

# Jan Ackenhausen

...is an urbanist.

## Contact

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Based in London (UK)

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## Profile

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I am an urbanist and public planner with a background in sociology and cultural production. My professional practice is revolves predominantly around questions of the productive city, through several public sector roles in regeneration and strategic planning. I have lived, studied and worked in Brussels, London, New York, Berlin, Damascus and Beirut, with a particular interest in the right to the social and cultural foundations of urban change. I am a Public Practice alumnus, championing the role of the public sector and design to create good places.

## Professional Experience

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Guest Lecturer, *various institutions* (since 2019)

- 2020, American University Beirut: Design Studio on the reconstruction of the port and surrounding neighbourhoods;
- 2019: TU Delft: Design Studio on the regeneration of Old Oak in west-London.

Principal Urban Designer, **Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation**, London (since 2018)

Embedded in the OPDC's Design Team I provide project management and design support to the organisation's Planning and Delivery Directorates, with a particular focus on territorial strategy and urban industry, complementing other Design Team members' expertise in architectural design and sustainable design. These core responsibilities span three distinct workstreams:

- developing and delivering quick-win public realm and placemaking projects with external design teams;
- providing design support to development management and planning directorates;
- managing OPDC's professional Place Review Group and the UK's first Community Review Group.

Project manager at **Bureau Bruxellois de la Planification - perspective.brussels** (formerly ADT-ATO), Brussels (since 2016)

Embedded in the 'Canal Team' in charge of the regeneration of the 13km long canal corridor cutting through the city, I was the strategy lead of the 'Vergote' section of the canal, working across several public organisations. This matrix-working earned Perspective the ISOCARP award for excellence in 2016. Key responsibilities of this role were:

- development of masterplan and Local Plan equivalent for the Maximilien-Vergote area with external design consultants;
- strategic advice to development partners ensuring previously set out strategies were upheld and implemented
- building expertise and best practice in the field of urban manufacturing.

Advisor to the **Brussels Commissioner for Europe and International Institutions (CEOI)**, Brussels (2015 – 2016)

Embedded within the office of the Brussels Government Commissioner for Europe and International Organisations, I was in charge of supporting the Commissioner with developing and coordinating solution to planning and transportation related issues concerning European and International Organisations headquartered in Brussels working towards 6-monthly high-level political summit meetings. The work covered 4 distinct workstreams:

- Adapting the planning framework to reflect the constraints of high-security buildings in close collaboration with EU institutions;
- Improving the quality EU buildings and their integration in the city through architecture competitions;
- Establishment a cross-institutional group to develop a joint transportation plan for the EU institutions;
- Developing a public space security masterplan and guidance on temporary and permanent HVM requirements.

Project manager at Agence de Développement Territorial (ADT-ATO), Brussels (2014)

The position provided support to the area manager and government-appointed area-sponsor for the European Quarter in Brussels. Key duties and responsibilities included the delivery of public realm and placemaking projects in partnership with local councils and European institutions. Key projects include:

- delivery of the European quarter's public space improvement programme;
- delivery & design advice for the European quarter's public wayfinding system;
- delivery of a management plan for the Leopold Park.

Urban planning intern at the City of Brussels – Department of Urban Planning, Brussels (2013)

Feasibility analysis of the masterplan for Haren (Brussels), an area characterised by a dense industrial / residential mix.

## Education

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MA Urban and Regional Planning, ISURU, Brussels (2011 – 2015)

Year 4 – Distinction - Dissertation topic: the international railway station and urban development.

Year 3 – Studio project: Square de Meeûs (public space design & placemaking)

Year 2 – Studio project: Charleroi metropolitan master plan (strategic planning & land use planning)

Year 1 – Studio project: Genappe master plan (strategic planning)

MA Photography & Urban Cultures, Goldsmiths College, London (2008 – 2009)

Year 1 - Distinction – Dissertation topic: the role of war ruins in (re)constructing a Lebanese capital.

BA Stage Technology and Theatre Production, Erasmushogeschool Brussel (2002 – 2005)

Year 3 - Distinction – Jezet-award for best dissertation research in Flanders and the Netherlands.

## Other Trainings & Certificates

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2018: PRINCE2 Practitioner, certificate (candidate number 9980010016073885)

2017: Innovation in Urban Transportation for the Future City, Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation, Guangzhou, CN

2015: Introduction to the Planning System, RTPI, London, UK

Streets as Places, Project for Public Spaces, New York, US

2014: CASS Cities Summer School: Brussels' Metropolitan Northern Area, CASS Cities / Ruimte Vlaanderen, Brussels, BE

## Selected Projects & Initiatives

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Canal Placemaking Study: a strategic document setting out a coherent vision for the Grand Union Canal in Old Oak and Park Royal.

Landscape Strategy: a strategic document setting out a coherent landscape signature for Old Oak & Park Royal.

Community Review Group: a focus group made up of local community to help steer public and private development initiatives.

## Selected Writing & Talking

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2017: Brownfield development in Brussels: the Canal Plan, Urbact-III/University of Split, Split

2015: Beirut Field, contribution in Cairoobserver #2, Cairo/Beirut

2014: Terug naar de Vallei, contribution in Ruimte #23, Brussels

Landscape Development in Europe and Belgium: the case of Brussels, panel discussion, Université Libre de Bruxelles

2013: Beirut Field, contribution in Plot #2 – Patchwork, New York

2009: Damascus: Tourists, Artists, Secret Agents, co-author, published by Prince Claus Fund / The Green Box, Berlin