

NEW PRACTICE / MARKO AND PLACEMAKERS



Main people

Igor Marko and Petra Havelka
Based Old Street, London EC1
Founded 2013
Markoandplacemakers.com

Where have you come from?

Our paths crossed collaborating on public realm projects. Igor previously led FoRM Associates, an urban design practice. Petra worked on projects at John McAslan + Partners before qualifying as a 'creative entrepreneur' at Goldsmiths to develop her role as enabler and facilitator. We combine our skills to understand the complex layers of the city, link them in unexpected ways and create new narratives.

What work do you have and what kind of projects are you looking for?

Our work ranges from 'acupuncture' urban design projects through to masterplanning consultancy. Our role is often strategic, looking at the overlaps between place, processes and people, and goes beyond the physical aspects of design to address socio-economic issues. We are involved with several high street regeneration schemes in the UK, while developing a role as facilitators of public space regeneration in Central and Eastern European cities.

What are your ambitions?

To pioneer new ways of city-making that move away from mechanical planning processes to dynamic and adaptable urbanism.

What are the biggest challenges facing you?

We have made a fundamental decision to shift from

product-focused to process-based practice, where communication is at the heart of what we do. We can see many new strands across the profession that start to shape the face of a new era in city-making. The biggest challenge is for these to gain critical mass in order to transform generic and technocratic industry models.

Which scheme, completed in the past five years, has inspired you most?

The High Line in NYC, mainly because it shows how crucial negotiation and process is in creative placemaking. Unfortunately, many cities try to replicate the 'High Line effect', without understanding that design alone won't always achieve the desired result.

How are you marketing yourselves?

For us it's all about building trust. It involves an open mind for 'ideas that never sleep' and lots of hard work, of course.

CAREERS / ON THE MOVE



Leeds-based **Brewster Bye Architects** has appointed Chris Austin (*third from left*) as managing director. Austin is taking over from company founder Keith Brewster (*second from left*), who has moved into a consultancy role. Austin will work alongside fellow directors and shareholders Mark Henderson (*right*) and Nathan Wilkinson (*left*) in the Headingley-based firm.



TP Bennett has appointed Mark Davies (*left*) as principal director. Davies joined the

firm's interiors division in 1998 and has developed projects for blue-chip companies such as Deutsche Bank, ConocoPhillips and Morgan Stanley. He is currently leading the fit-out of the Make Architects-designed UBS HQ scheme at Broadgate.

Quintain has appointed Matthew Slade as managing director of its Wembley Park development. Slade joins from Westfield Corporation, where he was general manager during the London Olympics. At Quintain he will work towards transforming the Wembley Park project into a retail and leisure destination.

Susan McDonough has been appointed by **Landmark Trust** as head of its historic estate, overseeing conservation and maintenance activities on its historic buildings. McDonough has previously been senior conservation surveyor with Martin Ashley Architects and conservation surveyor for Historic Royal Palaces. *Lijia Sun*

