

# Travel report Brest FOSTER funded project

*"RES urbanae - The reconstruction cities bRESt and dRESden" - One-week research exchange in the framework of the cooperation project with the Université de Bretagne Occidentale (UBO), Institut de Géoarchitecture, and the Maison d'Allemagne in Brest, France*

Research exchanges with students and teachers from both universities took place as part of the cooperation project "RES urbanae - The reconstruction cities of bRESt and dRESden". From 25-30 October, a group from Brest visited the city of Dresden, followed by a group from Dresden from 2-8 November 2021.

On analytical city tours, the architecture students from TU Dresden got to know various quarters of the city on the Penfeld River, its history and that of its reconstruction: Siam, Recouvrance, St Martin, Moulin Blanc, to understand the challenges of site-specific spatial planning.

They met teachers and students from the Institut de Géoarchitecture of the UBO as well as members of the Maison d'Allemagne and spoke with residents of the city who are committed to historically conscious urban regeneration.

The students of the related architectural history seminar "Elbflorenz and Versailles de Mer" also undertook source studies in the city archives and library; the students, who are dealing with two areas in Brest, the "Carré des Arts" and the Pontaniou prison, as part of a heritage design, analysed them on site and met with Alain Dumont, an architect involved in the master plan for the extension of the "Carré des Arts", who presented his working group's considerations.

In the process, the students acquired skills in the comparative consideration of urban planning settings that are determined by similar initial parameters (baroque planning concepts, large urban areas in military use, extensive war destruction) but are subject to different topographical, administrative and political conditions. They have developed a sense of the essential importance of the discussion about urban identity for the planning process and how important the commitment of individuals is for the success of built environment projects. They were also trained in dealing with different building scales, from the urban figure to the architectural detail.

The results of both the seminar and the designs will be incorporated into the exhibition "RES urbanae" in 2023, which will be shown in Brest, Dresden and Brno.