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Adaptation of historic cities to climate change

Worldwide, more than half of the global population lives in cities, and the number is projected to grow to two-thirds of people living in urban areas by 2050. Cities are major drivers of climate change and are largely responsible for global energy and resource consumption. On the other hand, climate change seriously jeopardizes urban life, especially by causing a warming trend, which is further reinforced by dense urbanization and absence of vegetation. The phenomenon of urban “heat islands” amplifies the effect of heatwaves, posing a risk to human health and well-being. This effect can be counteracted by clever construction solutions and implementation of green zones, urban parks, and water bodies, which provide cooler temperatures and improve the living quality of city residents. However, in the case of historical buildings or entire city quarters, additional challenges may arise from reconciling adaptive technologies with the need for monument protection.

Within this topic, course participants will take a closer look at public spaces in Heidelberg's old town and examine the criteria for climate resilience, social needs, and interactions from the perspective of various disciplines.

Impulse lectures & supervision

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