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Introducing
RTG 2725 Urban future-making

Kathrin Meyer

Kathrin Meyer joined the Research Training Group "Urban future-making: Professional agency across time and scale" as an associated doctoral researcher at HafenCity Universität Hamburg in June 2022. Kathrin works at the intersection of architecture and civil engineering with a focus on urban redensification and post-war residential architecture. In 2017 she completed her master's thesis at the Department of Architecture at HafenCity University Hamburg. In 2017/2018 she worked at the Vienna University of Technology in the research project "Smarter Citizens Building Tour 2018" funded by the "Klima- und Energiefonds". Afterwards she worked in an architectural office in Hamburg. Since October 2019 she has been working as a research assistant at the chair of Prof. Peter-Matthias Klotz at HafenCity University in research and teaching.

Kathrin is currently working on her PhD project "´System building set´ in lightweight timber construction - Serial and resourceefficient roof extension of residential buildings up to building class four from the 1950s to the 1960s". It deals with the topic of urban redensification and investigates the potential of lightweight timber construction methods for inner-city redensification in the form of roof extension to residential buildings of the 1950s to 1960s.
Urban redensification is no longer something new. Existing building projects, however, are characterized by its unique planning process. In contrast, the aim of this work is to combine roof extension in lightweight timber construction with the potential of reproducibility on typified Hamburg residential buildings from the 1950s to the 1960s. The idea is to develop a fundamental modular system solution in lightweight timber construction, applicable to the similar building typology of residential buildings from the 1950s to the 1960s using the city of Hamburg as a transferable case study. The advantages are obvious: reduction in consumption of resources and land, use of renewable raw materials, creation of affordable housing, counteracting serious gentrification processes, desirable mixing of residents and preservation and enhancement of the architectural identity. The aim is to renovate the existing buildings in a way that is friendly to the occupants and that comforts the users as well as the architectural effect. Many existing buildings of post-war architecture are endangered or have already been demolished. It is urgently necessary to find a sustainable solution for post-war architecture. Otherwise Hamburg will exchange an important part of its architectural identity. Continuing to build on the existing stock by means of a systematic solution is not only a preservation model of cultural heritage with a low CO2 footprint and a high social purpose for the City of Hamburg, but should also be considered for the entire European region.