Wien - Österreich - europan 11

URBAN GRAVITY FOR A HISTORICAL SUBURB



CATEGORY urban/architectural

LOCATION	Wien-Hietzing
POPULATION	2.000.000
STUDY SITE	the public pathways of the whole area
SITE OF PROJECT	2,2 ha
SITE PROPOSED BY	Wien Holding GmbH (real estate developer of the city)
OWNER OF THE SITE	City of Vienna / railway company

TYPE OF ORDER AFTER COMPETITION
Urban Development Plan
Architectural Commission for a part

TRANSFORMATION OF SITE

Being a „leftover“ of the construction activities for the new underground tunnel of the railway the site marks an important spot for the surrounding area which is dominated by historical suburban housing types with a high amount of green spaces. The site‘s strategic location between two public transport lines, the regional trainline and the tramway has to be considered when it comes to the spatial and programmatic organization of its future development. Although, on the one hand, the underground tunnel and the rail tracks have a negative impact, the site takes advantage of being at the crossroads of two public transport lines and a main road connection.
The city aims at a development which should be an architectural and programmatic „landmark“, including a bandwidth of social services, small scaled commercial uses, intermodal facilities (bike and ride) and high quality of public and green spaces. It has to be explored if housing is possible under the circumstances of enhanced noise and vibrations.
It will be decisive how the site can combine the issues of connection, densification and quality of open spaces.

CITY STRATEGY

The city of Vienna has set ambitious goals for the inner-urban development in order to provide sustainable consumption of land and infrastructure. Growth in „grown-up“ and developed areas is therefore a central interest for modernizing the city. Included in these efforts is the modernization of the public transport system which has been creating large projects of urban transformation, such as the areas around the two main stations. On a smaller scale there are also projects of considerable importance, dealing with the integration of large scale infrastructures in the structure of the city. The Europan site gives a good example for the challenge of integration at hand in these projects.



aerialphoto with strategic elements


aerialphoto with project site

SITE DEFINITION

The site is located above an important new railway tunnel which will run underground in order to improve the east west connection of the national trainlines. In the closer surroundings one can find a historical suburban structure, characterized by low-rise developments (mostly housing of good quality) with a lot of green spaces. The tunnel works have blocked the connection between Lainzerstraße and Speisingerstraße which is an important N-S pedestrian crossing for the neighbourhood. Along the northern and southern border of the site two public transport stops integrate the area in the transport network of the city. Not far from the site the Castle of Schoenbrunn can be found. Its park constitutes an important leisure destination for tourists and locals alike. Although important institutions such as the orthopedic-hospital and an adult educational centre have settled down in Hietzing, housing strongly dominates the use of the area.

Due to the railway‘s noise and vibrations the city hesitates if housing can be developed on the site. In any case efficient measurements of protection against these contaminations have to be done. On the other hand, a base for the city-ambulance and a health-centre for women introduce social facilities raising the question for collective services which could be of use for the residents of the neighbourhood. Public playgrounds, public spaces and infrastructural facilities for a public transport hub will make the site a potential centre for the whole area.

NEW URBAN MOBILITY

The site‘s location between two public transport lines has to be exploited programmatically:

intermodal services and a good pedestrian connection to the surrounding local traffic network could trigger new dynamics, making the site an important urban interface.

NEW SOCIAL LIFE

Social facilities and public spaces have to be developed a meeting point where senior citizens and youngsters coexist.

NEW ECOLOGY

To solve the conflicts between the contaminating infrastructure and the demand of new uses, as well as the provision of new green spaces for the contemporary public life will characterize the main issues of an urbanism which has to be devoted to social sustainability and the solution of conflicts between the „good“ (the green quality of the suburb) and the „bad&ugly“ (the infrastructure with its implications).

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semiaerial large view


Waldzeile
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MAX. FAHRZEUGHÖHE 3,5 m