



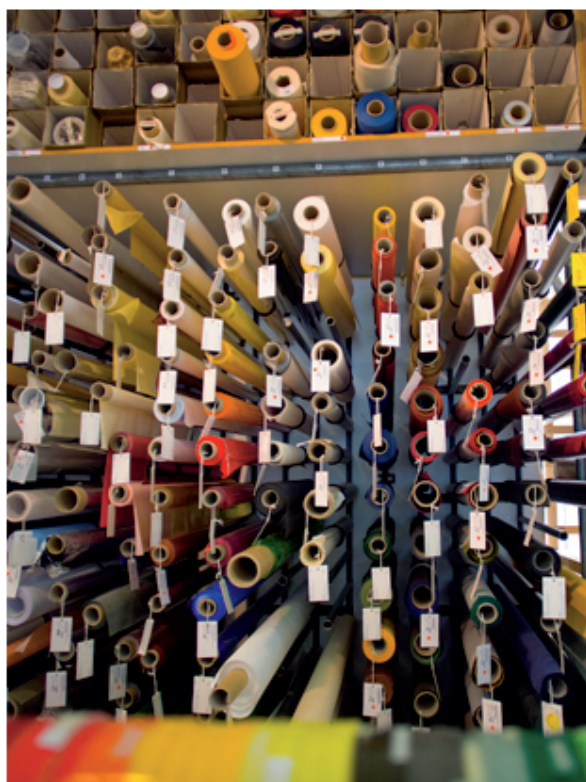
BERLIN

The largest city in Germany, Berlin is known for its thriving art scene. There are also no shortage of crafty shops, inspiring open-air markets, and creative cafes. Get on a bike in your mind and join us as we visit 9 stops.

Taste a sampling of the German capital's crafty side.

I will repeat a common cliché over here: Berlin is the most un-German of German cities. It is beautiful. Really. The mixture of languages and people is stunning, and once judgments are let go, you can really feel like a world's citizen in this city. The public transportation, although pricey, is wide-ranging and interconnected, although I would suggest getting around on a bike to understand the landscape (and to work off that schnitzel, schpaetzle, and beer.) Bicyclists have the right of way on the road, which is made obvious with the attention and respect motorists give bicyclists. There are happy dogs sans leashes, happy babies in strollers or being carried by house-husbands, happy elderly people on bikes, and happy drunks freely drinking in parks! Because winter is so dark and cold, the spring, summer, and early fall months are greatly appreciated for their light and extended daylight hours. On Sundays, expect to find all of the city parks and green spaces filled with families and groups grilling and picnicking. There is a great feeling of humanity and compassion, and a freeness that allows for inspiration. There aren't really any must hang-outs spots ... every place is one. You will find a great café, bar, delicatessen, bike shop, museum, Turkish Doener Kebab restaurant, or makeshift subterranean dance club at any hour on any block — except for Sundays. On Sundays, as in most cities in Europe, establishments are closed.

Crafty Shops



Modulor GmbH

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10961 Berlin
(Kreuzberg neighborhood)
U-Bahn: Gneisenastrasse
modulor.de/shop

Its name a reference to Le Corbusier's term of transferring proportions of the human body onto buildings, Modulor offers a unique and comprehensive inventory of materials for those shaping the world, namely all makers and crafters. Founded over 20 years ago, Modulor specializes in model-making materials for architects and students. Modulor goes beyond by carrying 20,407 materials and products, everything from wood, textiles, metals, adhesives, mold-making chemicals, painting/drafting supplies, pigments, lighting systems, specialty furniture (clients include Zaha Hadid, Brad Pitt, Renzo Piano, and Frank Gehry), and, yes, craft supplies too! On my first visit to this supply store, I was delighted to see that they carried *MAKE magazine*, dedicating an entire horizontal shelf for those interested!

Andreas Krueger, a managing partner at Modulor, was very kind to meet up with me to discuss Modulor's role in the DIY movement. Though he's a native German, Krueger received a degree in Architecture from University of California, Berkeley. In conversation, he referenced Richard Sennett's book *The Craftsman* (or *Hendwerk auf Deutsch*), expressing the importance of creating with one's hands, an essential need in "becoming human." In addition to being a supplier, Andreas expressed Modulor's future plans of opening a 7,000-square-meter building in 2011, devoted to helping makers realize their work. Tentatively, it will be called "The Center for Creative Professional," where tools, machinery, and spaces will be made available for crafting and making. And, with the latest stats from the I.C.C.A. (International Congress & Convention Association) confirming that Berlin has the highest number of convention participants in the world (from a survey spanning nine years), there is no doubt that the centrality of this proposed Kreuzberg space, like the geographical centrality of Germany in Europe, will be successful as an influence and destination.