The architectural exhibition Culture:City curated by Matthias Sauerbruch for the Akademie der Künste — with an extended side program including lectures, talks, conferences and interventions — takes a critical eye to the relationship between architecture and the social reality of the 21st century and shows the impact of art and culture on cities and architecture.

In what way does cultural activity change a city? How does it affect architecture? When do they strengthen, redefine or preserve the urban environment from decay? When do they become a burden on public finances? Given the global competition between cities, dreams of glory and tourism drive politicians and property developers to erect spectacular buildings designed by star architects — for the purpose of creating memorable icons. However, these do not always serve local culture. What then are the alternatives to the “Bilbao effect” or “post Bilbao effect”? Culture:City asks these questions and discusses them based on international architectural projects and on a platform for discourse.

The selection of international examples presented — ranging from spectacular architectural and art projects, via the creative reuse of empty buildings and city areas, through to citizens’ initiatives — opens up a panorama of constructed concretisation of culture thus allowing us not only to take stock of the surroundings but also to evaluate and assess each individual case.

Presented projects are: 2-3 Straßen, Mühlheim a. d. Ruhr, Dortmund, Duisburg; Berghain, Berlin; Birmingham Library; Centre Pompidou, Paris; Centre Pompidou Mobile; Cidade da Cultura de Galicia, Santiago de Compostela; Die große Weltausstellung, Berlin; El Batel, Kongresszentrum, Cartagena; Elbphilharmonie, Hamburg; Foundation Generali, Wien; Grimm Zentrum Bibliothek, Berlin; Guangzhou Opera House; Guggenheim Museum, Bilbao; Inner City Arts, Los Angeles; Interaction

http://berlinartgrid.com/exhibitions/culture-city