Ideas

Cities
Buildings
People
Technology

CITIES DO NOT BUILD THEMSELVES

The geopolitical movements we see in the world now are no surprise. The clichés that we live in a particularly unstable and unpredictable time invite some well-executed thoughts. Historically, the world has always been unstable. None of us have the ability to predict the future, so the future is by definition unpredictable. In recent years, this has aroused my interest in the connection between the borders of geography and countries' political exercise over other countries, which now have put the world totally out of balance.

Putin's private war against Ukraine shakes the world, revealing the power of one idea, and how it influences brutal actions. Putin's personal travel back in time to Yeltsin, Brezhnev, Stalin as a basis for ideas of rebuilding an empire that has long expired its date, has been put into practice for four weeks. Our daily reality is pictures, reports, films of people suffering, cities being crushed, a country being dissolved, mass mobilization of people across national borders in search of a place to escape the cruelty. I, like everyone else, experience this as deeply frightening, and with great concern for Europe's future.

We are all influenced from the worlds sanctions against Russia. High electricity prices, higher food prices, reduced access to resources we depend on in each country to keep work, industry, growth and society in operation.

After World War II, Europe stood united on the Marshall Plan. The cities were to be rebuilt. People were to return back to countries and technology was developed “on speed” to meet the need for rapidly managed growth and economy. A Ukraine in a post-war will be rebuilt. Destroyed cities will be rebuilt and people will find their way back to a new life. This will take time. A new Marshall plan are needed to rebuild the nation.

The reality we experience makes me think about how we can contribute our knowledge and expertise, both now and when the time is right, to rebuild Ukraine. Cities do not build themselves.

> *I did not play a role in the reconstruction of our country (…) but I refused to conform, venturing into creating opportunities. I wanted my architecture to be a living entity, in order to inspire people*
>
> *Bernard Khoury*

Reconstruction Architecture

Rebuilding Cities Post-Disaster

Rebuilding cities and communities is something the world has long experience with. Since the first urban community of Catal Höyük in the south of present-day Turkey and Jericho in the western part of the Jordan Valley, wars, conflicts and climate catastrophes have torn down cities. And we have rebuilt them. Over and over again. I have an interest in what experiences we make in such reconstructions, and what is required both politically, economically and culturally. Beirut, as example, has been through more than what may be the endurance limit for a city. The urban planning and architectural approach to such reconstruction of war and disaster areas is demanding.

BERNARD KHOURY founded DW5 after returning to Beirut in 1993 where he began his professional career. During the post-civil war period, the city and its urban landscape became Khoury's workshop and source of inspiration.

"

A sophisticated, cosmopolitan metropolis, pleasure-loving yet ravaged by war, today the capital of the Lebanon has become one of the leading areas in the Mediterranean for the study and production of the most avant-garde art, architecture and design.

L. Molinari

Khoury focused on a series of experimental projects (Evolving Scars) which, although not completed, were a clear example of his attempt to revive and modify war-damaged buildings. Read also about The Beirut Case below.

Read more

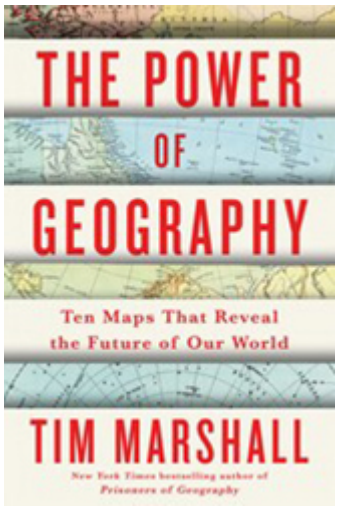
Litterature

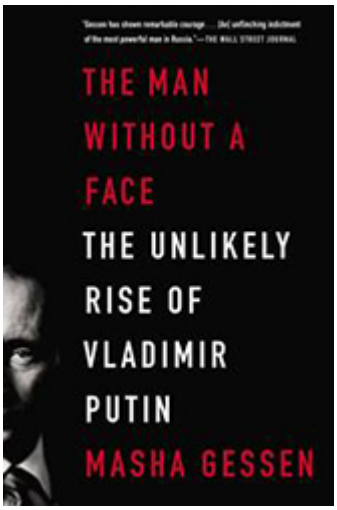
Read about the Geopolitical Monitor

Geopolitics has a direct impact on urban growth, urban attraction, access to resources and the ability to build resilience in the fight against the growing climate crisis. We must understand the whole picture before we can dive into the details. The power struggle over Ukraine with the ongoing war is the extremely brutal consequence of individual leaders' distorted worldview.

I try as best I can in between my many engagements to keep up to date, and books are for me a great source of knowledge. And, I have to read books physically, not digitally. Below are three books I have read with great interest. ***Tim Marshall's*** **"The Power of Geography"** is an eye opener. His ability to draw a red line between geographical boundaries and provide context for understanding why the world is the way it is - is a must-read. ***Masha Gessen's*** **"Putin: The Man Without a Face"** provides insight into a disturbed leaders' path to power. ***Geert Mak's*** **"Grote verwachtingen"** has not been translated into English yet. I have just read half of the 500-

page brick, and I can immediately say that the book is a must. It paints a broad picture of Europe's expectations for the future. The books are coherent in content, with overlapping and complimenting content. Highly recommended.





The World is shaped by people on the move

When Covid hit the world in 2019, everything stopped. This was during the same period when global tourism was at its peak, and 272 million people were classified as international migrants, approx. 3.5% of the world's population. On all continents, tourists, students and expats returned to their homelands. Borders closed down. Cities isolated themselves. It was like all global mobility held its breath in anticipation of more air. As a result of the

Technology As Life saving plug-in tool

Technology can improve the everyday lives of people and industry, optimize potential in mobility, realize benefits of, among other things, sharing and circular economy, facilitate good social sustainability development in cities, streamline planning processes and contribute to that what is needed to reach a zero-emission world. Whether we are building cities from scratch, or reconstructing cities from war, natural disasters or other events, technology in the broadest

closure, the world experienced an involuntary sanctioning of tourism and access to resources, labor with consequent economic stagnation. Paradoxically, the climate crisis took a respite. Cities experienced cleaner air. The transport sector reduced its CO2 footprint. Digital interaction increased globally and our digital mobility escalated.

The modern world is built around mobility. Global freight, money, digital mobility and people traveling across cities and borders. The world community only functions normally when we can move. Migrants represent approx. 10% of global GDP. This includes almost $ 550 billion in annual money transfers between countries in 2019. With the climate crisis, we will in the years towards 2070 experience higher migration from risk countries, and the urbanization of cities will escalate. Countries will be left behind in danger of not being rebuilt.

It does not matter if it is war, climate or natural disasters.

Read about World Migration

sense will be the most important tool we have.

Our digital life is global, taking place on mobile devices that do not care about national borders or climate crises. It depends on us being mobile and on the move.

I experience the world as hectic. It has increased its own pace and is moving into more crises we can handle - because we have become more connected. At the same time as climate change is driving us away from our natural habitats, the automation of working life is driving us away from stable jobs and secure finances.

Covid-19 has accelerated automation globally as a result of companies' risk reduction and independence to humans. In the United States alone, nearly 2 million drivers can lose their jobs to autonomous vehicles, and nearly as many real estate agents can lose their jobs to proptech apps.

Nevertheless, this is necessary in order to have the opportunity to win the climate battle. We are dependent on digital tools.

View Global Mobility Index

Yours sincerely,

Håkon Iversen Feleti Ita Fua`tonga

As half Tongan and half Norwegian, I am naturally dedicated to everything that is fun and challenging. My interests span across disciplines that deal with cities, buildings, people and technology. Through my role as Teamleader at LINK Architecture Bergen and Stord, Chairman and Founder of NUDA, Infracity AI and partner in Seidr AI, I want to make a strong contribution in creating a world which is a good place to live, and safe for my children to grow up in. As a Master of Taekwondo, work and privacy are balanced through my role as instructor for nearly 30 years. I Believe a trained body gives a clear head and sharp mind, and if you want to save the world, you need that. And with such an ambition, the Power of Great Ideas can accellerate solutions.

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