



Architect
Social Entrepreneur

Van Bo Le-Mentzel is an architect, designer, activist and calls himself a karma economist. While a normal economist tries to increase the gross national product, Van Bo Le-Mentzel tries to produce good karma for himself and his fellow human beings. He became known to a broad public as the developer of Hartz VI furniture.

Van Bo came to Germany from Laos with his parents in 1979 and grew up in Berlin-Wedding. He studied architecture at the Beuth University of Applied Sciences in Berlin. In 2010, he developed the so-called Hartz IV furniture - designer furniture for do-it-yourself construction at low cost with free construction plans on the internet. Two years later, he launched his first fairly produced trainer edition - Karma Classics. In 2015, Le-Mentzel supervised the beginners' class at the Hochschule für Bildende Künste Hamburg as a visiting professor and founded the Open Academy Of The Fine Hearts with students, neighbours and Facebook friends on the terrace of the university and developed a new teaching concept called "Crowducation".

In 2016, Van Bo founded the association Tinyhouse University e.V., which is developing Tiny100, a mobile mini-house as an answer to rising rents and increasingly scarce living space in Berlin. One of the Tinyhouse University projects is the Tinyhouse Campus, which had its home in the courtyard of the Berlin Bauhaus Archive in 2017. For one year, new forms of urban structures were researched and developed in the temporary village of Tiny Houses.

Van Bo Le-Mentzel is an internationally sought-after speaker who not only impresses and inspires at events with his own keynotes, but also with his graphic recordings of other talks if required.

Topics (Selection):

- TINY HOUSES - How do you want to live?
- The city of the future
- Tiny is beautiful - Undiscovered architectural potential in the Tiny House movement
- Circular City - Ideas for a sustainable neighbourhood development