I’m A MONUMENT!
Free-spacially revalorazation Postblock Berlin

Postblock - I’m a monument!
„Postblock“ is the name of the area between Leipzi- ger Straße, Wilhelms-, Zimmer- and Mauerstraße in central Berlin, near Potsdamer Platz. The former Empire Post Office and today’s Museum of Commu- nication Berlin is located at its north-eastern corner. The western part of the block represents typical Berlin „city waste“ of the post-wall period – heterogeneous fields with big urban spatial fractu- res, antagonistic scales and in-between uses. Our project wants to show the beauty and the options of this „waste“ until a potential reconstruction of the block. It shall be a temporary and low budget measure being suitable to organize the collective memory, the active functions and signs of urban space in a new way.

Black Filter – Learning from London
To illustrate the potential of the heterogeneity and to make it more visible, the area has been pre- pared as a neutral black filter – unimportant things should be swallowed. A frame has been created which directs the passengers‘ eyes on the reality of Berlin. This design principle is well-known from the City of London: All public furniture is painted black or made of black material to reduce the „visual noise“, hence everybody’s sight can concentrate on the essentials. At „Postblock“ a continuous „black line“ has been created accompanying the margins of the block. It consists of the necessary fence system made of black sheer metal, and the floor covering for which different black materials according to their respecti- ve applications have been used.

post it – everyday monuments and signs of memory
On site diverse temporary uses and flying constructs- tions exist. They have been interpreted as „everyday monuments“ (according to Robert Ventury’s „Learn- ning from Las Vegas“). They have been rearranged on the margins of „Postblock“. This happens with the help of an ordinary technique: via „post-its“, those little yellow stickers with which you can communicate short messages. This utility method has been eleva- ted to a design principle. It connects history and the yellow of the eponymous post with the symbolically heightened pavillons at Zimmerstraße.

Boards and existing signs of memory as well as new street furniture are now used as „post-its“: an old transformer, a „Trabi“, a telephone box or an adver- tising character for curry sausages, for example. Therefore different black materials constitute a black filter-background that brings the yellow „post-its“ to shine.

The urban spatial interventions are concentrated on three square situations within the „black line“. There the memorable and current uses become especially apparent.