



UrbanLAB: Arrecife 1.0

LANZAROTE. BiosphereISLAND

Arrecife: a city searching for identity

A moonscape of lava and volcanic cones, turquoise coves, and the heritage of the artist and architect Cesar Manrique - Lanzarote is a unique island with many facets. Arrecife, the capital, however, appears to be isolated from all future-oriented and sustainability-based ambitions of the popular holiday island. The city struggles with big urban, social, and sociocultural problems and in particular with a non-material problem - the search for identity!

In 1993, UNESCO for the first time declared Lanzarote, a complete island, including all its villages and the capital, a biosphere reserve. For Lanzarote, this was the confirmation of the long, intensive work of the population for preserving their environment. The MaB (Man and Biosphere) program is an experimental development model to strengthen the symbiosis of man and nature. By declaring the whole island a "biosphere reserve", this symbiosis of man and nature is extended explicitly to also cover the "city" in Lanzarote.

All over the world, discussion focuses on the "century of the cities". It is assumed that by 2050, 75% of the expected 9 billion world inhabitants will live in the permanently

growing cities, megacities, and megaregions. "How do we prepare our cities for this future, how do we develop the viable city?"

In our urban landscape laboratory "urban_lab Arrecife", we plan to organize a kickoff workshop on the island and develop a future-oriented and innovative master plan 1.0 together with students and young architects from Lanzarote. This master plan is aimed at integrating the city of Arrecife into the biosphere reserve and making this context visible and perceptible for the inhabitants.

We intend to draft free space concepts connecting the island with the individual urban districts, the city, and the coast, to develop of a "green" infrastructure, new ecosystems, and sustainable mobility as well as to create new visions. These visions are to convey landscape-based urban development, to change the general mentality, and to give rise to urban creativity.

We will accompany Arrecife in its search for a new urban, sociocultural, and innovative identity.

Arrecife: Capital of a biosphere reserve!

