S Y M P O S I U M

Historically Sensitive Places

FACULTY
OF ARCHITECTURE
CTU IN PRAGUE

Historically Sensitive Places

— 13. 3 2025 —

International Symposium for Research Support
» *Landscape architecture as a mediator*
between cultural building traditions
***and future climate adaptation measures* «**

CTU Prague / TU Berlin

The symposium is meant to be part of the preparation for long-term cooperation based on the obtained DAAD grant (Application for Eastern Partnerships 2024–2026). For the partners, which are the Institute for Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning of the TU Berlin, and the Institute of Landscape Architecture of the Faculty of Architecture of the CTU Prague, it serves to strengthen existing and establish further cooperation in the academic environment.

Three speakers from each partner university will participate with their contributions, which we expect to be around 20 minutes long. The scope of the contributions should focus on the landscape structure of cities in relation to their identity, urban and historical values and on new principles needed to manage our adaptation to climate change. The aim is to deepen the international discussion on the chosen topic within the framework of long-term cooperation.

The happening is planned as a one-day event, will take place on the premises of the Faculty of Architecture of the Czech Technical University and will be open to academic staff and students of the Faculty of Architecture of the Czech Technical University as well as the professional public. The output will be a collection of annotations of contributions, a summary of the main topic and a comprehensive conclusion. The symposium will then be followed by a professional workshop organized and sponsored by the Technical University of Berlin.

The purpose of the project is to continue creating a professional platform for research of the chosen overall topic, which is „Landscape architecture as a mediator between cultural building traditions and future climate adaptation measures“, which we perceive as essential both for further development and social application of the field of landscape architecture.

The planned output of the whole three-year project is the final conference and the creation of a professional publication *Handbook for Historically Sensitive Places*, which is to show the approach to adaptation to climate change in various types of historical urban environments. The outputs of the symposium will be further basis for the preparation of the above-mentioned publication.

Green Areas in Cities in Historical Perspective

RNDR. PHDR.
MARKÉTA ŠANTRŮČKOVÁ, PH.D.

Markéta Šantrůčková completed her master's degree in geography and history at the Faculty of Science and Philosophy of Charles University and her doctoral degree in physical geography and geoecology at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University. She combines her interest in these fields with the study of cultural landscapes and historical gardens and parks. She focuses on the issue of historical cultural landscapes, their changes and the identification of values, whether it is the Czech, Moravian or Banat landscape. In cooperation with other experts, she dedicates the overlaps towards landscape planning and protection and the synergy of cultural and natural landscape values. Since her doctoral thesis, she has also been studying composed landscapes and early landscape parks. In addition to the Faculty of Arts of Czech Technical University, she works as the head of the department of cultural landscapes and settlements at the Silva Tarouca Research Institute for Landscape and Ornamental Horticulture in Průhonice.

Three main types of the green areas could be distinguished in the European historical cities from their foundation till nowadays: private gardens, public parks and other green areas, and the city wilderness. On the other hand, the way how these spaces were used, and their area changes several times during the city history. The changes of the green areas depended on the economic and social development, connected with the urbanization process. The history of the city green areas influences significantly its present appearance, structure, and placement. The changes of the cities green areas will be presented on the example of the city of Prague.

The early medieval city of Prague was composed of a relatively dispersed individual manors and houses with gardens, which were directly connected to the agricultural landscape. At the turn of the early and high Middle Ages, a more cohesive urban development began to take shape, featuring a street network and two centers on both banks of the Vltava River (the Old Town and the Lesser Town). In the mid-14th century, the New Town was founded by Charles IV. The urban area became surrounded by city walls, which separated it from the surrounding agricultural landscape. Within the city walls, however, there remained large green areas – gardens of townhouses and palaces, cemeteries, vacant spaces (e.g., riverbanks or areas near the city walls), and even agricultural land, especially orchards. Although the area beyond the walls was no longer formally part of the city (its residents did not have municipal rights), it remained closely connected to urban life, including the agricultural plots and vague terrains found there. This is how greenery functioned in Prague (and other historical settlements) until the beginnings of urbanization and industrialization, which began in the Czech lands in the 19th century. From the early 19th century, we can observe the rapid growth of suburbs outside the city boundaries. New settlements with regular street grids emerged around the city walls and their immediate surroundings, along with new industrial facilities and newly designed park areas—many of which, however, had to make way for further development after a short period of existence. Public squares gradually lost their market function. In newly founded districts, squares were often designed as park spaces, and park landscaping became prominent in many squares even in the originally medieval city, especially by the end of the 19th century. At the same time, the city's edges became dynamic zones where development expanded while relatively large areas of agricultural or natural landscapes remained, serving as recreational areas for the city. Another major change came with deindustrialization at the end of the 20th century, resulting in the emergence of so-called brownfields. These brownfields are areas with enormous potential, both for the development of green infrastructure and as potential sites for residential or commercial construction.

The fundamental questions we can pose, using the example of Prague's green space development and which also apply to other historical settlements are: 1) How can we work with existing historical green areas and public spaces (urban parks, palace and other gardens, squares, alleys in streets, cemeteries, etc.)? and 2) How can we conceptually approach brownfields to fully utilize their potential to improve the quality of life for as many social groups as possible, while also delivering ecosystem services in line with the green infrastructure concept?

Radicant — Aesthetics in the Anthropo-cene

PROF. DR. LISA BABETTE DIEDRICH

Lisa Babette Diedrich studied architecture and urbanism in Paris, Marseille and Stuttgart, journalism in Berlin, and landscape architecture at the University of Copenhagen, where she received her doctoral degree. Since 1993, she has run her own office as a critic and consultant in urban design and landscape architecture. From 1993 to 2000 she was an editor of Topos European Landscape Magazine, and from 2000 to 2006 she worked as personal advisor to the Chief Architect of Munich in the city's Department of Public Works. Since 2006 she has been editor-in-chief of the book series Landscape Architecture Europe (#1 Fieldwork/ #2 On Site/ #3 In Touch/ #4 On The Move/ #5 Care Create Act/ #6 Second Glance/ #7 Full of Life) and of 'scape the international magazine for landscape architecture and urbanism. In 2007 she moved into academia, teaching and researching contemporary landscape architecture at universities in Europe, Australia and Latin America. From 2012 to 2023, she was Professor of Landscape Architecture at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) in Alnarp/Malmö in Sweden. From 2023 to early 2025 she held the Walter Gropius Chair (DAAD) at the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urbanism at the University of Buenos Aires (FADU-UBA), Argentina. From 1 April 2025 she will be Professor of Landscape Architecture at the ÉLAN Chair 'Designing Landscapes of the Anthropocene' at the Technical University of Berlin.

Relying on case-study based research on design postures and practices, Radicant Design is suggested as a concept describing adaptive design for landscapes in the Anthropocene. It encompasses landscape architectural design approaches for overlooked landscapes of everyday life, whether next to established areas of living and working, situated in the interstices of active urban or rural fragments, far away from the hotspots of planetary urbanisation, or also along the many routes that connect them. The focus of this research lies on contemporary design practice that rejects modernist tabula rasa approaches and instead works with what exists on site. It aims to reconceptualise design, along the idea of radicantity, as an open-ended process of transformation that values – and does not waste – site-specific material and immaterial resources and and promotes 'journey-forms' rather than static form as a design response to the uncertainties of the Anthropocene.

The empirical material of this research encompasses drawn and built works of landscape architecture in Europe. The research is conducted through long-term monitoring and reviewing of European landscape architecture projects, commissioned by the Landscape Architecture Europe Foundation, carried out by a transdisciplinary team of landscape architecture scholars and professionals, and published in triennial reports in the form of professional books (Landscape Architecture Europe #1-7, since 2006, https://www.landscapearchitectureeurope.com/).

The seventh edition of the book series (Landscape Architecture Europe #7, Full of Life, 2025) invites to take aesthetics seriously. The researchers state that designing landscapes means engaging with the liveliness of the planet, before people's eyes, at their fingertips, below their feet. Design responds, in concrete terms and in specific places, to current social, economic, and ecological challenges. At the same time, designing landscapes combats, aesthetically, apocalyptic despair and cruel optimism. Designerly work of the reviewed period of 2021-2024 shows that landscape architects combine sensitivity for what exists, with creativity for what it might become. In other words, they feature a posture that intertwines aesthetics, from the ancient Greek 'aisthesis', perception, and poetics, from the ancient Greek 'poiesis', creation. In the light of the climate crisis, landscape architecture features a profile as a profession of active, and sometimes activistic, hope. Aesthetics is a language; it is how landscape designers speak to the world. The researchers detect overarching aesthetic tendencies, interpret what designers seek to convey, mine their tacit knowledge, and give orientation to all of those who are interested in offering further aesthetic contributions and time-specific beauties to the human and more-than-human communities of the present epoch.

The Relationship Between Landscape and Urban Area

DOC. ING. KLÁRA SALZMANN, PH.D.

Klára Salzmann graduated in landscape architecture in 1982 at Corvinus University in Budapest, received her Ph.D. degree in 2008 at SUA in Nitra, and defended her habilitation on the topic Reflections on Landscape in 2022 at the Faculty of Architecture of the Czech Technical University in Prague. She lectures at the Faculty of Architecture of the Czech Technical University in Prague and leads the Atelier Salzmann of large-scale landscape architecture. Together with students, she focuses on topics such as revitalization of the Sudetenland landscape, cultural landscapes, and the concept of landscape in spatial planning. She works as an authorized landscape architect of the Czech Academy of Sciences. In her practice, she is dedicated to comprehensive landscape planning and the promotion of green infrastructure in the Czech Republic.

The relationship between landscape, people, and settlements has evolved throughout history. The city sprawled into the landscape and substantially changed it. The landscape became part of the city. In Europe, this development was gradual, lasting centuries. Downtowns are usually located along rivers, which usually provided people with water, energy, food, and communications. Therefore, our rivers are the result of long-lasting correlations of water, geological subsoil, climate, and biodiversity. Rivers have their own precisely defined water sheed and water basin.

The old ancient fortresses and settlements were positively build safely above the rising water level. People were afraid of floods and avoided them. With the onset of the industrial revolution, cities and industry expanded and people became confident to handle high water with available means.

At the same time, we have drastically drained forests and farmland, so that the landscape drain became dominant. With the advance of climate change, we are forced to change our mind and learned to accept the approach to view the landscape changes as natural processes. Namely, the increased floods remind us to care for the landscape as a whole and no to rely on strictly technological solutions. The temperature in cities is constantly increasing and people are longing for shade in the nature.

Rivers in the city districts changed their function. Their non-production functions, such as room for public activities, supporting biodiversity and climate improvement, are decreasing. Rivers are able to guide as from the city to the countryside. At the same time, the rivers significantly lower the temperatures in downtown and improve conditions for tree growing. To reduce temperatures in cities, the intensive interactions between landscape and settlements.

The time has come to organize the city life from the perspective of climate change. To provide room for rivers is giving us a good chance to create natural systems and flood parks, providing an ecological continuum. It means room for the people, animals and birds, and new refugium for the life of us all.

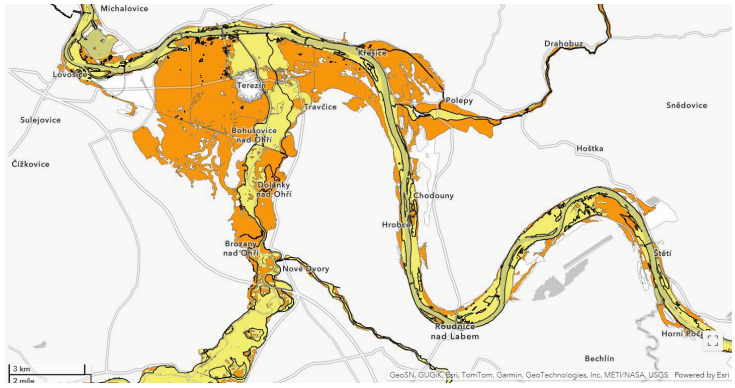

fig. 1 River landscape of Ohře river and Terezín fortress

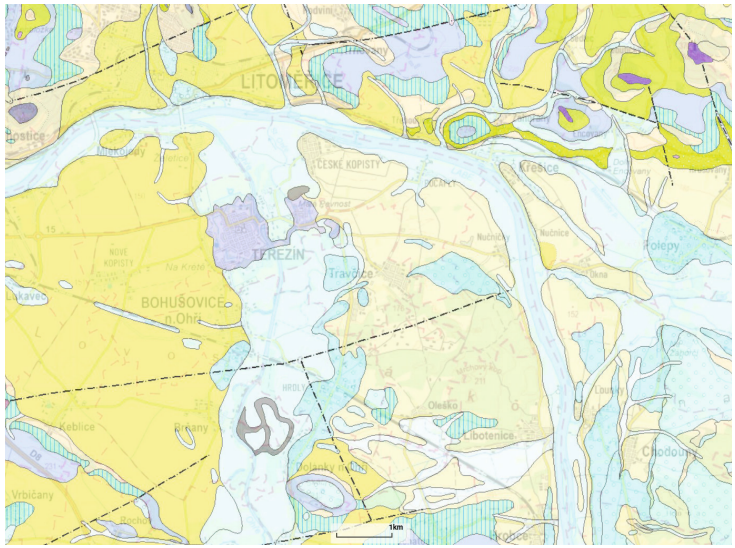

fig. 2 Floodplain of Ohře river and Terezín fortress (Q100 is orange color)

Designing Nature from Past to Present

PROF. JÜRGEN WEIDINGER

Jürgen Weidinger is a landscape architect and professor at the Technische Universität Berlin since 2009. His area of expertise is the landscape architectonical design of public urban spaces. His focus in theory is about human perception, bodily experience and atmosphere. He is co-founder and co-speaker of PEP, Germany´s first design-based doctoral program in landscape architecture and architecture. He is member of municipal planning boards, competition juries and editor of books about landscape architecture. Since 1995 he is director of WEIDINGER LANDSCHAFTSARCHITEKTEN. The Berlin based design firm is focused on urban parks, squares, streets and public open spaces connected with buildings of public use in the sectors culture, education and corporate.

The topic “Designing Nature from Past to Present” is focused on landscape architecture design concepts, more precisely about the „formal composition” of natural elements in Landscape Architecture, such as plantings, topography, waterbodies, etc. and the corresponding meaning of the formal composition or in other words “for the ideas the composition stands for“.

An overview on the eras of landscape architecture demonstrates the wide field of possibilities how natural elements can be designed. The overview comprises the beginning of the fight against wilderness, is followed by different eras of garden art, the role of landscape architecture in neoclassicist urbanism, the movements of the 20th century, such as historicism, modernism, postmodernism, minimalism and some of the contemporary trends like social participation and climate-adoptive design.

For this abstract four examples are chosen to demonstrate and analyze the formal composition of natural elements and to interpret the intended aesthetic impact and meaning.

First example: Wilderness before human sedentarization

Humans perceived wilderness as dangerous and mysterious, and so wilderness had be cultivated. Burning clearings and planting beds for crops lead to fence the land as an ordered garden. Etymologically the word garden is derived from the Indo-European term “gher“ which refers to interwoven hazelnut branches uses as a fences. In early myths the idea of the place after death was named paradise and the first world created by the christian god was named garden Eden. Thankfully Eve got us back in the wilderness and thus opened the path to empowerment and scientific knowledge and maybe to downfall – we will see.

Second example: Jardins du château de Versailles, 1630, and 1662 until 1699, mostly by landscape architect André le Notre

The château Versailles, built 1661 to 1715, was complemented by an 800 ha park. The baroque garden structures: such as axes Grand Canal, parterres, bosquets and the hunting grove served the glorification of Louis XIV the „Sun-King“ (1643 to 1715). His power over humans and nature is expressed by spaces, which make the visitor feel small. The garden levels rise approaching the castle and also every path leads to the axes and therefore to the castle and the king. Sculptures chosen from greek mythology

fig. 1 Wilderness [© Jürgen Weidinger, 2019]

fig. 2 Versailles [© Yizack Rangel, downloaded 11th may 2025 on website Unsplash]

were meant to put the king in a meaningful tradition. The natural elements in the design are highly controlled in the way they were designed and in the way they were maintained.

Third example: Olympic Park München, 1972, mostly by landscape architect Günther Grizmek and architect Günther Behnisch
The composition can be described as an organic intertwining of architecture, sport facilities and the designed park as an artificial landscape. The composition uses enhanced undulated forms in three dimensions. The creation of this artificial landscape meant to represent the new democratic Bundesrepublik Deutschland in contrast to the design of Nazi Olympic Games in Berlin in 1936 which was closer to the compositional principles of the Versailles Park. Otl Aicher, graphic designer in chief, banned the color red for the corporate design for the 1972 Olympics, because it had been misused by ideologies before. The natural elements in the design are highly controlled but should give the impression of having developed naturally.

Forth example: Henry C. Palmisano Nature Park, Chicago Illinois, 2009-2012, landscape architects Site Group
400 million years ago in the Silurian age a coral reef built up in the area of the park. Later the dolomitic limestone was mined in a quarry. The huge hole of the “Stearns quarry” was later filled with waste of the City of Chicago. The City acquired this site in 2008 and the Park District hired “Site Design Group” to develop an environmentally sustainable park. I could not find out if and what kind of remediation of the waste dump took place - let us hope for the best. The existing hill is covered by a species-rich meadows and cascading wetlands directed to a pond in the lowest point. The leading design principle could be described as overlaying a homogeneous texture of meadows with occasional artificial accentuations. The natural elements in the design are as little es possible controlled and should give the impression of the lost local “prairie-like” landscape before the city was built.

fig. 3 Olympiapark München [© Sebastian Herrmann, downloaded 11th may 2025 on website Unsplash]

fig. 4 Henry C. Palmisano Nature Park Chicago [© Jürgen Weidinger, 2023]

Based on these examples some observations, questions and propositions regarding contemporary nature design and corresponding meanings can be drawn.

— First it is astonishing how few untamed natural elements have been used in landscape architecture until the end of the 20th century.
— The second observation is that today there are varied possibilities for the landscape architectonical design of natural elements, which should be integrated in contemporary designs.

Otherwise extensive greenery in landscape architecture without a particular "Gestalt" makes projects look similar and generic and the greenery is unable to create a site-specific meaning. The naive dream of "back to mother nature" is back. Today biologic patterns of greenery are used without relating to the urban fabric of or even as a disruption of the urban fabric, as can be seen in the project Sankt Kjeld's Plads & Bryggervangen in Kopenhagen, 2019, landscape architects SLA.

Such back-to-nature approaches can be described as a new "bio-functionalism". This bio-functionalism should not be the only answer to climate-adoption design in landscape architecture. Will high quantity of greenery soon be more important than design quality and will bio-functionalism conquer landscape architecture?

Even today in times of climate-adoption and of desires for more "nature-like" open spaces in the cities the answer should not be "bio-functionalism" but "site-sensitive landscape architecture". Site-sensitivity cares about context, history and meaning and gives a frame for design of the natural elements.

The presentation was to meant to feed the reflection process about a common research interest and project of landscape architects from TUB and CVUT.

The Gren Gap

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Climate Adaptation in Historically Senstitive Places

DIPL. ING. TILL REHWALDT

Till Rehwaldt graduated in landscape architecture from the TU Dresden in 1990, where he subsequently worked as a research assistant until 1996. Further teaching activities followed, including guest professorships in Berlin, Prague and Guangzhou. Since 2017, Till Rehwaldt has headed a design studio at the Faculty of Architecture at TU Prague. He has won numerous competitions, and in 2007 the ULAP Park in Berlin was awarded with the German Landscape Architecture Prize. Till Rehwaldt is a member of the German Academy for Urban and Regional Planning and the Association of German Landscape Architects, of which he was President from 2014 to 2022. He works as an author and judge in competitions and is a member of design advisory boards.

Climate change has a fundamental impact on all areas of life. Public spaces in particular are especially exposed to the changing conditions due to their vulnerability. This applies to both urban and rural areas. Extreme rainfall events, longer periods of drought and increased heat stress are factors that require an adaptive response.

In urban areas, it is not only the impact on flora and fauna, but also the human use of public spaces that is affected by the consequences of climate change. Squares and promenades, parks, gardens and streetscapes are under pressure to change in order to maintain their resilience in the future and provide a high-quality habitat for people, flora and fauna.

Public spaces are being adapted to climate change in a variety of ways. Of central importance here is complex rainwater management, which on the one hand delays the runoff of water and on the other hand also enables greater use by urban vegetation, or at least the return of water to the groundwater. To this end, it is important to minimize the proportion of sealed surfaces through open construction methods and to store water in the ground for longer periods of time using porous substrates or cisterns, in particular to supply the tree roots.

Improving site conditions through irrigation and aeration makes a significant contribution to facilitating the adaptation of existing urban trees. When planting new trees, greater attention will have to be paid to the use of suitable species and varieties that are highly resilient to periods of drought. Overall, the goal of preserving and further strengthening biodiversity despite the changing conditions also plays a major role.

In addition to flora and fauna, human-related spatial functions are also affected by change. Particularly in hot summer months, it is important to reduce temperatures in city centers and avoid urban heat islands. This can be achieved by improving the ventilation of the city as well as by planting new trees to provide shade, although the latter is of course easier to implement in existing situations. The installation of water systems and drinking water fountains or the generation of fog can also have a cooling effect, although the effect of these elements is of course spatially limited.

While these measures can be taken into account from the start of the planning process for new urban districts, implementing them in existing situations is far more complex. In historic structures in particular, for example, it is often not possible to plant larger trees in the urban space without conflict. A central contradiction is that

fig. 1 ULAP-Park Berlin
/ Creating a shady and cooling place in the historic park area [© Till Rehwaldt]

fig. 2 Gewandhaus Area at the Neumarkt, Dresden
/ A green building in the baroque city center [© Christiane Eberts]

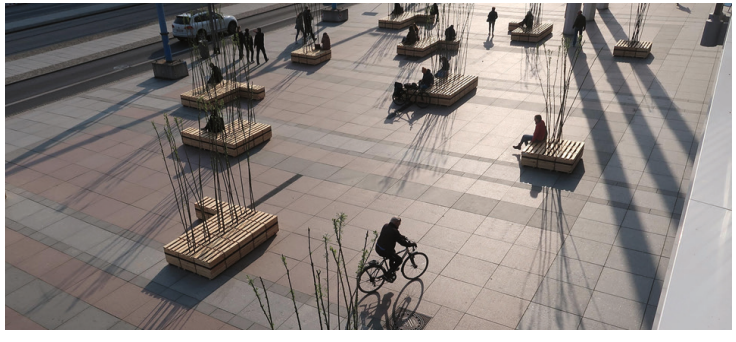

fig. 3 Entrance Area of the Kulturpalast at the Altmarkt, Dresden
/ Temporary tree islands in front oft he iconic modernist building [© Anne Mariotte]

in historic urban spaces, the aim is to protect and preserve the existing qualities, while adaptation to climate change can only be achieved by changing the situation.

In the following, a number of practical examples are used to show which functional adaptations in urban spaces are currently in focus and which situation-related design and technical solutions can be found.

1. ULAP Park, Berlin-Mitte

On the site of the former Universum-Landes-Ausstellungs-Park (ULAP), in addition to the historically relevant fragments (staircase), there is also a dense growth of trees and shrubs that was created in the post-war period, when the area on the edge of the Berlin Wall was used as a storage area.
The concept provides for the preservation of this growth, which on the one hand respects the history of the site and on the other hand creates a shady, cool place to spend time in the center of the city. The surfaces are permeable so that the rainwater is completely infiltrated and is available to the tree roots.

2. Masarykovo Namesti, Mnichovo Hradiste

The central town square was partially freed from vehicle traffic and designed as a multifunctional square. The planting of a large number of trees creates shady and cool places, and a water basin further enhances this effect. The surfaces are paved with a granite quarry stone, the irregular cut of the stones increases the proportion of joints so that more rainwater can seep away. On the other hand, a large proportion of the water is collected and fed into the root zone of the trees.

3. Gendarmenmarkt Berlin-Mitte

The central city square is an open space, free of trees in parts, which supports the architectural effect of the historic buildings on the square. The side areas are surrounded by shady trees, some of which date from the Gründerzeit period. In the central area, no tree planting will be permitted in the future for reasons of monument protection. However, during the current redesign, it was possible to design the surfaces with open paving joints and to allow all rainwater to seep into the ground.

4. Gewandhaus-Areal am Neumarkt, Dresden

In the middle of the baroque city center, a previously non-existent tree planting was realized in order to improve the quality of stay through summer cooling. This was only permissible because the planting was carried out on the ground plan of a building that no longer exists, but the Neumarkt area retains its character. The cooling effect is enhanced by a drinking fountain, which is positioned on the line of the former city fortifications.

5. Entrance area at the Kulturpalast, Dresden

A permanent tree planting is not possible on the historic Altmarkt, in front of the façade of the listed Kulturpalast. However, in order to achieve cooling and an improved quality of stay in the summer months, a number of willow islands were arranged on the square as a temporary installation. They are made from renewable raw materials and once the installation is finished, the movable elements will be used elsewhere in the city.

6. Climate quarter in Siebeneichen Castle Park

In the historic park, which is partly located in wooded areas, large stands of trees have been lost due to drought and storm damage. One of these now open areas is being reforested as a “climate quarter” using a mixture of different tree species. The development of the climate quarter will be scientifically monitored and there will also be on-site information to explain the aim of the planting to visitors.

Incorporating Climate Protection + Climate Adaption into Urban Space Design — Three Approches

DIPL. ING. TIMO HERRMANN

Timo Herrmann was born in Öhringen Germany. In addition to studying landscape architecture at the Technical University of Berlin and Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK, he gained his first teaching experience at the Technical University of Berlin and as a lecturer in the Department of Architecture at the University of North London. He completed his studies in 2001 under Prof. Hans Loidl at the Department of Project Planning at the TU Berlin.
He then worked for several years in various landscape architecture offices in Berlin as a project manager and head of the design department.
Since 2004 has been registered as a landscape architect with the Baden Württemberg Chamber of Architects and founded bbz Landschaftsarchitekten with his partners in the same year. He conducted research in the field of post-industrial landscapes and taught as a research assistant at the Department of Landscape Architecture/ Design at the University of Kassel from 2005-2009.
He also has broad expertise as a juror and was included in the list of experts "Juror and Design Advisory Board" of the Baden-Württemberg Chamber of Architects in 2014. Since 2016 he has been a member of the Association of German Landscape Architects (bdla) where he has been a member of the bdla's DIN standards committee since 2019. In 2022, he was elected Vice President of the bdla. [foto © Marc Leppin]

The challenges our society, our livelihoods, and especially our built environment and public spaces face due to climate change and adaptation are immense, particularly for historically sensitive areas. To counter climate change, protect the climate, and create climate adaptive urban spaces, we need standards and solutions, especially in historically sensitive areas.

Three examples are presented below that illustrate three approaches to implementing climate adaptation and mitigation measures in historically sensitive contexts.

Approach 1
Historical Use of Materials, Construction, and Joining Techniques for Sustainable and Future- Oriented Landscape Architecture – The Humboldt Forum (2020)

The Humboldt Forum is located in central Berlin, on the historic site where the city was founded. The buildings used in the forum are part of the reconstructed Berlin Palace, which was destroyed in World War II, demolished by the East German regime, and later replaced by the Palace of the Republic, which was then demolished by the reunified Germany in 2010. The design of the surrounding space aimed to create a square that evolved naturally around the building, with uniform, non-directional paving.

The paving material was chosen to be typical of Berlin's cityscape – simple yet elegant, acknowledging the historical significance of the location without directly replicating it. The challenge was to create a contemporary urban space that connected with the city's history. Reusing old materials played a key role in this project. By using reclaimed stones from the streets of Berlin, the paving was not only cost-effective and environmentally friendly but also added a sense of local history to the design.

The cobblestones used were sourced from streets that were being renovated across Berlin, particularly in older neighborhoods like Kreuzberg and Prenzlauer Berg. These large stones were broken down and refinished, resulting in paving that featured a blend of regional granite and gneiss stones, originally brought to Berlin as ballast during the industrialization period.

Extensive testing was done to ensure the stone mixture's color and aesthetic qualities were in line with the vision for the site, while still maintaining the materials' authenticity.

fig. 1 Umfeld Humboldt Forum [© Lichtschwärmer]

A key part of the design was the dry-laying method, which ensured the paving was both permeable and durable. The traditional “Berliner Passe”construction technique was applied, where the stones are laid without binding mortar, creating joints that allow water to flow through the surface. This approach provided an effective way to manage water runo , ensuring that even the large paved areas contributed to the local ecosystem. Furthermore, as the materials are reclaimed, the paving can be repurposed again in the future, promoting long- term sustainability.

Approach 2
Resource-Oriented Landscape Architecture:
Conservation, Cradle-to-Cradle, Recycling, and Upcycling –
The Rochdale Barracks (2023)

The Rochdale Barracks, built in the 1930s and used by the British Army until 2000, are being repurposed into a residential area. Located in Bielefeld, a growing city with significant housing demand, the project aims to create 100 new residential units on the historic site of the barracks. The design of this transformation goes far beyond conventional methods of recycling and upcycling.

The project embraces resource-oriented landscape architecture by focusing on the reuse of existing materials. Rather than demolishing structures completely, the conversion involved reclaiming as much as possible from the original buildings, and public spaces were redesigned with minimal construction intervention. This approach reduced environmental impact and preserved much of the character of the original site.

A significant feature of the design was retaining much of the paved surfaces from the original barracks, keeping them in place as paths and gathering areas. This not only reduced the need for new materials but also maintained the historical continuity of the area. Furthermore, the project minimized impervious surfaces, allowing for better water infiltration, and integrated green spaces that enhance the quality of life for future residents.

The repurposing of historical structures for modern use while minimizing the environmental footprint exemplifies resource-oriented landscape architecture. The project demonstrates how historical preservation and sustainable development can coexist, showing that it’s possible to create new spaces while honoring the past.

fig. 3 Konversion Rochdale Barracks
[© bbz landschaftsarchitekten]

Approach 3
Climate Adaptation in Urban Areas with Historic Village Structures – Margaretenstraße and the Center of Krailling (2022)

Krailling, an old village located between Starnberg and Munich, has experienced significant urbanization due to its proximity to Munich. The village's traditional structure has been overshadowed by suburban developments, with only a few remnants of the historical landscape, such as the Würmtal valley, left intact. This development pressure has led to the loss of public spaces that once provided green and open areas for social interaction and recreation.

Historically, village public spaces were often limited to streets and traffic areas with few designated green spaces. Over the decades, the area has become densely populated with new residential and commercial buildings, leaving little room for open spaces or recreational areas. As part of the redesign of Margaretenstraße, 30% of the traffic space was reduced to provide more room for pedestrians and green spaces.

One of the key features of the project was the introduction of new green infrastructure. The addition of 28 new trees and 770 square meters of green space helped restore some of the lost open space, making the area more climate-resilient. The integration of permeable paving materials, with a high proportion of joints, helped reduce water runoff, allowing rainwater to infiltrate the ground rather than flood the drainage system.

The project also introduced large trees in public spaces to provide shade, helping mitigate the ffects of urban heat islands. These measures were designed with long-term climate change adaptation in mind, ensuring that the area remains comfortable and sustainable as temperatures rise. The careful design preserved the historical qualities of the village while adding climate-protective elements, showing that even older, historically sensitive areas can adapt to modern climate challenges.

The examples presented show how climate adaptation and protection can be successfully integrated into landscape architecture projects in historically sensitive areas, maintaining the character of these spaces while addressing the challenges posed by climate change.

fig. 3 Ortsmitte Krailling
[© Boris Storz]

Historically sensitive Places
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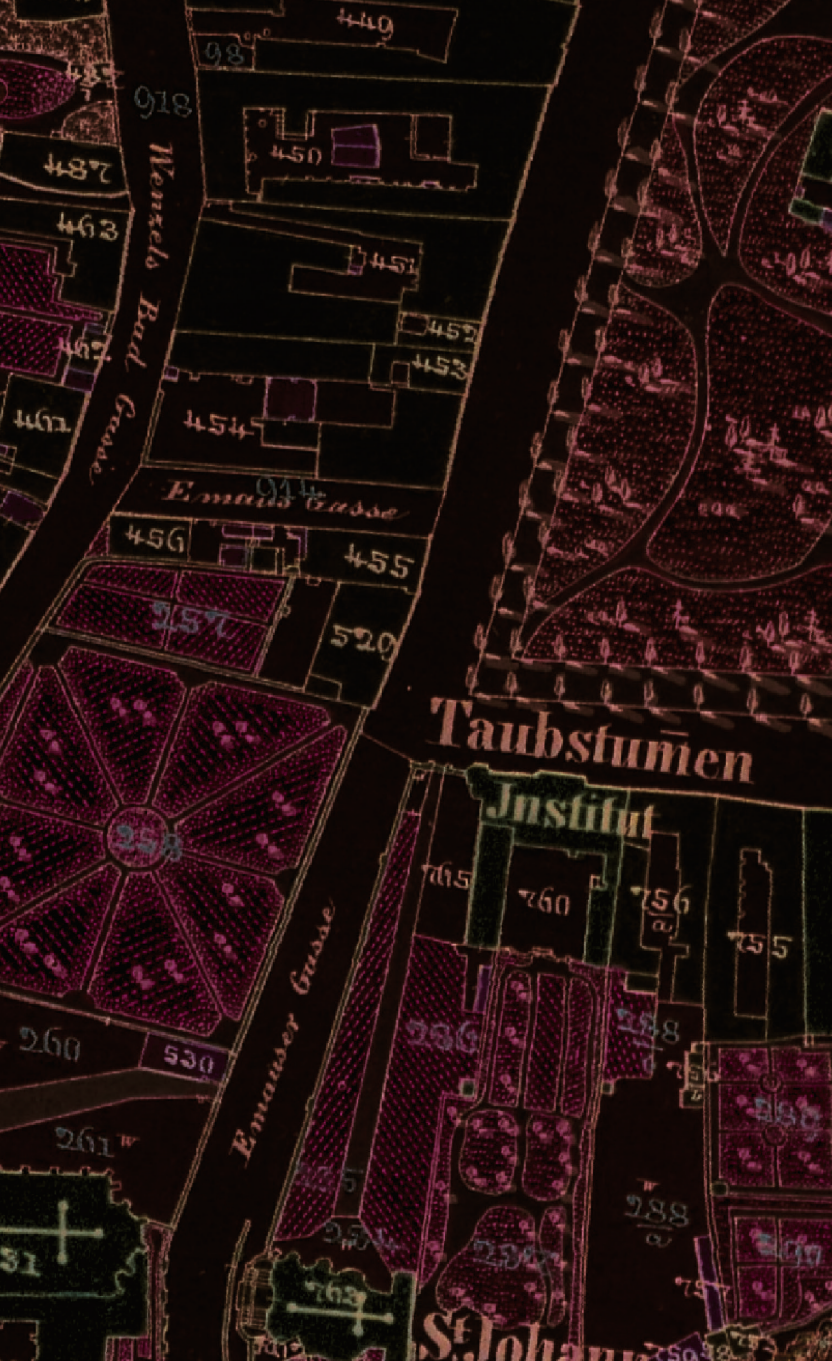
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