Exhibition contributions by:

RUS: Vladimir Archipov, Sergei Bratkov, Olga Filatova, Alexei Kononenko, Yuri Leiderman, Savva Miturich, Sergei Miturich,

A: Sofie Thorsen; Toni Moceri, Kelly Parker, Clinton Snider, Chris Turner, Peter Williams, Andrew Zago

Eastern Germany is not a unique case. Along with several shrinking regions in western Germany, all over the world there are about 500 cities with populations over 100,000 that have lastingly shrunk in the last fifty years. The population in the old industrial states is beginning to decline; the process of urbanization has reached or past its zenith; the economy is still growing slightly, but employment has steadily fallen for quite some time. It is the end of a 200 year epoch in which the industrial countries’ population, economy, affluence, and cities grew almost continuously and usually rapidly.

The Exhibition Shrinking Cities of the initiative project of Germany’s Federal Cultural Foundation, the Kulturstiftung des Bundes, explores for the first time from an international perspective an urban development that has long since become a global phenomenon. Since Fall 2002, local teams have been commissioned in the four shrinking cities Detroit (USA), Manchester/Liverpool (Britain), Ivanovo (Russia), and Halle-Leipzig (Germany) to investigate and document processes of urban shrinking. In more than sixty exhibition contributions, artists, architects, filmmakers, journalists, culture experts, and social scientists reveal the changed reality of these cities. The topics the teams address range from the neglect and appropriation of spaces through changed practices of everyday life and new forms of work to the development of innovative teams and practices of everyday life and new forms of work to the development of innovative

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**Visitor Service:**

Overview tours: Sa/Su, 3 p.m., price: 4 Euro per person.

Group tours (max. 15 persons) in German or English are available on request. Standard tour (general overview, 1 hour) 60 Euro; discount 50 Euro.

Contact: Arthur Berlin, Fon 030/81 79 87 40, Fax 030/81 79 87 41, visit@shrinkingcities.com

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**Accompanying Program:**

**Shrinking Cities Music (Palais der Republik, September 23 until September 25, 2004)**

**Shrinking Cities Film (Zeughauskino, October 14 until October 17, 2004)**

**Shrinking Cities Literature (Roter Salon, September 28, 2004)**

**Let’s Cinema (Palais der Republik, Sundays 11 p.m.**)

**Talks with artists (RWM, Wednesdays 8 p.m.**)

**Exhibition discussions (Sa, Fridays 4 until 7 p.m.**)

**Podium discussions (October 5, October 29, November 5, 2004)**

Further information at www.shrinkingcities.com

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**Chief Curator:** Philipp Oswalt (architect/journalist, Berlin)

**Curatorial Team:** Walter Priége (Bauhaus Dessau Foundation, Curator), Cologne with Sebastian Hauser and Claudia Hoffmann, Exhibition graphic: 1kilo, Berlin, Graphic: Stephan Müller and Tanja Wesse, Berlin

**Local Curators:** Detroit: Mitch Cope (artist/curator, Detroit), Kyong Park (artist/curator, New York) with Dan Pitera/DCDC (architect, Detroit); Ivanovo: Sergei Sitari (architect/journalist, Moscow), Alexander Sverdlov (architect, Moscow/Rotterdam); Liverpool/Manchester: Joshua Bolchover (architect, Manchester), Paul Dometie (curator, Liverpool), Philipp Misselwitz (architect, Berlin/Tel Aviv)

**Exhibition design:** Meinhard Voggenreiter Projekt 1e, Cologne with Sebastian Hauser

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The exhibition in Berlin is the first presentation of the results of this initiative project, which lasts three years; the second exhibition, presenting strategies for action, follows in Fall 2005 in Leipzig. The project’s work is also presented at events, on the website, and in print-on-demand publications.

A 736-page book will be published by the Verlag Hatje Cantz to accompany the exhibition.