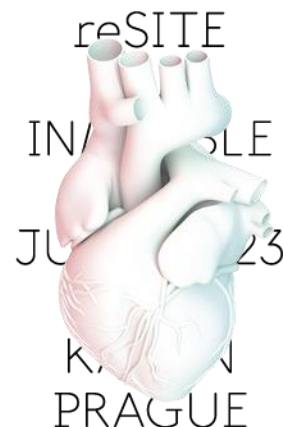


## reSITE 2017: the Future of Cities Depends on Innovative, New Infrastructure



Over one thousand visitors attended reSITE 2017: In/visible City that took place on June 22-23 in Prague. Architects, municipal leaders, planners and investors represented in the audience were blown away by the lectures of the universally heralded Kazuyo Sejima from SANAA, Deputy Mayor of Paris Jean-Louis Missika and the inspiring and visionary Winy Maas from the envy of the architecture world, MVRDV. The Mayor of Prague opened the second day: “We will use data platforms to plan the city more efficiently.” Although focused on infrastructure, the conversation wasn’t (only) about concrete and tubes. Our sustainable future relies on the use and sharing of data, new models of private-public partnerships, quality open space, innovation and soft infrastructure – social networks, human talent and the cultural platforms for innovation and creativity. To improve the quality of life for the next generation, we need to invest in green infrastructure, flexible design, multifunctional transit hubs that all feed the creative and cultural sector that make cities alive and magnetic.

### reSITE 2017 first photographs

#### **Big Impacts of Small Planning**

Martin Barry’s emotional opening address defined reSITE’s sixth event as a generational statement. Paraphrasing Michael Bloomberg, Barry demanded that “*Cities need to be cool, competitive and in control – the infrastructure topic is mainly about controlling our future. We must use design as a tool for our children’s children, and we must do it for our cities to be competitive, and cool.*”

The Mayor of Paris’ right hand Jean-Louis Missika presented one of the most ambitious urban projects of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Réinventer Paris. He said that the future is driven by local authorities, small-scale projects and innovation. He highlighted the importance of putting the user at the center of the process and how disruptive, temporary architecture can generate excitement and other productive activities. An ambassador of sharing, he stated that “*data about commuting, logistics and energy needs to be shared in the future. It’s a question of life or death for cities.*” Rui Ramos-Pinto Coelho from Invest Lisboa considers soft infrastructure the most complex part in developing a city. “*A big part of our success was about investing in invisible, or soft infrastructures: partnerships, incentives, and hundreds of small projects that brought curb-cut effect to Lisbon.*” The

importance of collaboration and innovation was highlighted across all presentations. The private, public and civic sector need to come together to be bold in order to tackle the challenges of the future. The point was made repeatedly that there is no other alternative.

### **Innovation, Flexibility and Multi-functionality**

Kazuyo Sejima, the event's most highly anticipated guest from Tokyo-based SANAA walked the fascinated audience through her most recent projects – the word “buildings” doesn't seem fit to describe her architecture when speaking of places like the Lausanne Rolex learning center, Grace farms and Louvre-Lens. *“We wanted to create a space where people can easily meet and communicate. We've tried to make continuity between the building and the park. Maybe this is the way how to innovate, mix galleries with the surroundings”* she explained to a packed house at the Forum Karlin.

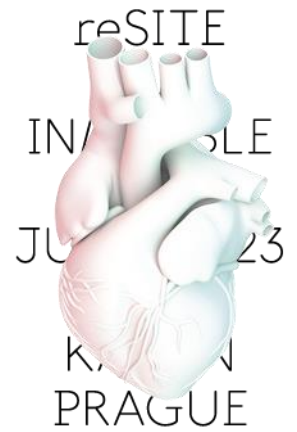
Dutch architect and infrastructure expert Caroline Bos from UNStudio went beyond the sustainability concept when she spoke about cities that have to be future-proof: *“We have to make sure we work in adaptable ways. Resiliency comes from creating adaptability. Collecting shared intelligence is sometimes the only way to understand if a project is viable or not.”* A city with a circular mobility system can replace excess infrastructure with housing and green spaces – this is her advice on how to deal with the legacy from the past, converting it to create a better path for the future.

### **Why Dreaming is Important!**

Dutch superstars were on full display at reSITE. Winy Maas brought the audience to a dream-like state, stressing the big picture and connections that have peripheral and catalytic impacts – those that are physical as well as social and economic. *“We try to make connections everywhere. So we can stitch the city together. Don't think in blocks. Don't think in buildings. Think connectivity.”* Maas went seamlessly between architecture dreams and fantasy to reality. A seemingly simple thing like his external staircase at Stationsplein, outside Rotterdam Central Station had an activating, unpredictable impact that they couldn't imagine. Infrastructure is activating not only mobility, but also a destination. This is why dreaming is extremely important as projects can take 5 to 7 years to come to fruition. Winy Maas underlined that architects cannot stay out of political questions. Politics is making cities and we need to engage in that – urban policy and politics are the new democracy. During the final keynote lecture, Teddy Cruz inspired the (still) full audience to think of the city as “a political project”. We have to reinvent the government, as collaborative and inclusive, he said.

### **History Meets Innovation in Prague's Underground**

Two dozen guided tours to Prague's infrastructure were organized around the conference. Well over 1000 additional visitors explored the tubes, tunnels, smells, lights and darkness of Prague's water and waste management systems, metro depot and urban furniture warehouse; a guided NightSeeing™ tour with Leni Schwendinger and a party in the renaissance courtyard of Bokovka were the most successful evening events. During the dinner a successful art auction of the Invisible Heart, a neon statue by Studio Najbrt, has been organized to fundraise for reSITE's activities.



## Photographs

Please browse first images from reSITE at [this link](#) and the pictures from NightSeeing™ can be found [here](#). More photos and videos will be shared in the next days and weeks. High resolution pictures will be sent upon request.

What: **reSITE 2017: In/visible City**

When: June 22-23, 2017 (conference), June 21-25 (public events)

Where: Forum Karlín, Pernerova 53, Prague 8, Czech Republic

Premium Partner: **Penta Investments**

Main Partners: **Andrej Babiš, SWIM by PVK, Pražské služby**

Auspices and financial support: **City of Prague**

Program partner: **Prague Institute of Planning and Development**

Main Media Partners: **The Atlantic Citylab, Economia**

In/visible City is organized by reSITE as part of the project **Shared Cities: Creative Momentum**.

Info: [www.resite.org](http://www.resite.org)

Registrations: <http://resite.cz/en/registration/>

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Get inspired on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/c/reSITEtalks>

Get connected and use the hashtags **#reSITE2017 #InvisibleCity**

### About reSITE

reSITE is a non-profit platform that is supporting the understanding and synergies of architecture, urbanism, politics, culture and economics. It presents the ideas and projects of internationally renowned experts to professionals and to the wider public. For the past five years, reSITE has been inviting the world's top experts to Prague in the fields of urban planning, architecture and urban development, and political leaders of inspirational cities. reSITE is not a closed-door conference. It brings a multitude of side events, debates, film screenings, exhibitions and bike rides for the general public. reSITE was founded in 2011 by Martin Barry, landscape architect, originally from New York. reSITE's program director is architect Osamu Okamura.

### About Shared Cities: Creative Momentum

The four-year project co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the EU Shared Cities: Creative Momentum is on a mission to improve the quality of life in European cities. By exploring aspects of sharing and urban design we are creating new ways of living in our cities. Together. The details and events will be communicated on [www.sharedcities.eu](http://www.sharedcities.eu) and the events across 6 countries and 11 partners can be followed under the hashtags #SharedCities a #SCCM2020.

*Shared Cities: Creative Momentum (SCCM) is a European cultural platform addressing the contemporary urban challenges of European cities. SCCM is a joint project of Goethe-Institut (DE), Czech Centres (CZ), reSITE (CZ), Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava (SK), Association of Belgrade Architects (RS), Hungarian Contemporary Architecture Centre – KÉK (HU), Katowice City of Gardens (PL), KUNSTrePUBLIK (DE), Mindspace (HU), Old Market Hall Alliance (SK), Res Publica – Cities Magazine (PL). Co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.*

Media contact: Radka Ondráčková | [radka@resite.cz](mailto:radka@resite.cz) | +420 605 350 814

High-resolution photographs are available upon request.

Vorsilská 10  
Prague 1  
Czech Republic  
[reSITE.ORG](http://reSITE.ORG)

