



Photo: Victor Sanz

CITIES OF MAKING

RESOURCES FOR ACTIVATING NEW URBAN MANUFACTURING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY, SPATIAL DESIGN AND TRANSITION GOVERNANCE

Following years of decline and offshoring, European cities face a range of issues simultaneously: manufacturing jobs have shifted quickly to services and have created large gaps in the employment market. Now, concepts like circular economy are recognised by cities and new technology emerges, allowing industry to be quieter and more discrete. Cities of Making (CoM) explored the role of urban based manufacturing in the 21st century and developed tools to help drive a new age of urban manufacturing. The project targeted the cities of London, Rotterdam and Brussels - three cities with a distinct industrial heritage. The cities are geographically close but present different histories of manufacturing and different governance systems. The project identified what works in supporting a resilient and innovative industrial base, and tested those solutions in a real-world setting.

URBAN CENTRES TO NURTURE NEW FORMS OF GREEN URBAN MANUFACTURING

CoM studied material flows, industrial innovation, logistics, social inclusion, real estate pressures and environmental issues in both practice and literature. Project findings suggest that urban manufacturing is not in inevitable decline but rather that there is a general poor understanding of the topic and what it encompasses. When it comes to urban manufacturing, CoM argues that urban centres play an important role in nurturing new forms of urban manufacturing, based on a clean, knowledge intensive manufacturing sector.

HELPING CITIES DEAL WITH INDUSTRIAL LAND AND MANUFACTURING

CoM argues that cities need to change the way they deal with industrial land and manufacturing. This takes an appreciation of how manufacturing underpins a range of activities that cities depend on. Urban manufacturing and policy making surrounding it is a complex topic and needs to be developed together with cities. Cities of Making has published a book and produced a set of Pattern Cards as a communication tool for stakeholders to come together across sectors and have concrete discussions. The cards are already in use by an ESPON funded project covering seven European cities - not least as facilitation support. The Cities of Making team have already experienced shorter term breakthroughs with interest from public authorities using the book and cards as facilitation tools, and from metropolitan areas opening possibilities for further research in urban manufacturing.

Cities of Making has developed typologies, practices and policies for public and private stakeholders to breathe new life into their manufacturing communities. Reach out to the project to learn what technology and resources are suitable for 21st century urban industry, where it can be (spatially) located and how to leverage such change.

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PROJECT FACTS

Duration: 2017-2019

Involved Cities: Brussels, London, Rotterdam/The Hague

Partners: Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry, Latitude Platform for Urban Research and Design, Delft University of Technology, The RSA, l'Université libre de Bruxelles, University College London, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Budget: 959.000 EUR

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Result interview: jpi-urbaneurope.eu/citiesofmakingresults

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