

The logo for PURPLSOC, where the letters are formed by a pattern of small, colorful dots.

Pursuit of Pattern Languages for Societal Change

Preparatory Lecture

June 17, 2014 | 6 pm | Danube University Krems | Room SE3.4

PATTERN LANGUAGES AND CHRISTOPHER ALEXANDER Introduction and Crash Course

by Helmut Leitner, DI Dr.
System Analyst, Software Developer, Physical Chemist

The goal of this lecture is to help interested scientists to get started with pattern languages and topics related to Christopher Alexander, to provide a basis for contributing to the PURPLSOC workshop in November 2014, the PURPLSOC conference in July 2015, and to the pattern science community. Prerequisite knowledge is not necessary, but knowledgeable people are invited as well. A thorough introduction and overview is given, but the lecture will race through the beginners level and move quickly to all kinds of research topics. There will be ample time for discussions and dialogue. The overall field comprises all kinds of complex systems typically involving human actors, systems that can e.g. be described as: developing, unfolding, designed, managed, created, built or made. Examples for such systems are even more diverse than: architecture, software, cities, organisations, complex games, commons, education, and story telling. Patterns everywhere. The complexity of systems, typically seen as a problem, is reinterpreted as a positive „quality of living systems“. The research focus changes from predicting the systems to supporting the development of the systems and their growth in quality. This means to enable people, often growing participation, by providing effective experiential knowledge.

Helmut Leitner studied physical chemistry at the Graz University of Technology. He finished his dissertation on the computer simulation of the molecules aqueous liquids at surfaces in 1983. He then worked as a system analyst, software developer, and consultant, got independent in 1988, and contributed to about 150 projects in economy, technology, communication, and culture. Being interested in innovative technical and social developments he engaged as a pioneer in the changes brought about by the personal computer, the internet, and the social media. This eventually led him to research the theory of living systems, especially appreciating the theories of Christopher Alexander. In 2007 he wrote an introductory German book „Mustertheorie“ („Pattern Theorie“) about the life work of Alexander. He helps to organize the PURPLSOC 2015 conference in Krems, is doing more and more authoring and lecturing in this field, and engages for growing a corresponding science community.

This lecture is hosted by the Department of Interactive Media and Educational Technologies

Join the the two-day preparatory workshop for the PURPLSOC Conference at Danube-University on November 14/15, 2014. This workshop will foster the central idea of the PURPLSOC Conference: applying the pattern approach to many disciplines and areas of the life-word. Call for papers now open!