

**Ross Exo Adams** is an architect and writer who holds a BS in Material Science and a Masters of Architecture which he received from the Berlage Institute in 2006. His architectural work has been exhibited widely, including at the 2006 Venice Biennale, and his writings have been published in several international journals including *Radical Philosophy*, *Log*, *Thresholds*, *Project Russia*, and others. He is currently writing his doctoral thesis, a political critique of urbanism as a body of knowledge and set of practices emerging form and operating in close relation to liberalism, at the London Consortium.

**Morgan Belenguer** is a French choreographer based in Berlin, Germany. He completed his education at L'Ecole-Atelier Rudra Béjart in Lausanne, Switzerland. After winning the second prize and the critics' prize at the International Choreographers Competition, Hanover, Belenguer was invited to pursue his choreographic work internationally for CCR Dance Company Istanbul, Stadtheater Hannover, and the Holland Dance Festival, among others. Since 2007 he has produced various choreographies in Berlin; his last production "Parsème" was performed at Dock 11 in 2010. He has collaborated with Luis Berríos-Negrón on the exhibition "Immediate Archeologies" at Program Berlin in 2009, with the fashion designer Emilie Luc-Duc on the project "Undo" at .HBC in 2010, and directed music videos and visuals for Ellen Allien and the band Jahcoozi. His most recent work, "it becomes visible," at PSM gallery in Berlin is part of an on-going performance "Endless Beginning."

**Luis Berríos-Negrón** focuses on visual arts, material economies, and mass customization through the lens of architecture. He has received various awards, including the Parsons-Michael Kalil Award for Smart Design and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology-Schnitzer Award for the Visual Arts. He has had solo and group exhibitions, installations and architectural design projects in over ten countries. His most recent projects are The Turtle and Nonspheres series, including the "Urban Customization Workshop" (Berlin/Hamburg/Munich), "Stonemasonry in Context" (Mallorca), "Immediate Archeologies" at Program (Berlin), and "Immediate Archeologies Two or the Children's Crusade" (Dresden).

**Hilary Brown** graduated from NYU in 2006 with a degree in visual arts. She changed course and was hired as an analyst at a small structured financed company. The next four years were spent researching homebuilding companies, land developers, swaps and subprime mortgage CDOs. She is currently based in Santiago.

**François Bucher** is an artist and writer from Cali, Colombia, living in Berlin.

**Jean Gardner** is an activist, writer, teacher, and consultant on sustainable design issues. She is co-author with Brian McGrath of *Cinematics: Architecture Drawing Today*. She also wrote *Urban Wilderness: Nature in New York City*, the first book ever published on the subject. The national American Institute of Architects Committee on the Environment awarded her graduate course Issues and Practices in Architecture and Urbanism special recognition for eco-literacy teaching. The New York City Chapter of the AIA awarded her a Special Citation for her work as an Urban Ecologist, Author, and Educator in both the architectural field and in the public realm. Gardner was part of a team led by David Rockwell to commemorate 9/11 that exhibited at the 2002 Venice Biennale "The Hall of Risk," a participatory center for conflict resolution. She currently is an Associate Professor of Social-Ecological Design in the School of Constructed Environments, Parsons The New School for Design.

Overleaf: Hannes Schmidt, How long is long? (Art Cologne), 2009; C-Print, Dimensions variable

**Elín Hansdóttir** creates site-specific installations which take many forms, including auditory or optical illusions, labyrinthine tunnels, and motion-activated architectural elements. She creates self-contained worlds that seem to operate under their own set of rules, completely transforming a benign space into one that defies expectations and seems only to exist at a particular moment in time. Though her installations are complex in construction and technical craft, they take on a stark aesthetic, so that her work operates as a kind of blank slate for viewer experience and interaction. She has created and installed her work in a number of international venues including the National Gallery of Iceland, Reykjavik Art Museum, Frieze Art Fair, London, and ZKM, Karlsruhe, Germany.

**Mendel Heit** is a product designer living and working in Berlin. He primarily works on research projects, as well as co-designing and cooperating with other agencies. His works go towards interaction, 3D printing, new (generative) shapes, innovative concepts, intelligent and sustainable solutions, hardware hacking as well as DIY/open-source ways of thinking and making. He has worked with Coordination Berlin, ITD Braunschweig, and ART+COM. He also worked at the Jerszy Seymour Design Workshop on several products, exhibitions and art shows. Since 2009, he has also contributed to the Palomar5 Network, and started new projects involving DIY, bioplastics, and fab labs within the same spirit.

**Mark Jarzombek** is the Associate Dean of MIT's School of Architecture and Planning where he is Professor of History and Theory of Architecture. He has taught at MIT since 1995, and has worked on a wide range of historical topics from the Renaissance to the modern. Jarzombek, who was an undergraduate at the University of Chicago, received his architectural diploma in 1980 from the Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule and his PhD from MIT in 1986. He was a CASVA fellow (1985), Post-doctoral Resident Fellow at the J. Paul Getty Center for the History of Humanities and Art, Santa Monica, California (1986), a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ (1993), at the Canadian Center for Architecture (2001) and at the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute (2005). He has worked extensively on nineteenth and twentieth century aesthetics, and the history and theory of architecture. Jarzombek teaches a range of courses at the graduate and PhD level in the History Theory Criticism program (HTC) of the Department of Architecture.

**Miodrag Kuč** is an interdisciplinary artist and urban theorist trained as architect/urban planner in various cultural settings. His work explores role of ephemeral structures in uncertain conditions and spatial appropriations of marginal social groups. Using an array of communication tools to facilitate participation and micro-politics of informal social groups, Miodrag Kuč investigates potentials of temporary use in integrative urban development. He is the founder of the movement ParaArtFormations, which offers conceptual planning approaches for local communities and empower them through process of alternative education and environmental awareness. He is currently working on his PhD at Bauhaus University in Weimar (Department of Urban Studies and Social Research), observing innovative nature of informality in Berlin.

**Fotini Lazaridou-Hatzigoga** is an architect and researcher. She studied architecture at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, and at Harvard University on a Fulbright Scholarship. In 2006 she moved to Berlin and co-founded PROGRAM – initiative for art and architecture collaborations, a project aimed at diversifying the ways we understand and make architecture through exhibitions, research projects, workshops, lectures and residencies. Alongside PROGRAM, Lazaridou-Hatzigoga is engaged in collaborative projects that explore the ways we relate to each other and our surroundings, through video, interventions, research, and design.

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**Pia Marais** grew up in South Africa, Sweden, and Spain. She studied sculpture and photography in London, Amsterdam, and Düsseldorf before going on to study film at the German Film & Television Academy (dff) in Berlin. She made several shorts, including *Loop* (1996), *Deranged* (1998), *Tricky People* (1999), and *17* (2003). After several engagements in the film business as a casting director and assistant director, she made her feature debut with *The Unpolished* (Die Unerzogenen, 2007), which screened at many international film festivals and won various prizes, including the Tiger Award in 2007 in Rotterdam. Her second feature film *At Ellen's Age* (Im Alter von Ellen, 2010) was developed in the Résidence du Festival de Cannes.

**Walter Mercado** is an internationally renowned astrologer and psychic. He has dedicated more than twenty-five years inspiring and captivating the multitudes with his advice and accurate predictions. This highly successful Spiritual Master is at the helm of a conglomerate of services that bring enlightenment to more than 120 million people who turn to him each day for advice. His impressive television repertoire includes: *Walter y las Estrellas* (Walter and the Stars) a segment of Univision's highly rated magazine program, *Primer Impacto* (First Impact) *Walter Mercado y los Signos del Amor* (Walter Mercado and the Love Signs) and *El Show de Walter Mercado* (Walter Mercado's Show). He is also recognized for his daily horoscope columns, which appear in New York's *El Diario-La Prensa*, Miami's *El Nuevo Herald*, Puerto Rico's *El Nuevo Día*, and also newspapers in Bogota, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Quito and San Salvador. He also publishes a magazine, has written several books among which Warner Books published his latest title, *Beyond the Horizon: Visions of the New Millennium*.

**Dan Paluska** is an artist and engineer who works in kinetic, robotic, and various other media. He has BS, MS and ABD from MIT in Mechanical Engineering. He has been on the Discovery Channel, the cover of *Wired* magazine, and been the recipient of the Prix Ars Electronica Award of Distinction for Interactive Art (with Jeff Lieberman). He is inspired by the ideas from lean manufacturing, evolution, the open source community, and market economics and how these might help us to build tools that help us collaborate better. Currently he is working on setting all of his information free.

**The Product** is a Berlin-based spatial and media related design studio. Over the last years the studio has focused on interactive installations, augmented objects, physical interfaces, and generative systems. The designs are located at the interface between the virtual and the physical world. More than just an investment in digital media itself, the studio is interested in its intrinsic properties: the responsive, the interactive, the procedural, the volatile, the many, the precise, the playful, the narrative... in short the "signature of the digital." Hence the procedurally shaped pieces of wood, the computationally processed sheet of paper, or the mechanical construction plays an equally important role in our work as a projector, a sensor, or a micro-controller. The studio strongly believes that technology can be transformed, by sharp thinking, technological competence, and formal sensibility, into a meaningful, warm and emotional something.

**Paul Ryan** is an artist whose video work has been presented in Japan, Turkey, France, Germany, Holland, Spain and throughout the United States, including at "The Primitivism Show" at The Museum of Modern Art and "The American Century Show" at the Whitney Museum of American Art. Ryan authored *Cybernetics of the Sacred* and *Video Mind, Earth Mind*. His articles have appeared in numerous journals including *IS Journal*, *Millennium*, *Leonardo*, *Terra Nova* and *Semiotica*. NASA published his Earthscore Notational System. Ryan was part of the early video movement, founded and edited a bioregional magazine in North Jersey, and co-founded and directed the Gaia

Institute at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City. His design for an Environmental Television Channel has been presented at the United Nations. Ryan studied with both Marshall McLuhan and Gregory Bateson. His teaching experience includes New York University, SUNY New Paltz, The Savannah College of Art and Design, and Parsons School of Design. Currently he is a member of the core faculty at the Graduate Communication Program at the New School in New York City.

**Hannes Schmidt** received his fine arts diploma in 2003 from the Hochschule für Kunst und Design Burg Giebichenstein/Halle. He is the recent recipient of the Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg grant. His work has been shown internationally, with exhibitions at Kunsthalle Exnergasse, Vienna; DUMBO Center of Arts, New York; DESTE Foundation for Contemporary Art, Athens; Evas Arche und der Feminist, New York-Berlin; and Nice & Fit Gallery, Berlin. He has upcoming exhibitions at Pro Choice, Vienna; Basso, Berlin; and at the Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg, Stuttgart.

**urbikon** is a team of architects and landscape architects with different professional backgrounds and orientations. According to the requirements of the different projects the team is extended with specialists including economists, artists, craftsmen, designers or scientists. For each project a taskforce is put together to be able to follow our interests on different scales. Our activities reach from furniture design over building construction over urban design strategies to communication design. Located in Leipzig and Berlin, Germany, urbikon was founded in 2002 and team members include Kai Dolata, Lola Meyer, Sebastian Stiess, and Jan Bovelet.

**Leah Whitman-Salkin** works as a freelance editor and writer in Berlin. She currently contributes to *Kaleidoscope* magazine, Manifesta publications, and various artists' and curatorial projects and books.



