

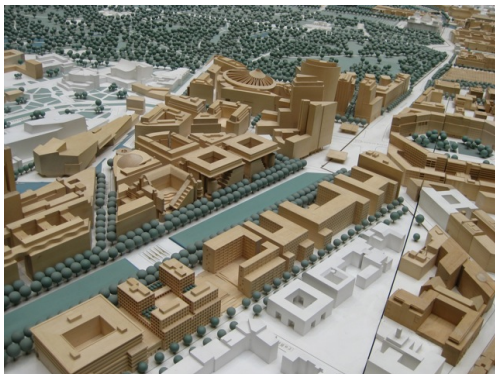
## Welcome to the Planning Society's Annual Trip - Destination Berlin

*R. Scott Kriebel, Chairman of the LSESU Planning Society*

Berlin stands as a testament to the power of humans to re-shape and reinvent their environments after terrible events have unfolded. The city has undergone such radical changes from being a bombed-out ruin to a divided city that was the focal point of the Cold War. The Planning Society experienced marks of all of these periods during our half-week study trip to Germany's capital. The trip was jam-packed with an itinerary of site visits to historic sites like the German Parliament building and the potential building site of the Stadtschloss (an old Prussian Palace torn down by the Soviets).



Granted, those of us who voted for Berlin might have given a bit more thought to what the weather would have been like (the runner up was sunny Oporto!!), but we will all treasure our early morning meet-ups under the shadow of the Alexanderplatz TV tower making shapes with our breath. And of course, with such "warm" weather a walking tour of the city's preeminent redevelopment district (Potsdamer Platz) was the perfect pick-me-up!! Still, we found some time to warm up with events on social integration initiatives in the city, environmental planning GIS techniques with some peers from the Technical University of Berlin, and an update on contemporary planning trends with a representative of the city's Senate Department of Urban Development. We even got to see a huge model museum of the city...what more could you ask for!!!



As a wind-down, we visited Tacheles, an informal artist's cooperative of squatters in central Berlin. At the end of the day, I think all of us will treasure the sites and experiences which we experienced together in Berlin. The Planning Society was also able to coordinate a few other fun events throughout the year including a presentation on the history of urban planning in London with former LSE professor Derek Diamond, a walking tour of East London with cheeky anecdotes provided by our very own East Ender in the programme. Finally, a...colourful



gathering on the top of Parliament Hill in Hampstead Heath was the perfect way to cap off an exciting and eventful year together!!

I wish all members of the Society and programme the best of luck for their futures!