spread. Unusually meticulous, elaborate and with high artistic standards, the focus of the exhibition **"Belebtes Tal"** – certainly with a view to the recurrent Venice Biennale of Architecture – is the design of the acoustic and visual installation as simulation which is

planned for the City Foundation Festival in 2021 and is in the artistic hands of Lukas Taido and Laszlo Bodos.

For anyone who has followed Taido's performances in the media (such as the audio installation in the Shanghai Tower, the light sculpture at the "Night of Light" festival in Debrecen in Hungary, the projections and music events at the 100th anniversary of the Bauhaus in Dessau and the video mapping for the Herder Church in Weimar), it will be possible for them to see that the prerequisites that "something must finally happen", as Dr. Knapp put it, are – paradoxically – more favorable than ever.





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