

“WHAT MAKES A CITY A SUCCESSFUL HYDROPOLIS?”

Herbert Dreiseitl
Atelier Dreiseitl, GERMANY

Cities today urgently look for sustainable water solutions. From drinking water supply to sewer control and wastewater treatment down to rain water management there are many technologies and methods available. But best engineering practice and newest technology alone cannot make a city and their waters healthy, clean and beautiful.

So what is missing to create a Hydropolis?

Water challenges should no longer be seen as troublemakers and burdens but as great opportunities. It seems a multidisciplinary approach focusing on integrating urban hydrology, environmental engineering, landscape architecture and art, can only solve today's water questions. A synergy of function and design is needed within an urban context. All this has to be meaningfully integrated into the specific culture of each city. With a particular focus on one of the most essential and threatened natural resources on the planet, we need to recognize, water gives cities their vitality and special character.