



## this must be the place ellen allien on griessmuehle



### THE BPITCH CONTROL FOUNDER ON THE BERLIN CLUB SHE CALLS HOME

My favourite memory from Griessmuehle is probably Workers' Day last year. In Berlin we celebrate Workers' Day every May 1 and in the past, it was very radical. There used to be a lot of demonstrations and a lot of fights in the streets of Kreuzberg back in the 90s. It's a little less political now as people go out to parties and take ecstasy, but there's still a political element to it. I played for a few hours at a free daytime event at Griessmuehle last year and it was amazing. The crowd was so enthusiastic; it was a real rave! I definitely play my best sets there.

We love running our 'We Are Not Alone' parties there. The club is very techno-orientated, with some electro and dubstep

thrown in occasionally, but primarily it's about techno. There's also a famous gay night called Cocktail D'Amore, and Berlin label Killekill does a night too.

Griessmuehle is in Neukölln and you have to walk down a really long road called Sonnenallee to get to it. There's a movie about the street [*Sonnenallee*, 1999]; it's one of the best movies from the East of Berlin. The area is quite industrial, and nobody lives there, which I like because it feels more exciting. Inside there are two floors. Imagine a small warehouse with high ceilings; the floor space isn't massive but I like the fact that it's not too huge as it gets busy pretty quickly and there are always big queues outside and people waiting

hours to get in. Plus, the outside area is pretty cool because it's very Berlin, very industrial, you can sit outside and smoke a cigarette if it's not too cold or you can sit and look at the canal. I was born in Berlin and I've seen all the scenes moving on, dying and building up again. This place feels very Berlin to me.

We used to run parties at Ipse in Kreuzberg. It's similar to Griessmuehle because it also has an open-air area by a canal and it's also got the warehouse vibe. But the line-ups were generally more house-focused so we had to work hard to bring in our crowd. Now, we can be more creative. We get to book super underground DJs and still fill the club. You can stay 24 hours if you want.

The crowd feels very Berlin, because most tourists don't know about it yet. There's always a mix of young and old. Older people who come for the vibe of the club and the location; the younger crowd are techno obsessed and dancing like crazy. Then you've got people at the bar just having a drink, like producers who want to meet other producers. It's not a hipster crowd; there's a good vibe.

The owners are young and very passionate about music. We like the same things and can exchange ideas. And because I travel so much and have to deal with so many situations, I wanted to find people who are like us and feel the same way about music that we do. We found that at Griessmuehle. [@Jasmine Kent-Smith](#)