The Housing Cooperative Movement in Berlin

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Housing Cooperatives
Renaissance of group-self-help organizations

Möge der genossenschaftliche Geist, der uns lehrt, dass wir Menschen Brüder sind, ständig wachsen in uns und in immer weitere Kreise dringen!
Mögen wir allzeit des Spruches eingedenk sein:
Vereinte Kraft leicht Großes schafft.
In Search of the „Third Way“
Between State and Market, Rental and Co-Ownership

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Berlin: „Capital“ of Housing Cooperatives
Regional context and political background

**Empire** (1871-1918)

**Weimar Republic** (1919-1933)

**National Socialism** (1933-1945)

**West and East-Berlin** (1945-1989)

**German Reunification** (since 1990)
Empire

Housing Misery and Speculation

Visions of social, cultural and economic alternatives

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Empire

Democracy as a builder

„Reform islands in the stony ocean“ of Berlin

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Empire

More than a Roof over your Head

Different Living in cooperative communities

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Empire

The Garden-City movement

Synthesis of urban living and country-side

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Weimar Republic  New urban development  Diversity of architectural solutions

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Weimar Republic

Modern Housing Estates
New dimensions and style
Weimar Republic  Social and cultural aims
Community living in the 1920ies

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Divided City Different interpretations
Berlin-West versus Berlin-East
Divided City

Berlin East – Capital of GDR
Working Class Housing Cooperatives

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Divided City

Berlin-West

Social Housing Programs

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Berlin – Centre of Cooperative Movement
A mirror of European development

> Berlin: 3.5 Mio Inhabitants
  1.9 Mio Dwellings (85 % Rental)

> 90 Housing-Cooperatives
  186,000 Dwellings, Market Share 12 %

> Size: Single House up to 10,000 Dwellings

> Location/ Type: Historic Ensemble,
  Housing-Estate, Garden-City, New Projects

> Spectrum/ Typology:
  - Traditional Type (after 1886)
  - Former Working-Class-Housing (GDR 1954-1990)
  - New Foundations

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
UNESCO World Heritage
Architectural and social commitment

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Old Housing ensembles in transition
Traditional – modern: Adaptation to actual demands

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Large housing areas with new challenges
Refurbishment, Energy concepts, Social activities

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
New Ideas for new buildings
From „communicative housing“ to multi-generation projects
Cooperatives as Actors in urban Quarters
Participation, networks, collaborative strategies

Mach mit...
Genossenschaften im Kiez
Großes Sommerfest der Mariendorfer Genossenschaften

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
„Living“ Democracy – Principles and Reality
Self-help initiatives, service, co-housing

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Member Value - Diversity of Life-Styles

Inclusion of new target groups
Current Concepts and Projects in Berlin
Multi-Generation-Living and new Garden Cities

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Young cooperatives in Berlin
New interpretations of an old idea

© Renate Amann, Genossenschaftsforum
Potentials, Models, Perspectives

BUILDING, ENERGY EFFICIENCY, ECONOMIC AIMS
> Sustainable development of housing estates
> Affordable rents, member value, re-investment in the housing-stock
> Innovative architecture adapted to demographic change

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL IDEALS
> Stable neighborhoods, encouragement of self-help
> Social, gender and cultural inclusion, cluster and co-housing
> Adaptations for elderly people and multi-generation-living

NEW ROLE IN URBAN QUARTERS
> Strengthening of networks and participation
> Partnership with local institutions and authorities
All Reality is the Utopia of Yesterday“.  

Franz Oppenheimer (1864-1934)