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In late 2006 the slaughtering yard Karlsruhe was closed down and a thought was slowly put into action. First steps were made to reconstruct the 7 hectare big former slaughtering yard area, which is right in the centre of the city, into a new cultural and creative centre as well as an art trade. Developed has the creative park Alter Schlachthof Karlsruhe, which offers artists and creative folks a mix of extraordinary ambience and facilities, which brings the innovative concepts and ideas to fruition.



Der Alte Schlachthof - Now and Then

Town master mason Wilhelm Strieder started the construction of the slaughtering yard 1885. A two-winged plant was built, which was enclosed by walls lying on the outskirts of the city. The plant is preserved in its basic set up till today, old buildings with sandstone facades still give a hint of what the place was formerly used for: On the one side the slaughtering yard, where meat was butchered and processed, on the other side the stockyard where the animals were examined and the trading happened. In the 1970s the increased meat demand and the altered hygienic guidelines necessitated an extension of the slaughtering yard. In this period the functionality of the construction had priority. The rough rather utilitarian buildings of the second construction period are an appealing contrast to the highly demanding and representatively constructed buildings of the late 19th century. Both are involved in the conversion process of the building.





Even before the slaughtering yard was closed down 2006 the decision was made to preserve the area in its condition as much as possible and in particular to not structurally intervene with the historic buildings.

The incomparable identity of the building and the memory of the place shall be preserved, the combination of old and young shall serve as the source of inspiration and the user and their perceptions shall be actively involved in the design process.

Room for Ideas

Above all the Alte Schlachthof should create room: Room for artists and the creative trade, for cultural and culturally-related establishments. It is the extraordinary combination of aesthetics and functionality that distinguishes the terrain and is harnessed for the creative industries. Comparable projects in other cities showed that areas with this kind of unusual symbiosis are extremely appealing to the creative trade. People desire a workplace that allows the freedom to develop individually and is open to interpretation through its rawness and magnitude.





But it is not only the own facilities that are considered as important, it is furthermore the possibility for open communication and for exchange in your working environment that artists and cultural producers are looking for explicitly. The Alte Schlachthof offers the opportunity for synergetic creation, through its self-contained character, its courtyards and places, which are appealing for coming together and jointly thinking of new ideas.

The slaughtering yard area is an exceptional working place for people, who accomplish exceptional things at often unusual working hours. Exhibitions and cultural events as well as gastronomies offer users and visitors the possibility to spend time in the area even outside the daily work-life. The Alte Schlachthof is a vibrant attraction in the city from morning to night time.



Cultural and Creative Industries

The cultural and creative industries are supported massively nowadays. When the Federal Government initiated the "Initiative Cultural and Creative Industries" in autumn 2007, many other cities had already recognised the huge potential of this sector and started building centres for artists, cultural establishments and the creative trade, among them the city of Karlsruhe that had already started the legal and infrastructural transformation of the conversion of the slaughterhouse area.

Art and culture as an economic engine - this was considered impossible for a long time. But in a fast changing and globalized world inventiveness and individuality guarantee success. Established companies and firms seek consciously for locations, where creative potential is meant to be found. Trend-setting innovations and sustainable jobs result from creativity. Both are inevitable factors of sustainable urban development.

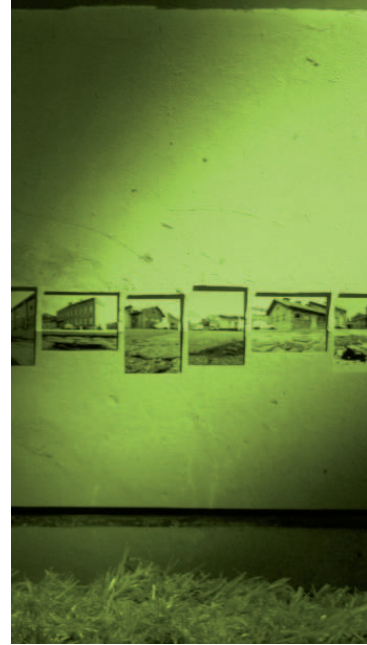




A flourishing cultural and creative industry is not only an indicator of a dynamic economy, but also and chiefly a sign of a high quality of life. The choice of residence is nowadays not only a choice dependent on economic factors, but is more highly dependent on the cultural appeal of the place. To succeed in the 21th century every city has to offer their inhabitants an environment outside the daily work-life that is worth living. These include places and locations, which are captivating by way of their extraordinary atmosphere and their distinctive identity, places like the Alte Schlachthof.

Conversion

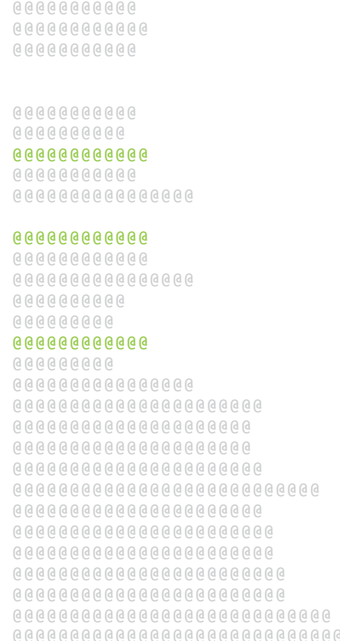
The Alte Schlachthof shall be converted into a centre of cultural and creative industries. The Federal Government apportions eleven submarkets to this industry, the architecture market, the book market, the design industry, the film industry, the music industry, the press market, the broadcasting industry, the software and games industries, the advertising industry and the industry of performing arts. Representatives of each market should and will be present in the area at all times. Therefore there will be, besides offices and agency facilities, workshops and ateliers, music and film studios, as well as venue and exhibition areas for artists, who live nearby or in the city. The spatial proximity facilitates synergetic creation and satisfies the requirements of the industry. Their most important attribute is the close collaboration of actors of the different submarkets.



One important element of the conversion is the business incubator centre Perfekt Futur, which was built in the old pig meat market hall of the stockyard. Founders of new businesses in the creative industries are given an affordable first location in an innovative atmosphere, especially for those who are graduates of the Karlsruhe universities. A city of shipment containers, which can be rented by the users as a work station, has developed in the hangar. The stacked and loosely arranged containers function as small and enclosed work stations in an extraordinary surrounding. The open spaces around the containers can be used for exhibitions and venues and also as group workplaces and joint lounge area.

The business incubation centre Perfekt Futur is hugely important for the creative cluster Alte Schlachthof, it accomplishes sustainable and future-oriented jobs and reinforces the culture and creative industries as the most important locational factor of the city.





Location and Development

The Alte Schlachthof is located in the east of the city Karlsruhe, close to the city centre, and is well connected to the motorway and public transportation. It is not far away from the important educational establishments and very close to the park of Schloss Gottesaue. Therefore it is not only a workplace but also a recreation ground and a venue.



The basic design concept was developed under consideration of the special conditions of the area and is fixed in a design handbook. This handbook envisages the preservation of the Alte Schlachthof with its characteristic attributes as far as possible and to underline its identity through purposeful emphasis. The public space, this means the space between the buildings, was merely productive land in the past. With the conversion of the area the demands have changed. The new users use the public space as lounge area. In the so called aura zones the inner function of the buildings is taken outside. This is not only the way these unusual working spaces emerged, but it is also the opportunity for the visitors to observe the work and creative thinking of the users.

The Alte Schlachthof provides traffic areas and parking spaces, but is also a temporary venue for events with a rough courtyard character, which shall be sustained. For this reason there will be no streets or pavements in the proper sense of the word, all road users are equal and can move freely on the terrain.

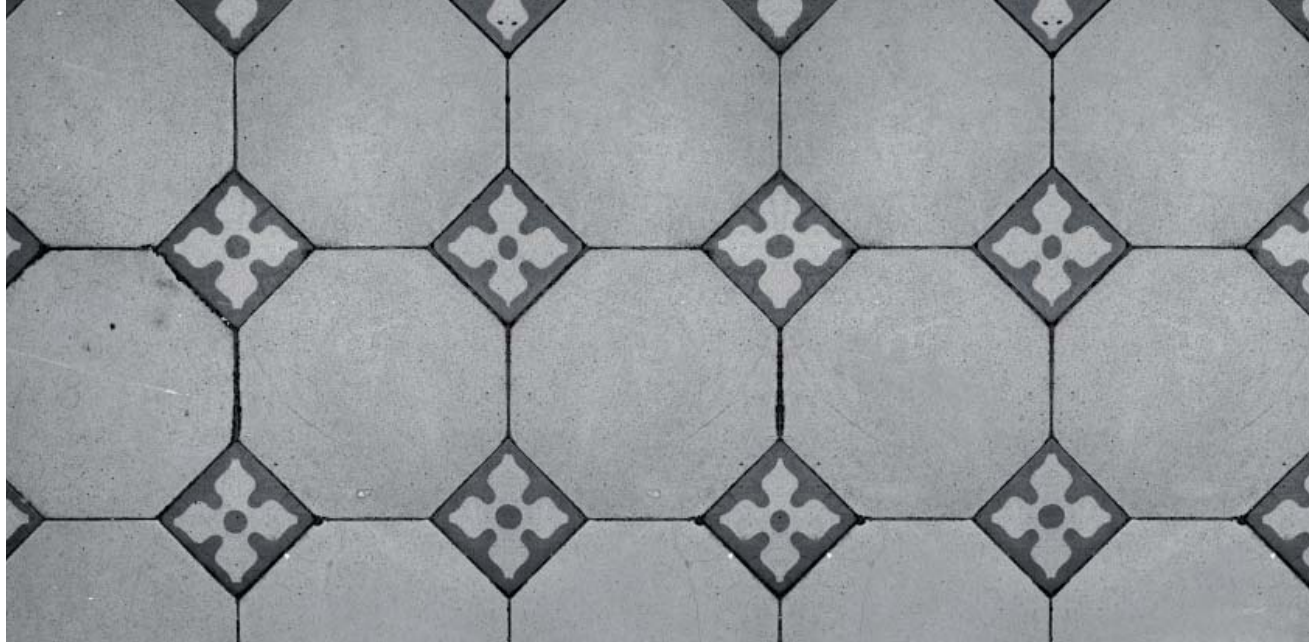


The public space shall be newly designed by creating more green areas and furnishing in a novel way, with focus on a harmonious overall appearance. The furniture in the outdoor area is supposed to invite to a spontaneous appropriation and the creative green areas should underline the place's character. That is how the area becomes an urban place with seating-accommodations that underlines the ambience of the Alte Schlachthof and gives it a new quality.



At the slaughtering yard are many heritage-protected industrial and commercial buildings, which were built in the end of the 19th century. They are supposed to continue to bear witness about the former use of the area. The old building structures are completed by new buildings, which do not copy the historic architectural style, but rather distinguish themselves clearly through modern architecture. The new buildings can be recognised through their cube-shaped structure, the bright basic tint of their facades and their flat roofs, which are used privately as green areas and make the producing of renewable energies possible.

While the new buildings of the area are mostly built of the same height as the old ones, a visible token is planned, functioning as a peak that shall hint at the Alte Schlachthof from afar.



More Questions?

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Text, Layout, Photos, Renderings KFE

Photo page 6

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ASTOC Architects & Planners

Print

Druckcooperative Karlsruhe

Printed on recycled paper

