Whether in Braunschweig, Berlin, ~~Potsdam – or many other cities that could be listed –~~, the ~~discussion~~ between citizens' associations, monument conservators, and urban planners concerning the appropriate handling of ~~history, the~~ pros and cons of reconstructions~~, is diverse and raises~~ numerous questions: where has the general trend towards retro architecture come from – not only in German cities? What is so fascinating about old towns and why is it so difficult to convey obviously modern architectures as ~~bearers~~ of ~~the citizen's~~ building culture? How can urban structures and architectures contribute to the city's identity? In what way can historical heritage be taken into consideration during planning? How can old towns be further developed and historical structures and urban textures ~~recovered~~ without merely representing an imitation or plagiarism of history? Can a historical image function as a guiding principle and ~~image bearer~~ for the future? Beyond German borders, in cities all across the world, new city quarters are being realized through the use of historical typologies and design languages. Inner cities are witnessing the new construction of historicized buildings, and in other cities building material is taken down to (re)construct lost~~,~~ historical ensembles or desired images. Many publications, exhibitions, and debates demonstrate how ~~virulent~~ the topic of reconstructing or building historical structures in cities is. These ~~promote~~ conflicting interests and attitudes, not only between citizens and experts, but also within expert circles. In geographically and culturally diverging contexts, motivations for project developments differ, and the debate on reflection is also dependent on the social system and form of government. While public debate and ~~participation formats~~ have in the meantime become a fixed component of the planning process in Germany and in ~~western~~ societies, and ~~the dedicated~~ public is vehemently making themselves heard, this is not the case in regulated forms of government.

The phenomena of "do it again" quarters and architectures are complex and vary in their motivations, expressions, and groupings of actors. Reconstructions of lost building (ensembles) and copies of historical structures can be found ~~which~~ are placed into an entirely new spatial and sociocultural context. Some projects aim to further develop existing buildings~~, i.e.~~ entering into a dialog with the current objects, but others strive for a nearly complete transformation of previously existing structures, or give places an entirely new connotation. There are districts entirely ~~carried~~, initiated or even dominated by civic involvement, while others constitute a developer's investment project or are realized by the municipality in a top-down way. Regardless of whether these "retro quarters" should be viewed as a continuation of urban development history or as a new phenomenon, as a short-term trend or the beginning of a long-term development

– the multitude of projects and the vehemently led debates alone necessitate an in-depth discussion of this phenomenon.

The publication examines the phenomenon of historicizing urban development on the basis of selected international projects; 14 case examples are critically analyzed and discussed in terms of their meaning for urban development. The selection presents wide range of projects in different geographic, socioeconomic, and cultural planning contexts. Aside from documenting the status quo and development history, sociopolitical backgrounds and debates on the projects are highlighted. Who are the protagonists in the development and what are their motivations? What are the reasons for the (new) desire for a homogenous historical environment? What (added) value do these developments present for the city and citizens, what makes yesterday's houses so appealing? Do historical citations generate spatial identities in cities, do they support citizens' identification with their city, or do they remain a promise and added value for individuals?

The book depicts contemporary, varying tendencies of urban development with its selection. Whether following the desire to retrieve lost objects or as a visible sign of civil society – in Poland, new old towns emerged on war-torn wasteland after 1990. Elblag presents an example for a special reconstruction method using so-called retroversion. In China, imitations, particularly of western architecture, can be admired, either because their owners want to cause a stir or because they want to use them for tourism. As the middle class grows and wealth increases, so do the demands of a new urban living environment. Here, architecture is associated with (and sold as) an attitude to life that promises prestige and access to globalization. In Datong, the development can be understood as a type of replacement action – after the early coal industry has become obsolete as a bearer of identity, a new history aims to give the city a new identity. Here – in contrast to many war-destroyed cities in Germany –, the old building material is first actively destroyed to then construct a new (old) center. Anting New Town and Thames Town, located in the Shanghai Greater Area, are well-maintained ghost towns today. These towns were established with the ambitious aspiration of creating thematically focused cities that would counter the problems of Shanghai's centralistically focused metropolitan area. Today, one has to admit that the experiments have failed, despite all planning efforts which display upscale city quarters, at least on paper. In the province of Guangdong, the entire village of Hallstatt was created in a copy and paste manner, mainly successful as a tourist magnet. But it may still be too early to judge the success or failure of these new towns. Perhaps the Chinese population needs more time to appropriate the plans, which are well-meant but also far removed from Chinese culture.