

DAS WORT HABEN DIE BENÜTZER / LA PAROLE EST AUX USAGERS / LET THE USER SPEAK NEXT examined the Berlin Corbusierhaus and the nearly identically constructed Cité radieuse in Marseille – two emblematic modernist buildings realized in the 40s and 50s by Le Corbusier. In 2012 and 2013, the American composer Bill Dietz (Ensemble Zwischentöne) and the German stage designer and director Janina Janke (Oper Dynamo West) explored these two massive “machines for living.” They collected sound and images in and around the buildings and interviewed inhabitants about their lives within them. Collected sound materials are restructured according to proportions of Le Corbusier’s “modulor” measurement system and are sent wandering throughout the architecture via a sounding network of inhabitants’ linked home stereos. Groups of visitors individually received personal stereo systems forming a second audible network. Both networks describe the possibility of sonic community. Framing these sound pathways, two video installations contrasted the individual narratives of residents with the buildings’ immediate urban surroundings: a triptych of video projections mirrors the Unités’ historical and topographical exteriors in Berlin and Marseille, a multi-monitor construction rolled through transcriptions of interviews with inhabitants. In Fall 2013, presented by Marseille-Provence 2013 – European Capital of Culture, the French version of the project took place at the Cité radieuse with a large scale sonification of one facade of the building.

Concept / Director / Video Installation: Janina Janke

Concept / Composer / Sound Installation: Bill Dietz

Musicians: Ensemble Zwischentöne

Sound Director: Wilm Thoben

Musical Informatics: Christian Dietz, Florian Goltz

Camera / Video Installation: Manuel Kinzer

Concept / Production: Janina Benduski

Assistant Berlin: Dorothea Lübbe

Assistant / Coordination (gmem-CNCM-marseille): Isabelle Scheller

Special Seminar at the University of Applied Sciences – Potsdam: Mareike Holtz (Lead Facilitator), Pauline Junginger, Feenja Weihe, Lena Struve

PR Berlin: Barbara Gestaltmayr / PR Marseille: Ina StudenrothProduction / PR: ehrliche arbeit – Freies Kulturbüro

Coordination at the Corbusierhaus: Petra Goldmann (cic)

Coordination at the Cité Radieuse: Jacques Delemont (président de l’association des habitants de l’UH Marseille)

Design: Frederike Wagner

photo: Manuel Kinzer/ Sasha Kane-Vielzeuf

A production of Oper Dynamo West, Ensemble Zwischentöne, and ehrliche arbeit.

Co-produced by Marseille-Provence 2013 – European Capital of Culture and GMEM – Centre National de Création Musicale Marseille.

The 2012 Berlin version is funded by the Hauptstadtkulturfonds, the German-French Fund for Contemporary Music (Implus neue Musik) and Initiative Neue Musik e.V. The 2013 Marseille version is additionally funded by the Paris Goethe Institute.

LET THE USER SPEAK NEXT / LA PAROLE EST AUX USAGERS is generously supported by the Electronic Studio of TU Berlin, the Deutschen Architektur Zentrum – DAZ, the Berlin Institut Français, the Fondation Le Corbusier, Filmgestalten Berlin, the Potsdam University of Applied Sciences’ Kulturarbeit degree program, and the cooperative German-French graduate program in cultural mediation at the Universities of Hildesheim and Marseille.

LET THE USER SPEAK NEXT / LA PAROLE EST AUX USAGERS is made possible by cic – cultur im corbusierhaus, the Eigentümerbeirat of the Berlin Corbusierhaus, Präzisa House Management, and the Association des Habitants de la Cité radieuse Marseille.

















