



Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at the Charité Campus Mitte





ABSTRACT

visions4people is a cooperation between the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Campus Charité Mitte and weißensee kunsthochschule berlin. We are also cooperating with TransVer, a Charité project offering psychosocial first reception for people with migration background.

Our transdisciplinary team is composed of specialists in the fields of art, design, architecture, and psychiatry. We began our first course during the summer semester of 2017 with 12 advanced students from fine and applied art disciplines. A second course will be offered in winter semester 2017/18.

By summer 2018, selected designs will be implemented on site and the artistic research results will be published.

Since psychiatry is a special, protected discipline in which medical confidentiality carries great importance, many standard participatory techniques such as the distribution of questionnaires, use of cameras, and exploration of the workflow cannot be carried out. Our first and essential task for visions4people has therefore been to develop adequate methods especially tailored for the task of developing creative concepts that will fit the needs and ideas of patients, relatives and clinic staff.

An essential aspect of our work lies in critical reflection and investigation of psychiatry as a social space with the prevailing conditions and structures and how these may be leveraged to improve the quality of a stay on a psychiatry.



TEAM

The project initiators are: Prof. Dr. Dr. Andreas Heinz, Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Campus Charité Mitte, and Leonie Baumann, Rector of the weißensee kunsthochschule berlin.

Prof. Tyne Claudia Pollmann has developed the concept and leads visions4people.

Dr. Bernhard Haslinger provides professional information on the organizational structure of the clinic and details about the psychiatric disorders and therapies. Architect BDA Jason Danziger advises on spatial and architectural factors. Sarah Bäcker is our artistic assistant and with an emphasis on participation, while project assistant Julia Emmler handles formal concerns. Raphael Jacobs and Quang Duc Nguyen are student members of our team. In summer 2017, Andreas Kallfelz supported the students on writing, while Agata Kycia provided further design advice with a focus on textiles and surface finishes.

Participating students of the summer semester 2017 were:

Sculpture: Eunseo Kim, Maria Jacquin, Chloe Pare-Anastasiadou; Product Design: Amélie Cayré, Felix Rasehorn, Johanna Taubenreuther; Textile and Surface Design: Juri-Apollo Drews, Abigail F. Wheeler; Fashion: Raphael Jacobs, Luisa Lauber; Architecture (TU Berlin): Almar de Ruiter; Visual Communication: Quang Duc Nguyen.

For their constructive cooperation at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Campus Charité Mitte, we would like to thank Prof. Dr. Dr. Andreas Heinz, Prof. Andreas Ströhle, Prof. Christian Müller, Beatrice Günther, Kathrin Mähling, and Christiane Pries.



FOCUS

In terms of teaching, visions4people means that the course work is not assigned, performed, and evaluated merely within the academic context, but that we open an external site and enter new contexts and experience the particularities, conditions, and restrictions of psychiatry, which affects our own fields and scope of action.

The on-site experience in direct contact with the patients and staff is very intense. Working within such a real, social space means a lively exchange within our team, with participants contributing diverse and individual approaches and sensibilities they bring from their specialty areas. As we become familiar with and critically engage with the system, structure, forms of therapy, and way in which patients are treated, we can come up with new aspects and opportunities for action and include them in

our discussions and designs. At the same time, a single semester places limits on development time. We need to understand the temporary nature of our roles as external interlocutors in this system.

These experiences lead us to core questions: How and where can we act meaningfully and positively as designers and artists in a specific social context? What concrete conditions and circumstances are we encountering in the psychiatric context and which methods can we develop to bring about improvements?

These overarching questions will be the focus of a symposium in 2018 that will be organized by experts from the fields of psychiatry, art, design, and architecture.



METHOD

visions4people is a pilot project consisting of an exploration and design phase. Our first instrument is the reader, which integrates methodological approaches from art, design, architecture and philosophy, as well as studies and examples of innovative approaches from the field of psychiatry, and makes them available to participants in an on-line information pool. The pool will continue to expand over the coming semesters. Relevant studies or articles which you wish to draw to our attention will gladly be integrated.

The insights gained during the exploratory phase, our own experiences, and all kind of information gathered from the location environment, the conversations and contact with patients and clinic staff form the starting

point for the ideas developed during the design phase. In addition, we mapped our individual perceptions of specific spatial and atmospheric factors (light, acoustics, spatial structures, etc.). Ideas will emerge from this initial material which coalesced into the specific creative and artistic designs of the students, who perceive the psychiatric clinic as a social space and a place for healing or regeneration.

As an established transdisciplinary team, we each contribute our specialist expertise to support the students during the exploration and design phases and support the creation of designs, simulations, models, and prototypes for individual student projects.



SPATIAL ANALYSIS

Most of our students had never visited a psychiatric clinic. As they began to broach the subject, the first task was to record their own expectations and ideas and to individually visit the public areas of the clinic. Here, the students again recorded their perceptions, impressions, and experiences. We discussed, compared, and analyzed the outcomes and performed a spatial analysis of the following questions:

Which areas and parts of the building came across as particularly positive or negative?

Where is there a need for action? What might this look like?

Follow-up visits and tours of the spaces further solidified the impressions and different project designs were developed for specific locations.

This was followed by walk-alongs, where members of our team walked through the building with patients or staff. From conversations held during these experiences, we learned of other important factors for understanding the spatial situation and how the space is perceived by those who use it every day. These experiences were included in a report as part of our field research material.



ON SITE ACTIVITY

The patient café has become a centerpiece of this project. We operate this space from 1:30 to 4:00 pm on Wednesdays, starting in May 2017, and engage in direct and lively contact with patients and staff. Everybody is free to choose whether they want to visit us, thus preserving the privacy of patients who choose to remain in the wards. We had intense visitor traffic and we welcomed regulars who came back every week.

The patients and staff gave us additional valuable perspectives and insights into everyday life in the clinic and offered both information and suggestions for improvements. Some contacts even led to artistic cooperation between students and patients. These important acquaintances and experiences have thus become part of their artistic production.

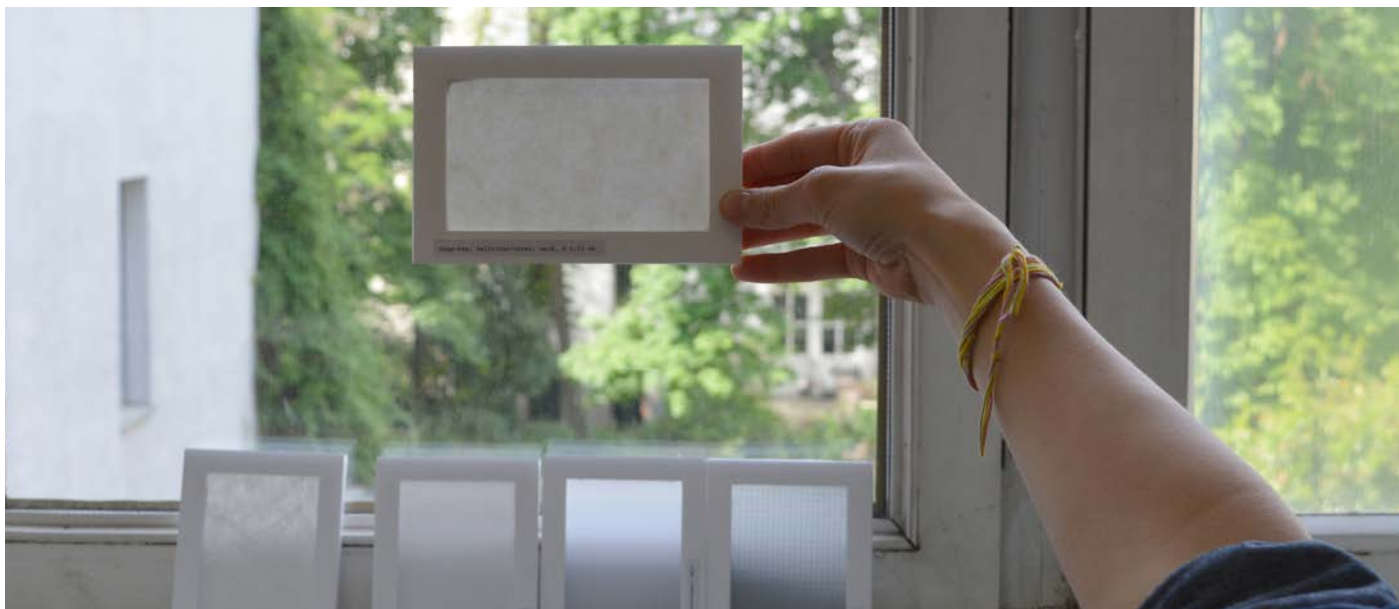


SURVEY

Another tool is the survey which was launched in 2016. This instrument can work as a forum for participants who otherwise do not speak up and enables us to present their perceptions to a specialist audience. We make no claim that this is a representative survey and are not using the survey as an evidence-based procedure. Since this is an artistic research project, our objectives and methods are different: the aim is to open the discourse, to create a sensibility for the precariousness of social places and finally, to create an open space for developing and expanding the framework within psychiatric institutions for new designs and artistic approaches.

Our survey therefore has the following features:

- The survey is anonymous and aimed at all those who have had experiences with psychiatric treatment, including patients, relatives, staff, and experts from the fields of architecture and design.
- There are no mandatory fields; any of the questions can be answered or skipped.
- Most of the questions allow free text responses, giving respondents the freedom to respond as they wish.
- The survey does not seek to extract numerical or statistical data; our goal is to hear the individual answers and ideas in the respondents' own words. The aim of the survey is to provide these answers
- as a basic pool of information for students and other interested professionals working on this and similar projects.



OUTLOOK

In resonance of multiple requests, the project visions4people will expand and include students from other Berlin institutions (HU, FU, UdK) in winter semester 17/18. After the joint inauguration of visions4people and TransVer in July 17, the consultation center is now active. We can now develop innovative synergetic structures between both projects.

Our focus for winter semester 17/18 at the psychiatric clinic will be the situation of the staff. Better working conditions lead to an improved working atmosphere which will have a positive effect on the patients. We look forward to opening the patient café again to make new contacts and experiences.

All designs and results developed during the two semesters will be presented to a jury

equally composed of Charité representatives including patient representatives, and experts from the fields of art, architecture, and design. Recommendations for realization will then be selected. This will require third-party financing which will be sought as soon as the recommendations are made and the project choices are finalized.

The implementation of the recommended work is planned for Summer 2018. A future visions4people publication will document our experiences, methods, insights and results and offer input for future projects of similar nature. In addition, we are planning a symposium to enable future transdisciplinary, trans-institutional and international collaborations.



RETROSPECTIVE

In early 2016, we negotiated a leasing contract for our building called *dieremise*, which hosts both the visions4people and TransVer projects on the Senate Department of Culture and Europe in Berlin Mitte. Since then, we have established a close cooperation with TransVer, which started with practical matters and a design linkage, and continue consolidating out partnership.

In summer 2016, Prof. Tyyne Claudia Pollmann created a design concept for TransVer at *dieremise* with 20 students: Christin-Luisa Amann, Julia Bahn, Katrin Bergner, Maria Bierbaums, Johanna Ewert, Nina Fürstenberg, Frida Grubba, Anke Grünow, Raphael Hofmann, Maximilian Hinterecker, Luisa Haase-Kiewning, Jannis Kempkens, Joost van Kessel, Charlotte Mende, Pedro Moraes Landucci, Mirko Rachor, Frederike Rehfeldt, Sophie Schmidt, Elionor Sintes, Niels Walter.

In winter semester 16/17, our new team initiated, set up and organized the project, establishing contacts and obtaining permission

to use the patient café at the Department of Psychiatry and Psychotherapy at Campus Charité Mitte. We compiled a reader for the students in the course and a database as a pool of information with further relevant research material in the fields of psychiatry, design, architecture, and philosophy. For a broader, up-to-date, international source of information, we designed a survey that will run until the end of the project in 2018.

Team members in winter semester 16/17 were: Prof. Tyyne Claudia Pollmann (head), Sarah Bäcker (artistic assistant), Sabine Biedermann (sociologist), Franziska Harnisch (project assistant), Jannis Kempkens (student worker).

Practical activities included the renovation of *dieremise*. In February 2017, the control system and the furniture for the ground floor visitor area were implemented by Prof. Tyyne Claudia Pollmann, Sarah Bäcker, Luisa Haase-Kiewning, Jannis Kempkens, Niels Walter, and Luisa Lauber.



Team visions4people with team Transver





SHEL[L]TER — JOHANNA TAUBENREUTHER

The extended stays and extraordinary living situation of patients often result in a field of tension, especially in the multi-bed rooms in the psychiatric ward. Perception is strongly affected by one's own state of mind and by fellow patients in a place where there is a lack of privacy and personal demands can hardly be met. SHEL[L]TER is designed to reduce this internal and external tension.

The organic membrane combines luminous, sound-absorbing, and sight-protecting elements. Intuitively, it can be placed in different positions to allow the patient to create the desired degree of shielding. Like an extended physical gesture, it can express the need to delineate one's own territory or open one's space to others. With its concave, shell-like shape, inspired by a clam shell, it conveys the feeling of an interior space that offers security and protection.



SYNESTHESIA — FELIX RASEHORN

The floor plan of the psychiatric clinic building already reveals what appears to be endless corridors. The effect of this becomes clear on-site, as a lack of daylight and monotonous doors lining continuous stretches of up to 35 meters (115 feet) inevitably evoking feelings of disorientation, abandonment, and anonymity.

Nevertheless, the clinics corridors are truly indispensable as a communicative space, comparable to a public street where different residents come together to talk and possibly form a community. What can help a space, primarily defined in only functional terms, to support its social and communicative qualities?

This project focuses on changing the experience of space through the use of light. Instead of constant, direct lighting that currently dominates the entire corridor, light strips and indirect light, reflected by colored surfaces on the wall and ceiling, will be installed.

This will create a rhythmically changing intensity of light, making the corridor itself a kind of luminary. The differentiation of color will help to create distinct ambiances in the corridor and a common synesthetic space.



ZUHAUSE — LUISA LAUBER, ALMAR DE RUITER

While the therapeutic concepts and psychiatric treatment of patients have considerably changed over the last 50 years, the architecture and the design of the clinic's interiors still reflect the legacy of their traditional custodial function. Although the patients are not physically ill and some live in the clinic for extended periods, the clinic has an impersonal, hospital-like atmosphere. To remedy the situation, this project focuses on the aspect of lighting, which plays a central role in creating the ambiance and atmosphere of a space.

The design consists of a classically-designed lighting scheme for a living space, where the lighting effect is determined by different natural materials, and which, in addition to its function, also engages residents at an emotional level. As a single element, it can become a projection surface for the feeling of being „at home“. At the same time, it is conceived as the starting point of a holistic design concept for greatly adapting the living spaces offered to psychiatric patients.



LICHTMODULATOR — EUNSEO KIM

Like a little sister of Moholy-Nagy's „light-space modulator“, this light modulator interacts with the space and the light which is surrounding it. However, it does not dominate the space and is, instead, located some-where in the room as a simple element making apparently function-less movements, which thus create incidental lighting effects in its surroundings. It does not cast clear shadows but rather shifts the light that falls through its moving glass surfaces, almost like a silent „whirring“.

Light and psyche are closely related. The types and rhythms of light have a strong influence on mood, attentiveness, as well as physical and mental well-being, and are already used in some targeted therapies. The „light modulator“ is not a therapeutic device per se, but rather an artistic-experimental kinetic object which supplements a given situation with different light phenomena, depending on the ambient lighting situation, which can lead to relaxation or even a silent fascination.



PAVILION TOOLKIT — JURI-APOLLO DREWS, ABIGAIL F. WHEELER, AMELIE CAYRE, MARIE JACQUIN

The designs for the „Pavilion Toolkit“ were developed from the analysis of the spatial needs of patients and visitors at the psychiatric clinic of Charité Berlin-Mitte. In the garden of the outpatient clinic, a simple wooden structure will be built to contain various materials which can then be used as walls, roof, or seating.

To find out how and where the structure could be placed in the garden, patients were interviewed during the weekly Patient Café. This café, run by patients as part of their occupational therapy, seeks to promote both self-sufficiency and independence through self-determined everyday activities, such as baking cakes and making coffee.

The proposed deconstructed pavilion will build on the idea of the café and give users the opportunity to create their own environment in an experimental way.

The structure itself will be fixed, but the fabric can be used to create an individual environment depending on whether shade, stability, comfort, protection from rain, or just a place of retreat is desired.

This process of designing the environment should further strengthen patients' abilities to act independently and give them the opportunity to influence a part of their environment.



PATIENTENCAFÉ — JURI-APOLLO DREWS, ABIGAIL F. WHEELER, AMELIE CAYRE, MARIE JACQUIN

The patient café was originally developed as an occupational therapy activity and is operated by the clinic's patients themselves. They serve coffee and homemade cakes. This facility, which also brings the patients together with the employees of the clinic, helps to create a reference to everyday activities and situations.

The deconstructed pavilion was inspired by this patients' experience of autonomy to re-contextualize the experiences of the café in the more natural environment of the garden. In order to plan this material expansion of the café into the garden, participatory research methods were used.

For example, we talked with the patients about what aspects of the garden they particularly liked and what they would like to see added.

This information was partly written down by patients, while others created maps to show where they thought would be the ideal location in the clinic garden. The structure offers flexible, playful opportunities for all users to create a customized environment at any time.



DILEMMA — QUANG DUC NGUYEN

When it comes to stories, we can often clearly distinguish between real and fictional. But what happens when the boundaries between reality and fantasy blur? If imagination is not recognized as such? Is it still imagination or does it become the reality of this moment?

„Dilemma“ reflects a shifted perception in which the outside world is interpreted in a different way. The focus of this photographic piece is not the depiction of what is actually seen but its interpretation. created that go beyond the reality/fiction dichotomy.

Interpreting what has been seen differently and putting these assumptions together opens up a space in which narrations and worlds are created that go beyond the reality/fiction dichotomy.

For example, the eye can get caught up in a tiny detail, the sky can become a diffuse threat. Then comes the first thought, then the second building on that, then the third, and soon one's thinking, one false thought after another, creates an entire structure for itself [...]

— Thomas Melle



ACOUSTIC MATERIALIZATION — RAPHAEL JACOBS

If you hear without eyes that voice collectors echo while cathedrals of sound fall around your head without the support of columns, but leaving you unscathed.

„Acoustic Materialization“ opens up the audible potential of the psychiatric clinic as a sound space in a documentary composition, from acoustic cartography to a compositional treatment of temporal artifacts, culminating in an installed spatial experience. Unleashing the sound qualities of the clinic’s architecture into the exhibition space creates an approximation for the listener that is primarily acoustic than visual.

Existing associations with the psychiatric clinic as a space are confronted and renegotiated. A cartographic drawing based on the recordings will annotate the geometric architectural space with events, sequences, and their sound utterances. People and their presence in a certain moment within the clinic become the determining factor for space perception and acoustically-fluid geometry. Acoustic materialization transforms the nature and living beings on site into integral members with an architectural quality and its temporal utilization.



PSYKI-1 — CHLOE PARE-ANASTASIADOU

ICD-10, the international coding system for mental and behavioral disorders, divides them into ten general categories and further subcategories. It defines a fixed scheme, but also offers scope for new research approaches and perspectives.

This project, on the other hand, focuses on the fundamental difference between system and individual experience.

An accessible box was conceived on a human scale for each category. The outside contains the official definition of a mental disorder,

while the interior of the box offers an artistic interpretation of a particular patient's experience.

The box constructed on a 1:1 scale for category F2-29 „Schizophrenia, schizotypal, delusional, and other non-mood psychotic disorders“ will be set up temporarily in the clinic garden. The patients will experience an artistic examination of their condition, while those around them are given a new approach to the disorder and the possibility of a shared, subjective perception.