



realities:united

studio for art and architecture

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CURRICULUM VITAE



Tim Edler & Jan Edler in their Studio in Berlin Kreuzberg | ©2012 Steffen Jaenicke

“This complicity of art and architecture increasingly breeds professional practices which no longer exactly fit into either of it, but remain compatible with both. realities:united is a representative of this tendency.”

Andreas Ruby (2007), Productive Ambiguity; in Olafur Eliasson, Kjetil Thorsen (Eds.), Serpentine Gallery Pavilion 2007; Great Britain, Serpentine Gallery/ Lars Müller Publishers.

Initially co-founders of a transdisciplinary art group “Kunst und Technik” in Berlin (1997-2000), the brothers Jan and Tim Edler founded “realities:united” as a “studio for art and architecture” in 2000 and have gained international recognition for initiating and realizing art- and hybrid art installations across the globe at an architectural and urban scale.

Jan Edler (*1970 in Cologne) studied architecture at the Technical University Aix-la-Chapelle and the Bartlett School of Architecture in London. From 2010 to 2018 he was member of the Advisory Board of the “Transmediale” media arts festival in Berlin, Germany. As chairman, Jan Edler has led the fortunes of the non-profit association “Flussbad Berlin” since 2012. In 2014 he was named a fellow at Villa Massimo, the German Academy Rome.

Tim Edler (*1965 in Cologne) studied computer science and architecture at the Technical University Berlin. From 2005 until 2008 he held a visiting professorship at the University of the Arts Bremen. In 2003 the brothers taught together at the Pasadena Art Center College of Design.



Till today the studio members are intrigued by the possibilities of twisting notions of public space and everyday life, while exploring and combining space and communication, interaction and message.

Common to most pieces is the artistic exploration and transformation of existing, but often hidden potentials, mostly in immersive urban or architectural environments and in cultural, educational and commercial contexts. The cross-pollination between technological innovation, research and artistic expression as well as the use of a diversity of (artistic) media, is a key interest in the work of realities:united.

Pieces by Jan and Tim Edler are both included in permanent museum collections like the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein, or the Museum Abteiberg in Moenchengladbach, as well as in private collections. Public art pieces can be found on campus of the Brown University, Providence, USA, in the collections of the City of Edmonton in Canada, at the Kunstmuseum Magdeburg in Germany, and at the Futurium, a federal exhibition hall in Berlin, Germany.

The Edlers have been exhibited at several international exhibitions including the Vitra Design Museum (2013), the Museum of applied arts Cologne (2012), the MoMA New York (2011), the Venice Biennale (2002, 2006, 2008), the Museum Abteiberg in Moenchengladbach, the Swiss Architecture Museum in Basel (2008), as well as the MOCA Museum of Contemporary Art in Taipei (2007). Installations of realities:united have been honoured with numerous awards, for instance the prestigious Kunstpreis Berlin 2009 (Art Prize Berlin) by the Akademie der Künste in Berlin (Academy of the Arts Berlin), or the Hans Schaefers Award by the Bund Deutscher Architekten Berlin (German Architects Association Berlin). After receiving the gold prize of the Regional Holcim Award for Sustainable Construction in Europe for their project "Flussbad" (River Pool) in 2011, the project was also awarded the bronze Global Holcim Award 2012.

Current Developments

In Berlin, realities:united is applying their energies to the award winning "Flussbad" project, an ecological urban development concept which aims to make part of Berlin's Spree river more accessible to the public and to convert it into a natural swimming pool.

In Gwangju the studio has just completed an urban art installation for the Gwangju Biennale in South Korea while their public interactive light-art installation Lightspell for Will Alsop's new subway station, which was also just completed, has been censored by the Toronto Transit Commission shortly before its planned inauguration in December 2017. Also located in Toronto realities:united is working on the realization of a public integrated art installation for "Smart House", a new residential high-rise development by "Architects Alliance".

For Berlin's soon to be opened "Futurium", a new federal public exhibition hall, an outdoor kinetic sculpture, mimicking the spinning plates trick at large scale, will be erected in 2018.