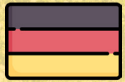




Park am Gleisdreieck

Turning a wasteland into a popular urban park



(DE)

BERLIN



3.64 million



Cultural heritage
for sustainable development



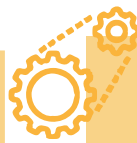
Challenge

Left abandoned for decades, the former freight station at Gleisdreieck, located in the heart of Berlin, had become a vast industrial wasteland, where an outstanding and unique ecological environment had developed over the years. How can the city reintegrate this area into the urban space? All the while preserving its cultural and ecological value and contributing to the quality of life of the local community.



Solution

The former railway site has become the Park am Gleisdreieck – a trendy urban oasis, which also provides a vital link between neighbourhoods. Dense areas of wild growth and relics from the railway era have been preserved - e.g. railroad tracks, signalling systems, buffer stops. From the beginning, citizens have been involved in the project, contributing ideas to the design and landscape planning. The park constitutes a modern and culturally enhanced urban quarter without denying its industrial past.



How ?

1

1997: the Land of Berlin and the railway company agreed to build a park at Gleisdreieck as compensation for the construction of the nearby Postdamer Platz and Leipziger Platz.

2

2005-2006: a two-stage landscape planning competition, informed by intense public consultations. Never before in Berlin has there been such intensive citizen participation in the run-up to and even during a landscape planning competition.

3

June 2008: start of the works with the clearing of the first section of the site (Ostpark), followed in August 2010 by the landscaping of this first section.

4

From 2011 to 2014: the three parts of the park are successively designed and built.

5

2015: creation of a User Advisory Board, meant as a platform to discuss the future developments of the park, emerging conflicts and possible solutions. It includes of citizens, relevant stakeholders and representatives from the public administration.

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Budget/Financing

€27.6 million

The total budget for the planning and construction of the park amounts to €27.6 million. The Federal Land of Berlin funded 19% of the project. Another 63% came from private investors as part of compensatory measures for the construction of the nearby Postdamer Platz and Leipziger Platz.



Management

- The Federal Land of Berlin - represented by the Senate Department for the Environment, Urban Mobility, Consumer Protection and Climate Action and the Senate Department Urban Development, Building and Housing - ensured compliance with budget, schedule, laws and guidelines.
- Grün Berlin GmbH managed the construction of the park. It now employs 3 full-time employees who run the operation of the park.
- Atelier Loidl Landscape Architects, selected through a two-stage competition, supervised the overall planning and design of the park.
- A twelve-member project-accompanying working group (PAG) met fortnightly and followed numerous site visits to discuss the implementation of the landscape architecture plan. It consisted of representatives from the Senate Department for Urban Development, Grün Berlin GmbH, Atelier Loidl, citizens-led initiatives, and local districts neighbourhood councils.



Transferability

- Involve local stakeholders and communities throughout the planning and implementation of the project.
- Respect the history of the site, notably by integrating historical relics and structures (if any) into the design of the project in order to give it a unique character.
- Integrate various perspectives into your project, while sticking to your core objectives and remaining open to changes.



Impact

The Park am Gleisdreieck is a remarkable example of the revitalisation of an industrial wasteland and its reintegration into the urban space. The park has a significant unifying function within the city's spatial planning and is a considerable gain in the quality of life of the local community. It is the habitat of rich fauna and flora and is an essential building block in the so-called north-south green corridor. Together with the other neighbouring institutions and listed monuments, it constitutes a modern urban quarter with a unique character.



Links

- <https://bit.ly/3QYKEJT>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXyRWBc6Gq0>
- <https://bit.ly/3dLGFII>
- <https://bit.ly/3QLWQ0z> (in German only)
- <https://bit.ly/3RizHmX> (in German only)
- <https://bit.ly/3QIY7Q> (in German only)



(c) Konstantin Börner



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