# Projects of the exhibition

## Chapter "Putting Good Things on the Ground"

Sixteen selected local and international projects communicate options for action and new approaches to dealing with land. These examples show that spatial and urban development does not have to bow to the dictates of capital and the exploitation of resources and labor. They demonstrate that with initiative and courage, change is possible "from below," as well as "from above." The issue of "Land for Us All" is present in its ecological, economic and social dimensions, mostly multi-dimensionally.

**Liberating the Land**
**Verein Bodenfreiheit (The Land Freedom Association)**
In Vorarlberg, the discontent with the increasing development of important green spaces led to an amalgamation of like-minded people who are using highly innovative means to fight to keep the land free.
Gemeinnütziger Verein Bodenfreiheit; founded 2011; Location: Wolfurt, Vorarlberg

**A Radical Dealing with City Highways from the 1970s**
**Two Examples from Seoul**
In 2002, the capital of South Korea decided to demolish an almost 6-km-long urban highway without replacing it and to expose the river below.
Cheonggyecheon Stream Uncovering, Location: Seoul, South Korea, 2007, Landscape Architecture: Mikyoung Kim Design, Boston, Massachusetts
10 years later, the Skygarden project followed, which transformed a 1 km-long section of the city highway into a park-like pedestrian bridge.
Seoullo 7017 Skygarden; Location: Seoul, South Korea; 2017; Architecture: MVRDV, Rotterdam

**Redensification of "Unter der Bahn"**
If space is very limited, as in Vorarlberg, new ideas are needed. Nicole Rodlsberger and Johannes Sebastian Vilanek wrote their master's thesis on the redensification of an existing single-family housing estate in Götzis. Their proposals could serve as models for many comparable locations throughout Austria.
Unter der Bahn. Strategies for the Internal Development of a Single-Family Housing Estate
Master thesis by Nicole Rodlsberger and Johannes Sebastian Vilanek, 2017

**Who Owns Hamburg?**
**The Residential Property Market Needs Transparency**
With the aim of shedding light on the Hamburg residential property market, the independent, non-profit investigative newsroom Correctiv started the project "Who Owns Hamburg?" In order to counter the rapidly rising rents, a transparent situation on the housing market constitutes an important first step.
Correctiv – Recherchen für die Gesellschaft; Location: Hamburg, Germany; Time period of investigation: 2017/18; https://correctiv.org/top-stories/2018/11/23/wem-gehoert-hamburg/

**"A high point of human civilization" (Karl Polanyi): Red Vienna**
Red Vienna of the interwar period represents a unique socio-political experiment that ranges from health and social policy, to cultural and educational policy, to social housing construction.

**Collaborative Neighborhood Development**
**The Stiftung Habitat and the Erlenmatt East District**
Utilizing the legal instrument of the heritable building right, the Basel-based Stiftung Habitat (Habitat Foundation) pursues its goal of withdrawing land from the free market and ensuring an affordable city for everyone. The success is obvious: the Foundation has even entered into the business of neighborhood development in the meantime.
Erlenmatt East; Basel, Schweiz; Project period 2010–2019; Stage 2 as of 2023

**What Can the Existing Building Fabric Do?**
**Architectural Concepts for Future Coexistence in Trofaiach**
The small city of Trofaiach in the district of Leoben in Upper Styria has long been struggling with population decline in the wake of deindustrialization. Especially the city center has suffered from extensive depopulation, the migration of important businesses to the outskirts and heavy through traffic. How can you breathe life back into a city center under these conditions?
Trofaiach – Architektonische Konzepte für ein zukünftiges Miteinander; Graz University of Technology, Institute of Design and Building Typology; As part of the: Master's studio "Trofaiach – An der Hauptstraße" in the 2018/19 winter semester

**"Land Matrix" Tries to Bring Transparency into Global Land Trade**
Founded in 2009, this independent initiative promotes transparency and accountability in large-scale land sales by collecting and publishing data on nearly 100 countries on its online platform.
https://landmatrix.org/

**Austria's First Research and Demonstration Farm**
Alfred Grand is a farmer in Absdorf, Lower Austria with a pronounced scientific affinity. He founded Austria's first research and demonstration farm and acts as a hub between science, everyday practice and society.
GRAND FARM and GRAND GARTEN, Absdorf, Lower Austria

**Learning to Fear Capitalism: Monopoly**
The most capitalist game in the world was invented by an anti-capitalist woman. In 1904, when women in the USA did not have the right to vote yet, the American actress, stenographer and game developer Elizabeth J. Magie applied for a patent for *The Landlord's Game*.

**Land Initiatives in Basel**
Against the background of the sell-off of urban land and rising housing prices in Basel, the population put an end to land sales by the Canton of Basel-Stadt in 2016.
Initiative „Boden behalten – Basel gestalten!" Basel, Schweiz; Launched in 2011, withdrawn in 2014

**Schöner leben ohne Rendite (SchloR) and habiTAT**
After years of searching, the initiators of SchloR – a group of 18 very diverse people – found what they were looking for in Simmering and bought a 3,100 m2 former circus training area directly on the Eastern Railway line in summer 2019. It is now being converted into a self-managed cultural, workshop and residential project.
Schöner leben ohne Rendite (SchloR), Vienna, Österreich; 2018–2022; Architecture: GABU Heindl Architektur

**Can You Make Land a Part of the Public Domain? "This is the Public Domain"**
Does land always have to be owned by someone? Does land always have to serve a specific purpose? Is it possible to take "a breather within the narrow boundaries of capitalism" (Amy L. Balkin, 2020) and make land public domain? Amy Balkin pursues these questions with her art project "This Is the Public Domain."
„This is the Public Domain"; Kern Country, California, USA; Amy L. Balkin, 2001–

**Let's Found a Village! Die Dorfschmiede (The Village Blacksmith)**
In 2018, Wohnwagon, a young Viennese start-up company, decided to move to the countryside and wrote to over 90 communities in Lower Austria: They would bring 28 employees with them, but would also want to engage in active village development.
Dorfschmiede für nachhaltige Lebensräume eG; Gutenstein, Lower Austria; founded 2018

**Contribución de Valorización**
**Valorization through the Community for the Community**
How can the increase in the value of land created by new public infrastructures be used for the general public? With the Contribución de Valorización (CV), the Colombian city of Manizales shows how it can be done.
Contribución de Valorización, Manizales, Colombia

**ENCI – Transformation of a Limestone Quarry into a Nature Reserve**
For more than a century, the ENCI quarry supplied the Netherlands with the raw material lime for cement production. Now the artificial landscape has been renatured and offers an impressive space for recreation, rare plants and birds.
ENCI, Maastricht, Netherlands, 2008–2020, Architecture: Rademacher de Vries Architects

## Chapter „Other Countries, Other Customs"

How do European neighbors feel about the land issue? Which different strategies are there for comparable challenges? System comparisons between countries are always difficult. Diverse legal systems and political cultures, but also historically evolved images of society and cultural peculiarities provide many variables. Nevertheless, comparative representations are inspiring in that they expand the spectrum of conceptual spaces and opportunities for action. The following six comparisons between Austria and one other European country each take a look at central issues of the land question.

### Let's talk about the constitution, baby!
The constitutions of the states provide an insight into ideological differences that subsequently have a major impact on societal development. While the German Basic Law, for example, ties property to social obligation, property is particularly strongly protected in Austria.

### Soil Protection and Food Security — Not Only in Times of Covid-19
The agricultural yield of a country depends on the availability of land, as well as on factors such as the fertility of the soil, the access to water or the production methods employed. So how are countries like Switzerland or Austria ensuring a sufficient supply of food for now and in the future?

### Participation Needs Transparency
The Danish "Localplan" and the Austrian "Flächenwidmungsplan" (Zoning Plan). A key step towards transparency and participation is to ensure that public plans are available and understandable for the general public. Denmark plays a pioneering role in this respect.

### How Social Is Socially Equitable Land Use?
Socially equitable land use in Munich, and dedicated areas for subsidised housing in Vienna. A comparative analysis of different planning measures that guarantee affordable housing in Munich and in Vienna despite steep rises in land prices.

### Developing Building Land Instead of Hoarding It!
How are the challenges of urban sprawl and the hoarding of building land dealt with in South Tyrol and Tyrol? The comparison shows the difference between one coordinated overall strategy and rather dispersed competencies. At the same time, it becomes clear that there is no one-size-fits-all solution.

### Value Appreciation for All or for a Few?
A local tax on value appreciation in Basel and urban development contracts in Vienna How can privately accrued value be taxed fairly and transparently for the general public when it is the product of municipal planning measures, such as rezoning or increasing the permitted building volume?