

# Institute for Sustainable Urbanism (ISU)

The Institute for Sustainable Urbanism (ISU) seeks to explore, co-design, engineer, and promote all strata of sustainable development.



Cities play a crucial role in confronting the challenges of real sustainability in our collective future. By sustainability we mean the long-term viability of our society, encompassing factors such as the social and economic flourishing of people, responsible resource-consumption, livability of the habitat, and the thriving of the natural environment. By urbanism we mean all of the systems, members, and forces, visible and invisible, which constitute today's interconnected, globalized society. Cities, after all, are the biggest consumers of natural resources, including human, and also some of the most vulnerable places threatened by climate change. Cities are key sites of opportunity in making steps toward real sustainability. In facing the various challenges in contemporary urbanism, the Institute for Sustainable Urbanism (ISU) seeks to: 1) identify stable as well as newly emerging phenomena in contemporary urban development 2) come up with ways to explain and manipulate such phenomena, ultimately contributing to a better understanding of what constitutes sustainable development. ISU has four themes under which its teaching and research projects fall: Space as Resource, City in Society, Impossible Sites, and Urban-Rural Relations. In order to extend the catalogue of sustainable solutions, we use a highly cooperative inter- and trans-disciplinary approach. Since October 2012, ISU is led by Prof. Dr. Vanessa Miriam Carlow, within TU Braunschweig's Department of Architecture, Engineering, and Environmental Sciences. ISU is part think-tank, part design laboratory, committed to promoting research and scholarship on sustainable urbanism in an international and interdisciplinary setting. Since its founding, ISU has worked with partners in Africa, Asia, South America, USA, and all over Europe.

Project author or developer:  
**Dr. Vanessa Miriam Carlow - Head of ISU since October 2012**

Where:  
**DE / Germania / Hannover Metropolitan Area**

Website:  
**[sustainableurbanism.de/](http://sustainableurbanism.de/)**

