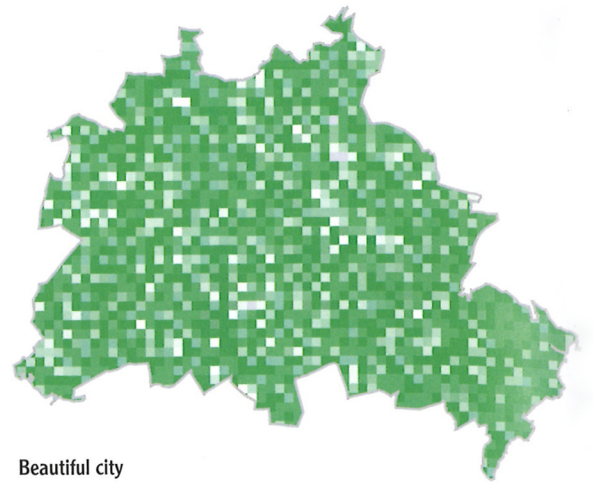


Carlo W. Becker, Friedrich von Borries

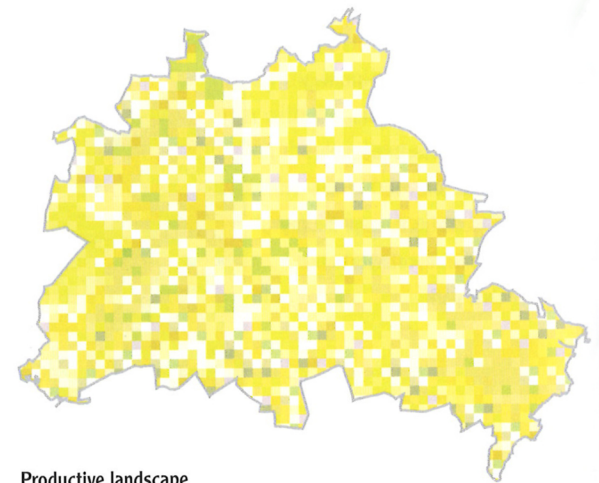
2030-2050 Berlin Urban Landscape Strategy

Multi-coding determines the urban landscape development model of Germany's capital Berlin. The model's strategy is based on social developments.

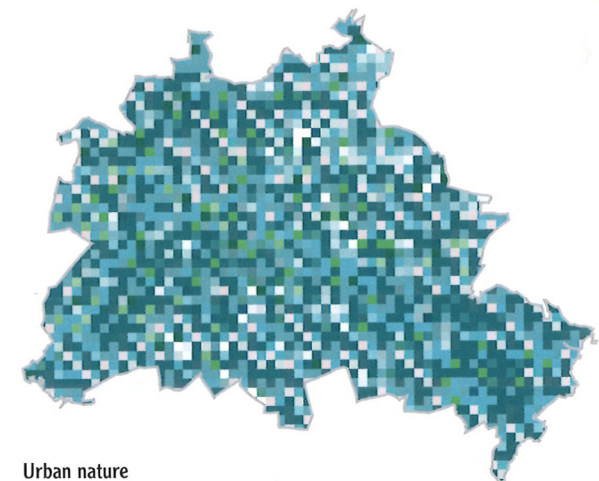
THE MODEL'S THEMES



Beautiful city

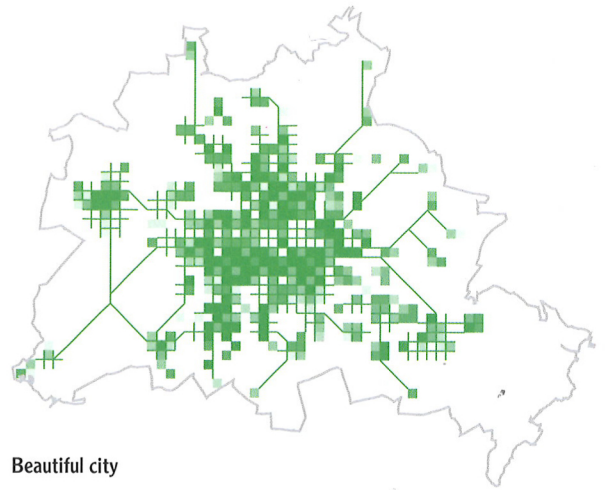


Productive landscape

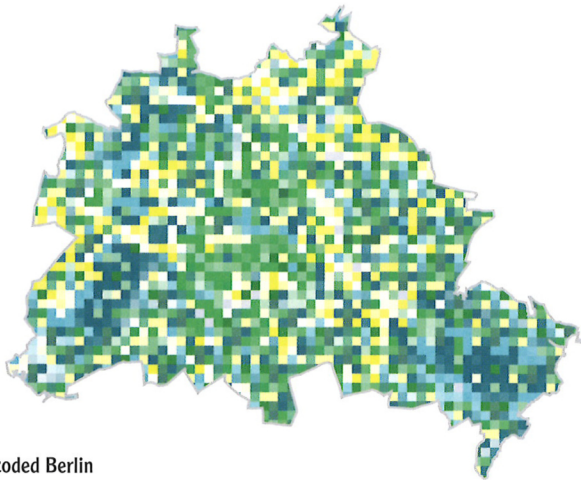


Urban nature

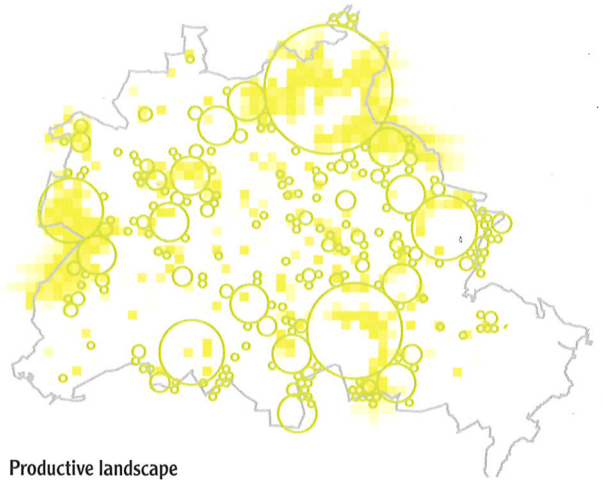
ENDOWED SPACES



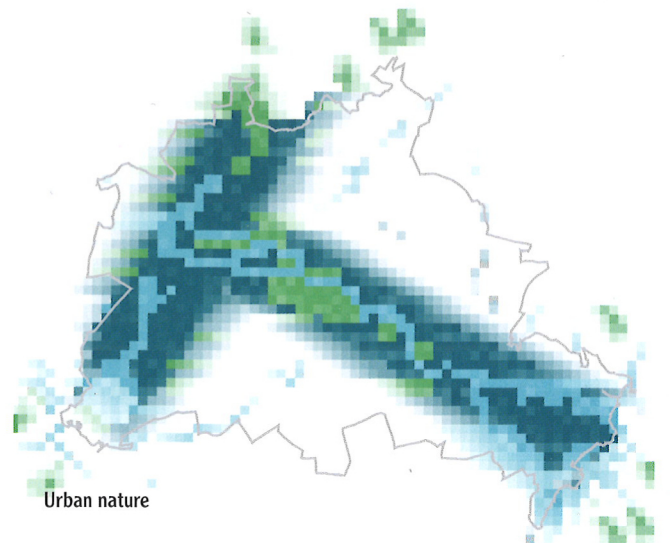
Beautiful city



Multi-coded Berlin



Productive landscape



Urban nature

Urban nature:
satisfying the desire for
nature and landscape in the
urban context.



Productive landscape:
home-grown greenery in
combination with urban
agriculture.

In the 1990s a model was developed for Berlin's open space that used an outer and inner ring of parks and two axes to reunite the divided city. Today Berlin needs a new strategy for its open spaces; although a very green city – 45 percent of its area is green and open space – its identity does not live on green areas but on and for its artistic and cultural scene. Can Berlin develop in such a way as to provide room for experiments and individual freedom not only in the cultural sphere but also in its open spaces?

In the new model, the green and open space is not understood primarily as aesthetic or ecological but as social space that is used and appropriated by urban society in multidimensional ways. The point is therefore not so much to change the space's appearance but to broaden the options for its uses in the sense of multi-coding. The model therefore concentrates on social developments, so-called megatrends. It is a contribution to an overall urban strategy that understands green and open space as an important constituent part of the urban quality of life – an urban landscape which, instead of separating uses, makes density and open space overlap. Three developments in society are the main-springs for how the model's content was formulated: the culture of mobility, do-it-yourself, and the wish for an urban-rural lifestyle.

Mobility. The culture of mobility is changing throughout society. The car owner is being replaced by a non-ideological, flexible, mobile citizen, who uses a multi-modal infrastructure. For some trips he takes public transit, for others he rents a car or a bicycle, for others still he uses his electric bike. In future we can therefore expect less flowing and stopped car traffic; public open and green spaces will take the place of streets. Berlin is today one of the cities with the fewest cars in Germany, and the tendency is downward. The conversion of car traffic infrastructures – such as streets, bridges, tunnels – is one of the big open-space planning tasks of the future.

Do-it-yourself. In an alienated world, the need arises to experience firsthand the products of one's actions. Concepts such as handmade and the culture of the project, self-determination and self-organisation are changing work and leisure. In open space, the do-it-yourself culture extends from gardening to creating your own beachside bars, beach volleyball courts, outdoor cinemas, urban beekeeping, etc. This do-it-yourself activity is not merely an amusing pastime for the well-to-do middle class but a survival strategy for socially disadvantaged population groups. Forms of appropriation should therefore be supported.

Urban-rural lifestyles. Recently there has been talk of the renaissance of the city; urbanity is once again in. But people want to live in a way that is not only urban and fast but also rural and slow; health and wellness are paired with the urban desire for accessibility, experiences and culture. This coupling finds expression in the sports and fitness culture, in organic shops and in food supplies from regional producers. "Slow life" at high speed. Urban green spaces should therefore be regarded not only as parks and places to exercise but also as natural space and landscape.

The megatrends outlined above can be found in all western metropolises. But no planning recommendations can be deduced directly from them. The new strategy is not a systematic scientific inference from the megatrends but an engagement with urban design. It refers to the actual conditions in Berlin, in other words to how social developments encounter endowments and problems specific to Berlin. In Berlin the question of mobility encounters an historic network of main thoroughfares, a unique stand of trees lining the streets and a high density of cyclists. The do-it-yourself culture strikes upon Berlin's art scene and its reputation as a world capital of creativity. The wish for a rural lifestyle finds possible places to flourish in Berlin's allotment gardens, in the surrounding Brandenburg countryside but also in the brownfield sites and

Page 47, top: Wild horses on Berlin's urban periphery are a compensatory measure for the new Brandenburg International Airport in Berlin-Schönefeld.

Page 47, bottom: For Berlin Gatow, the landscape architecture firm bgmr Landschaftsarchitekten developed strategies for urban agriculture on the edge of Berlin back in 2004.

infrastructural transformation sites characteristic of the cityscape. And for the wish for nature, Berlin offers rivers, lakes and woods.

In the context of the social megatrends, these endowments specific to Berlin lead to three themes in the model:

Beautiful city. Before the introduction of cities divided up according to uses, the avenues and boulevards were aesthetically enhanced spaces. In future, Berlin's street space is to be discovered and designed not only as a transportation route but also as a place with high open space and user quality. Parks and green squares are to be distin-

Productive landscape. The allotment gardens as well as the guerrilla and intercultural gardens generate not only green produce but also social connections and identities. Farmers and allotment gardeners, interim users and spatial pioneers, initiatives, urban gardeners, makers of cultural life and entrepreneurs must be recognised as actors in green space and encouraged because, in view of small budgets, the productive landscape – from cow pastures to multicultural gardens, self-suppliers and biomass – also becomes a new maintenance tool. For this to happen, rules and processes must be developed that regulate the extent of individual freedom and social responsibility – and new forms of aesthetics must be tried out and learned along with them.

Developing a strategy also means setting focus points. A starting point for each of the model's themes is therefore in the spaces with endowments. The endowed space for "Beautiful city" combines the dense residential neighbourhoods at risk from urban heat, the socially challenged urban areas and the historic parks with the city's large thoroughfares and promenades and thus forms a new, network-like structure. The space suited for "Urban nature" links the Spree with the suburban woods and lakes, thus forming a T-shaped figure that joins together the city and its environs. The "Productive landscape" comes about on its own, in sites from the farmland on the periphery to the brownfield sites and backyards of the creative milieu in boroughs such as Berlin-Mitte, Kreuzberg or Neukölln. These pockets of activity are dynamic; they come and go.

The approach developed for the Urban Landscape Strategy is not manifested in plans but is realised in projects that gradually densify. Using the large-scale infrastructural transformation sites of Berlin's five airports as examples demonstrates how the strategy can be realised in future.

The almost 400-hectare grounds of Tempelhof Airport were opened to the public in early 2010. The infrastructure of an airport became a

guished as places of urban culture, freed from their spatial isolation and connected to the city via green streets.

Urban nature. Someone seeking an urban-rural lifestyle wants to live in the city yet experience nature at the same time. Nature in the urban context must be narrowed down and enhanced so that it contributes to the sensory experience of everyday urban culture. Woods can be allowed to be wild scrubby greenery as an opposite world to the overregulated globalised one. Swimming in the inner city also belongs to "Urban nature" as an experience of nature – e.g., in the cleaned-up River Spree of the future.

The former Tempelhof Airport, located in the centre of Berlin's metropolitan area, is one of the new development areas.



new park landscape. In parallel, the Municipal Senate Administration for Urban Development launched a call for ideas. It sought creative actors with the best ideas for a do-it-yourself open space. The project's scope as announced is wide-ranging and covers urban gardening, educational projects, sports and recreational activities as well as new art and cultural venues in the park.

The landscape architectural competition started in the meantime is now developing a robust framework to be filled in processually. It is to define new liberties but also rules. At the same time, it is to stage "Urban nature" and bring about a beautiful yet unusual open space. The Tempelhof airfield project is thus a reference point for all three guiding principles.

Another former airport of Berlin, in Gatow, is being developed with the theme of urban agriculture. Originally the plan was for a landscape park but open-ended questions about sustainable maintenance led to re-thinking. A competition currently in preparation is to activate alliances between the city and landscape, agriculture and the countryside. It will thus develop a new open space type known as "Productive landscape".

A future project still to be filled in so as to implement the Berlin Urban Landscape Strategy is the planning of Tegel Airport, which will be shut down in 2012. Here concepts along the lines of the Urban Landscape Strategy's guiding themes remain to be developed. Compensatory cultivated wilderness spaces for the new, modern Berlin Brandenburg International Airport in Schönefeld are already being set up. They will be maintained by a herd of wild horses in future.

Projects such as these will make the Berlin Urban Landscape Strategy 2030-2050 become concrete. The model provides the framework and challenges stakeholders to develop Berlin's green space in a multi-coded way as social space with many options for what to do and in a dialogue with urban society.

