

A-U-R-A GbR  
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A-U-R-A was founded in 2005 by Marisol Rivas Velázquez and Christian Schmutz with the goal of generating clear urban and architectural concepts resulting in tailor-made solutions. Every project aims to be a synthesis of cultural production, spatial quality and the pragmatic handling of construction, program, energy consumption, up-to-date technology and cost efficiency while respecting its context. Its name stands for the main fields of activity and for the nature of their design practice performing as an 'Agency'.

A-U-R-A speaks several languages fluently, not only in terms of idioms but by building platforms for the communication with and among the varying actors and project partners. Its approach incorporates not only plans and perspectives, it also produces texts, models, mock-ups, diagrams and many other visual means to grasp not only the obvious but the often more promising hidden solutions. Hence A-U-R-A involves, from the very beginning, specialists and consultants in order to achieve a fluent developing process. On behalf of integrated results A-U-R-A provides by request all planning services from preliminary design to execution planning up to site supervision. Long lasting personal contacts to architects, engineers and planners on a national and international level form the basis for viable cooperations also on remote projects inland and abroad.

Taking an active part at different scales, A-U-R-A's range of work comprises interiors, such as exhibitions, shops and booths, housing projects, public buildings, infrastructure and urban planning. Besides built projects and success in competitions A-U-R-A deals with architectural and urban research topics in studies that become part of international exhibitions and publications.

Teaching and researching at universities has become an integrative part of their practice. Their academic engagement focusing on issues of strategic design keeps them developing a critical attitude and a state-of-the-art level of design.

Legal form GbR (private partnership) | Directors Marisol Rivas Velázquez, B.S. M.Arch. Architect and Urban Planner & Christian Schmutz, Dipl.-Ing. M.Arch. Architect | Collaborators 2+ | Experience abroad Austria, Belgium, China, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, Malawi, Mexico, The Netherlands, Tanzania, Turkey, United Kingdom, USA | Languages German, Spanish, English, Dutch, French

### Services

Project planning according to the German HOAI (LPI-9): buildings, interiors, landscape (squares) all phases from basic and preliminary design, final design, building permission application, execution drawings, preparation of call for tenders, assistance in procurement, construction management until documentation

Urban planning: master plans/ development plans

Further services: advisories in school building, exhibition concepts, feasibility studies, location analyses, participatory processes, planning with listed buildings, research studies, visualisations, working and presentation models

### Equipment

Hardware: 2 MacPro, 2 MacBook Pro, 1 PC Dell workstation, 1 PC HP workstation, HP plotter PS A0+, Xerox-MFP A4, server AFP/SMB double backup, data exchange in all common formats, VDSL 50.000

Software: CAD Vectorworks Architecture+Landscape with Service-Select, Rhinoceros with Brazil Render, AVA California Pro (KOS, RGB, KTR, LVE, AUF, PRO, DAT), DTP Adobe Creative Suite, Merlin Project Management, MS Office

Model workshop: Styrocut, band saw, circular saw, disc sander, precision tools

PartnersMarisol Rivas Velázquez

1976\* | 1993-1998 Architectural studies at Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey (ITESM) – Bachelor of Science | Since 1998 License as Architect in Mexico | 1998-2000 Collaborator with Teodoro González de León and Ricardo Legorreta, Mexico City | 2000-2002 Postgraduate studies at Berlage Institute Rotterdam – Master of Excellence in Architecture – with CONACYT Scholarship | 2001 Workshop with Wiel Arets, Madrid | 2002/ 2004 Collaborator with Stéphane Beel Architects, Ghent | 2003/ 2004 Visiting Professor at ITESM, Monterrey | 2005 Foundation A-U-R-A | 2005 Lecturer at University of Technology of Munich | 2005-2010 Assistant Professor at Institute of Design.studio1, Prof. Stefano de Martino, University of Innsbruck | 2010-2016 Assistant Professor at Institute of Urban Planning/ Chair of International Urbanism, Prof. Dr. Philipp Misselwitz/ Prof. Astrid Ley, University of Stuttgart | Since 2011 Licensed Architect at Architects Chamber Baden-Württemberg and since 2013 additionally as Licensed Urban planner | Since 2012 Senior Member of the Network of Talented Mexicans Abroad (RED)

Christian Schmutz

1966\* | 1989-1990 Medical studies at Freie Universität Berlin | 1990-1998 Studies of architecture and urban planning at University of Stuttgart and at Graz University of Technology - Diplom-Ingenieur | 1992-1996 Internships each three-month with Formalhaut, Frankfurt/ Leonhardt Architects, Stuttgart/ Giencke & Company, Graz/ Tusker-Ströhle, Stuttgart | 1994 Workshop with Kees Christaanse, Graz | 1998 Collaborator with Schleifenheimer-Röcker, Stuttgart | 1999 Collaborator with Atelier Brückner, Stuttgart | 2000-2001 Postgraduate studies at Berlage Institute Rotterdam – Master of Excellence in Architecture - with DAAD Scholarship | 2000 Workshop with Raoul Bunschoten, Tokyo | 2001 Workshop with Wiel Arets, Madrid | Since 2001 Member of Stichting-Bureau-Architectenregister Den Haag | 2001-2002 Collaborator with Totems Communications, Amsterdam | 2002/ 2004 Collaborator with Stéphane Beel Architects, Ghent | Since 2003 Licensed Architect at Architects Chamber Baden-Württemberg | 2003/ 2004 Collaborator with Sauerbruch-Hutton, Berlin | 2004 Visiting Professor at ITESM, Monterrey | 2005 Foundation A-U-R-A | 2005-2013 Assistant Professor at Institute of Design.studio2, Prof. Gabriela Seifert, University of Innsbruck | 2012-2014 Lecturer at Institute for Construction and Design I, Prof. Peter Cheret, University of Stuttgart | 2013-2015 Lecturer at Institute of Design.studio2, University of Innsbruck | since 2015 Assistant Professor in the research project ‚City-Space-Education‘ at Institute of Urban Planning/ Chair of International Urbanism, Prof. Dr. Astrid Ley, University of Stuttgart | 2016 Qualification as advisor in school building, Montagstiftung, Bonn

Teaching

Marisol Rivas Velázquez – Thesis Supervisor at University of Innsbruck | Design courses at Master and Bachelor level at ITESM Monterrey, University of Innsbruck, University of Stuttgart | Seminars at University of Technology Munich, University of Innsbruck, University of Stuttgart | Workshops at the Berlage Institute Rotterdam, Anhui University, TU Hefei, Ardhi University Dar es Salaam | Guest crits at UIA Mexico City, State Academy of Fine Arts Stuttgart, Bauhaus University Weimar

Christian Schmutz – Thesis Supervisor at University of Innsbruck | Design courses at Master and Bachelor level at ITESM Monterrey, University of Innsbruck | Seminars at University of Innsbruck, University of Stuttgart | Workshops at ITESM Monterrey, Berlage Institute Rotterdam, London IASF 2010, Ardhi University Dar es Salaam | Guest crits at University of Innsbruck, University of Technology Munich, University of Stuttgart, University of Applied Sciences HfG Schwäbisch Gmünd

Projects

	2016	GUT	Building for Refugees in Tübingen, Siedlungswerk Stuttgart (design schemes for allocation of plots)
	2013 – 2016	EFL	House L, Günzburg (completed)
	2015	ISO	Integrated Social Space Study Ötlingen, with Compare Consulting, Albershausen
	2013	GWN	Apartment N in a former office building, Frankfurt (preliminary design)
	2012	JSW	City Entrance Bad Windsheim, with URP-Urban Research and Planning, Stuttgart (preliminary design)
	2011 – 2012	GKB	Annex G, Bermaringen (preliminary design)
	2009 – 2011	BZR	Visitor Center World Heritage Regensburg (completed), with Bertron-Schwarz-Frey, office for visual communication, Ulm/ Berlin
	2008 – 2010	EFM	House M, Laupheim (completed)
	2007 – 2008	JHU	Renovation of Judenhof Square, Ulm (completed)
	2006 – 2007	EFB	House B, Neu-Ulm (completed)
	2005	WIL	Compactblock Wiley-Süd, concept study, Neu-Ulm
	2004	ALP	Shop-in-Shop Concept for Alpha Industries, Frankfurt (preliminary design)
	2004	LAP	Restaurant La Paz, Berlin (completed)
	1998	LSP	Urban guiding system for the Museum at Petrusplatz (completed), with Designbüro Bauer, Neu-Ulm

Competitions

	2017	BWG	<u>Acknowledgement prize</u> Limited urban planning competition 'Bruhweg II, Gerlingen', with Lavaland + Treibhaus landscape architecture, Berlin
	2016	EAM	<u>6th Place</u> Open competition 'Epiphany Area Mannheim-Feudenheim'
		HKU	Open 2-phase competition 'Conversion Hindenburg Barracks Ulm', with Lavaland + Treibhaus landscape architecture, Berlin
	2015	BBM	<u>2nd Phase</u> Open 2-phase competition 'Education Centre Münnerstadt', with Lavaland + Treibhaus landscape architecture, Berlin
		BMD	International open 2-phase competition 'Museum Bauhaus Dessau', with mx_si, Barcelona
		AMG	Limited competition 'Housing at Arnheimweg Münster'
		BAR	<u>4th Prize</u> Limited urban planning competition 'Station Area Rottenburg'
		WAF	Limited urban planning competition 'Akademiegärten Neuhausen', with silands landscape architecture, Ulm
	2014	KRH	<u>3rd Prize</u> Open urban planning competition 'Conversion Hospital Rohrbach', with silands landscape architecture, Ulm
		FTS	Limited urban planning competition 'Fairground Schriesheim', with silands landscape architecture, Ulm
	2013	OML	<u>2nd Phase</u> Open 2-phase competition 'Ortsmitte Litzelstetten'
	2012	TSA	<u>Acknowledgment prize</u> Open urban planning competition 'Thorstadt Aalen', with M. Kopec
		NFU	Invited urban design competition 'Frauenstraße Ulm'
	2011	CBU	<u>Shortlisted</u> Limited urban planning competition 'City Railway Station Ulm'
		WSI	EU-open competition 'Housing Sillblock' / IIG, Innsbruck
	2010	KSU	Urban planning competition 'Safranberg, Ulm', with Malo, Innsbruck
		OMJ	Invited competition 'Township Centre Jungingen'
	2009	ZBN	<u>2nd Prize</u> Invited competition 'NU2I Centre-Plot 4.4', Neu-Ulm
	2008	BZR	<u>1st Prize</u> Invited competition 'Visitor Center World Heritage Regensburg', with Bertron-Schwarz-Frey, office for visual communication, Ulm/ Berlin
		WAN	Invited competition 'Multi-Generation House Westlich Albertinum', NUWOG Neu-Ulm, with Schreiber Engineers, Ulm
		IPU	Invited competition 'Information Point CBU'
		GAN	Invited competition 'Congregation Centre Andreaskirche', Neu-Ulm
	2007	WGN	<u>Realization Prize</u> Invited competition 'Housing at Glacispark II', Neu-Ulm
		FSU	Invited competition 'Education Centre Friedensschule', Ulm
	2006	MPH	Limited competition 'Market Square Hirschau'

- 2005 JHU Ist Prize Limited competition 'Judenhof Square', Ulm,  
with Andreas Hardegger, Stuttgart  
UCC Special mention Ideas competition 'Reconsidering Utopias of Cologne'
- 2004 JWG Invited competition 'JWG-University', Frankfurt, with Stéphane Beel, Ghent
- 2003 EU7 Shortlisted European competition 'European 7', Wiley-Süd Neu-Ulm
- 2002 SSP Invited competition 'Speicherstadt Potsdam', EGS, with Stéphane Beel, Ghent

Research Projects

- 2015 KSI 'In a class of its own - Schools worldwide', with ifa - Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen, HfT Stuttgart, University of Stuttgart, University of Innsbruck
- 2014 BZI 'Education Zone - Innichen', with Dr. Josef Watschinger. Institute of Design. Studio2/ University of Innsbruck
- 2012 BTZ 'Beyond Tourism - Zanzibar', mit FG Internationaler Städtebau/ University of Stuttgart
- 2007 HAV 'Havana - Spectacle City', with Fündc
- 2006 SIS 'Sides in Space - Hooligans in Urban Space'
- 2005 UCC 'Reconsidering Utopias - Urban Challenges for Cologne'
- 2004 CCR 'Camp for Catastrophe Refugees', with ITESM, Monterrey
- 2004 FWC 'First World Citizens Camp', with Maska, Ljubljana

Exhibitions

- 2015 In a class of its own - Schools worldwide – ifa Galerie Stuttgart / Berlin
- 2013 Beyond Tourism - Zanzibar – Architekturgalerie am Weißenhof Stuttgart
- 2008 Nacht der Architekten / 4. Architekturwoche - Munich, with Wuda and Malo
- 2007 3rd International Architecture Biennale Rotterdam – Kunsthal Rotterdam
- 2007 Trendboulevard – MAAG-Areal, Zurich
- 2005 Plan 05 – Museum Ludwig, Cologne
- 2004 The World of Refugees – Mocvara Gallery, Zagreb | Filodrammatica Gallery, Rijeka
- 2004 European 7 – Steinhaus, Ulm | Bavarian State Ministry, Munich | Café Moskau, Berlin

Lectures

- 2013 'About Architecture and spatial strategies' at Aicher-Scholl-Kolleg (ASK) - HfG, Ulm
- 2012 'Translations' at Symposium Studio Culture at London Metropolitan University
- 2012 'Highrises - Modern Utopias' at Info Punkt Universum Center, Ulm
- 2012 'Living environments' at HfG Schwäbisch Gmünd
- 2011 'Concepts and strategies for Urban Development' at the 7th Seminar of International Urbanism, Mexico City
- 2010 'Reflections on the Tijuana-San Diego Border' at radio interview in the program 'Mar sin Fronteras', IMER Radio Tijuana
- 2010 'Reintroducing the City in Havana' at Workshop 'Cities perspectives' at Center for Interamerican Studies, Innsbruck
- 2009 'CARGO Creating collaborative knowledge spaces' at International Conference 'Medien.Wissen.Bildung', Innsbruck
- 2007 'Spectacle Cities' at the Conference 3rd IABR - Producing the Contemporary City at Kunsthal Rotterdam
- 2005 'Utopia and its Highness - High-rises in Cologne' at Symposium Plan05 - Urban Challenges for Cologne at Museum Ludwig, Cologne
- 2004 'Camp for Catastrophe Refugees' at Conference Izbjeglice Refugees, Galerija i dvorana Filodrammatice, Rijeka
- 2002 'Corporate City' at International Conference on Private Urban Governance, Institute of Geography, Johannes-Gutenberg-University, Mainz

Essays

- 'Bildungszone Innichen – Projektdialog für gemeinsame Räume, Wissen und Identität, Partizipation und universitäres Engagement' in: Turrus Babel N° 97, 03.2015, by C. Schmutz & M. Rivas Velázquez, ed. C. Calderan, S. Attia, B. Weyland, published by Architectural Foundation Trentino-South Tyrol, Bolzano 2015
- 'Zeeland Pr[i]vince' in: Multiple-Cities Urban Concepts 1908 | 2008, by M. Rivas Velázquez, C. Schmutz, ed. S. Wolfrum, W. Nerdinger, S. Schaubeck, Verlag Publishers, 2008
- 'A Journey into the lost parts of Havana' in: Mudot 01, 05.2008, by M. Rivas Velázquez, C. Schmutz, ed. Th. Soehl & K. Jonas, Veenman Publishers, Rotterdam 2008
- 'Reintroducing the City in Havana' in: Visionary Power - Producing the Contemporary-City, by M. Rivas Velázquez, C. Schmutz with Fündc, ed. Ch. de Baan, J. Declerck, V. Patteeuw, NAI Publishers, Rotterdam 2007
- 'Hilbersheimer, Radical Urbanism' in: Research for Research, by M. Rivas Velázquez & D. Barajas, ed. B. Lootsma, published online in architekturtheorie
- 'Corporate City, Privatization of Space', by M. Rivas Velázquez, in: Hunch 8, ed. P. Dean, Episode Publishers, Rotterdam 2002
- 'After Erasure, interview with Hani Rashid', by M. Rivas Velázquez, C. Schmutz, I. Cho & M. Mutschlechner in: Hunch 4, ed. J. Sigler, Episode Publishers, Rotterdam 2002
- 'Dissolving Monuments -World Expo 2000', by C. Schmutz, A. Morpurgo & D. Zoller in: Hunch 3, ed. J. Sigler, Episode Publishers, Rotterdam 2001

Project Publications

- Klasse Schule - So baut die Welt. Exhibition catalogue, ifa, 2014
- Projektfeld Ausstellung – Project Scope: Exhibition Design, Birkhäuser, 2012
- Südwestpresse from 28.09.2011
- BlachReport museum – Ausstellungsgestaltung und Museumspraxis N°2.II, 2011
- Besucherzentrum Welterbe Regensburg: Eine kleine Gebrauchsanweisung, 2011
- Jahresbericht 2009 der Welterbekoordination, Stadt Regensburg
- Hunch 10, 2007
- Architektur & Bauforum N°12, 2007
- Arquine N°41, 09.2007
- DAMn N°12, 07-08.2007
- Pasajes de Arquitectura y Crítica, N°90
- Neue Züricher Zeitung, 02.06.2007, NZZ online
- Revue A+ N°206, 06-07.2007
- Stadtbauwelt N°174, 24.2007
- Europas 7 Die deutschen Ergebnisse, 2004