Europan 16
Living Cities

Brief
Schwäbisch Gmünd

Launch Day
Monday, 5th of April 2021

Organiser
Europan – German Association for the Promotion of Architecture,
Housing and Urban Planning in cooperation with the City of Schwäbisch Gmünd

Contact
Europan Deutschland
Vesta Nele Zareh, Lola Meyer
Friedrichstraße 23A
10969 Berlin
Germany
Telefon +49 30 399 185 49
Fax +49 30 399 185 50
Email mail@europan.de

Stadtverwaltung Schwänisch Gmünd
Amt für Stadtentwicklung
Abteilung Stadtplanung, Stadtentwicklung und Städtebau
Birgit Pedoth Dipl.Ing. M.Sc.
Marktplatz 1
73525 Schwäbisch Gmünd

Phone +497171 603-6105
Fax +497171 603-6199
Email birgit.pedoth@schwaebisch-gmuend.de

Site Representative
Julius Mihm, Bürgermeister

Actors Involved
City of Schwäbisch Gmünd

Team Representative
Architect, landscape architect,
traffic planner

Communication
Communication after the competition

Jury – 1st Evaluation
with the participation of the site representatives

Jury – Prize Selection
Ranked selection: with Winner (12,000 Euro), Runner-up (6,000 Euro) and Special Mention (no reward). The jury is autonomous in its decision.

Post Competition Intermediate Procedure
The procedure for the passage from the competition to the realisation will be specified after the result.

Mission Given to the Selected Team(s) for the Implementation
Urban studies in cooperation with the city of Schwäbisch Gmünd

Schedule

2021

April 5	Official launch of the Europan 16 Competition
May 7	German launching event
June 10	Site visit and colloquium
June 18	Closing date for further requests on the sites
July 2	Responding to requests on the sites
Sept. 17	Registration deadline
Sept. 17	Submission of entries
Oct. 14	Prelimiary selection by the local jury
November	Forum of cities and juries
Nov. 26	Final selection by the national jury
Dec. 20	International publication of results
Dec./Jan.	German award ceremony

2022

Feb. till June	Time frame for workshops
November	Inter-Sessions-Forum Europan 16/17

National Jury

Client Representatives

- Dr. Timo Munzinger, German Association of Cities and Towns
- Prof. Dr. Iris Reuther, Senate Building Director of the Free Hanseatic City of Bremen
- Karin Sandeck, Board Europan Germany, Bavarian State Ministry of Housing, Building and Transport, Munich

Architects / Planners

- Stéphanie Bru, BRUTER
- Julia Dahlhaus, DMSW
- Prof. Dr. Agnes Förster, Chair for Planning Theory and Urban Development, RWTH Aachen
- Kyung-Ae Kim, Kim Nalleweg Architekten
- Anna Popelka, PPAG architects

Public Figure

- Kaye Geipel, Vice President Europan Germany, deputy editor-in-chief BAUWELT

Substitutes

- Dr. Saskia Hebert, Vice President Europan Germany, subsolar* architektur & stadtforschung
- Prof Dr. Thorsten Erl, Board Europan Germany, metris architects and urban planners, professor for Urban Planning Siegen/Heidelberg

The local juries will be presented on the Europan website in due time.

Table of Contents

Part 1

General Conditions

1 Acceptance of the Rules of Europan 16

The competition is implemented in conformity with the rules passed by the European Europan federation. The complete rules will be published under www.europan-europe.eu on the European website.

The competition is held in accordance with the the Guidelines for Planning Competitions (RPW 2013) in the version published by the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) on 31.1.20013 (Federal Gazette of 22.2.2013).

The organisers, competitors and anyone associated with the competition recognise the content of this launching text as binding. At the same time the competitors recognise the basic requirements, demands and general conditions of the Europan 16 competition.

2 Organiser

Europan, German Association for the Promotion of Architecture, Housing and Urban Planning in cooperation with the city of Schwäbisch Gmünd

3 Type of Competition

3.1 Object of Competition ...

The study site lies at the edge of the Old Town by the historic railway station, which was redesigned in the course of the 2014 State Garden Show along with other far-reaching urban redevelopment measures. Immediately to the north is the wooded Nepperberg, which has been developed for tourism. The heterogeneous project site of around 27 hectares is to be urbanised as the city's 'Western Gateway' and developed as a new, sustainable quarter with a variety of uses in the future. The project is seeking an urban development concept that can be implemented in phases to create a lively and attractive new inner-city neighbourhood for living, working and recreation. Particular emphasis is placed on a vitalised street-level zone where cultural institutions are very much at home.

An addition goal is the creation of an inviting city gateway and a link with neighbouring districts. As a specific construction design, a portal building is sought to act as the city entrance – with a centre for public authorities and services along with a mix of uses on the ground floor, an integrated kindergarten and a large event area. Furthermore, multi-use street spaces are sought to draw and captivate visitors, in symbiosis with an innovative mobility concept and the strong consideration of green areas and open spaces. We are looking for ideas and processes that reflect the Europan 16 theme of 'Living Cities – Lebendige Städte'. A detailed description of tasks can be found in 'Part 2: Competition Task'.

3.2 Procedure of competition

The competition is designed as an open, one-stage call for ideas. It is anonymous.

4 Admission zone

The competition is open to all the countries in Europe.

5 Entry conditions

5.1 Entrants

Europan 16 is open to any team consisting of at least one graduated architect, who may be in association with one or more professionals of the same or related disciplines within the

architectural, urban and landscape field (such as architects, urban planners, landscape architects, engineers, artists) or from other relevant fields (such as sociology, geography, biology) and may further be associated with one or more students with a bachelor degree or equivalent (3 years of study) in architecture or related disciplines. The team may also have one or more contributors, who are not considered authors of the project. Every team member must be under the age of 40 years old on the closing date for submission of projects.

5.2 Composition of the Teams

There is no limit to the number of participants per team. Multidisciplinary teams are strongly recommended with regards to the sites issues.

A registered team can modify its composition on the European website until the closing date for submissions (17 September 2021). No further change shall be accepted after this date.

Each team member (associate and contributor) shall be registered as such on the Europan website before the closing date for submissions.

One team can submit a project on different sites in different countries with participation limited to one site in the same country and one person can be part of different teams provided that the projects are not submitted in the same country.

Associates
Associates are considered to be authors of the project and are credited as such in all national and European publications and exhibitions. Architects must have graduated with a degree from a university specified within the EU Directive 2005/36/EC, or with an equivalent degree from a university within the natural borders of Europe, recognized by the professional architects' organizations in the country of the competition site. Other professionals must have an applicable European university degree, regardless of nationality. The compulsory requirement is to hold such a degree.

Membership in a European professional body is optional, except for associates without a European degree.

Students accepted as associates must have a bachelor degree or equivalent (3 years of study) in architecture or related disciplines from a university as mentioned above.
Contributors

Teams may include additional members, called contributors. Contributors may be qualified or not but none of them shall be considered as an author of the project. Just like the associates, the contributors must be under the age of 40 years old on the closing date for submission of entries.

Team Representative
Each team names one Team Representative among the associates. The Team Representative is the sole contact with the national and European secretariats during the whole competition. Furthermore, every communication shall be done with one email address, which shall remain the same during the whole competition.

The Team Representative must be an architect or must have the architect status under the laws of a European country.

In specific cases and when mentioned on the site definition (see Synthetic Site File), the Team Representative can be an architecture, urban or landscape professional (architect, landscaper, urban planner, architect-engineer). In this case the team shall necessarily include at least one architect among the associates.

5.3 Non-Eligibility

No competition organizer and/or member of their families are eligible to take part in the competition on a site where he/ she is involved. Still, he/she can participate on another site in which he/she is not involved.

Are considered as organizers: members of the Europan structures and their employees; employees and contractors working for partners with sites proposed in the current session, members of technical committees, jury members and their employees.

6 Registration

Registration is done through the European website (www.europan-europe.eu) and implies the acceptance of the competition rules.

In compliance with French Act #78–17 of Jan. 6th, 1978, on Information Technology, Data Files and Civil Liberties the protection of personal data communicated during registration is guaranteed. With the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) introduced in May, 25th, 2018, you hold the right to access and modify the information regarding your participation, as well as the right to limit, transfer personal files and eliminate your personal data.

6.1 Europan 16 Website

The European website for the fifteenth session of the competition is available, from the opening date of the competition, at the following URL:
www.europan-europe.eu

It includes: the complete European rules for the Europan 16 competition; the session theme; the synthetic and complete site files grouped geographically or by themes; the juries' compositions; and an organisational chart of all the Europan structures.

The registration of the teams and the complete digital sending of the projects must be done via the European website.

6.2 Team Registration

Registration to the competition is done through the European website (Registration section) and implies the payment of a 100 Euro fee. There shall be no refund of the registration fee.

This fee includes one Complete Site Folder and the printing of the panels on a rigid support by the national secretariats. Payment is automatically confirmed on the website. The team can then access its personal area and download the Complete Site Folder for the selected site and the digital entry area.

Additional Complete Site Folders cost 50 Euro per site.

7 Information Available to Teams

7.1 Synthetic Site File (Available for Free)

The Synthetic Site Files present a summary vision of the site. They are available for free on the site presentation pages of the European website and help the teams to have a global view of the sites. This document is in English (and sometimes also in the site language).

The Synthetic Site Files provide: Good-quality iconographic documents: 1 map of the city or conurbation identifying the location of the study site and giving the graphic scale; 1aerial picture of the study site in its context identifying the location of the study site in red and the project site in yellow; 1 oblique aerial

picture (semi-aerial) of the study site; 1oblique aerial picture (semi-aerial) of the project site; 1 map of the area identifying the study site and the graphic scale; 1 map of the area identifying the project site and the graphic scale; at least 3 to 6 ground-level pictures showing the site's characteristic elements (topography, natural features, existing architecture);

Written information: the site scale – location – category; the profile of the team representative: architect or professional of the urban design; names of the town and place; population of the town and conurbation; surface area of the study and project sites; site representative, actor(s) involved, site owner(s); expected follow-up after the competition; the developer's and the city's specific objectives; strategic issues of the site; relation the session topic: "Living Cities"

7.2 Brief (Available for Free)

The Brief is a 20-to-25-pages illustrated document aiming at providing a better understanding of the main elements of the context through the existing elements as well as through the site's mutation issues and its environment. It is available for free on the site presentation pages of the European website in order to help the teams select their project sites. It includes the following elements:
A summary of the main elements of the site; the site specificities—site representative; other actors involved; profile of the team representative; expected skills among the team members; communication of the submissions; follow-up after competition;
A detailed analysis of the regional and urban context, putting in perspective the transformations of the city and the region and including all the elements on this scale that may have a current of future influence on the site: mobility networks, ecological elements, urban structure, landscape, etc., within the general framework of the theme „Living Cities"; A detailed analysis of the study site putting the transformation of the site (the site and its environment) in perspective and illustrating how the session topic is taken into account.

The following information is also provided: Role of the study site in the city policy, with details on the goals of the planning imagined by the municipality; Programmatic framework: planned transportation networks; public and private spaces to build and/or upgrade, with assumptions about planned functions and/or dimensions; goals for public spaces and infrastructures; and detailed explanations of the choices of the developers for each aspect of the programmes. A detailed analysis of the project site putting in perspective the site transformation and the way to make it again „liveable". The programmatic framework is also detailed, with: the spaces to build and/or regenerate, with functions and dimensions; the precise goals for public spaces and infrastructures; detailed explanations of the developers' intentions on the parts of the programmes to be included. The main elements linked to the europan 16 topic and their implication on uses and flexibility of spaces (built and public), natural elements and implementation processes of the mutation. A description of the sociocultural context of the site, the city and the region and its evolution to help participants better understand the local urban lifestyles and the citizens' rhythms.
A description of the economical context of the site, the city and the region and its evolution to help participants better understand the potential „Living Cities" to create.
This document is in English (and sometimes also in the site language).

7.3 Complete Site Folder

(Download available upon registration.)

The Complete Site Folders include detailed visual documents on the city, the site, its

context as well as plans, pictures and any graphic document required for the design process. They can be downloaded on the site presentation pages (after registration on the site and logging in to the website) and help the teams design their project on the chosen site. They include plans, pictures, diagrams and graphics of the following scales:

A. Territorial Scale – Conurbation
1 aerial picture of the city; 1 map on regional (urban geography) or urban scale (conurbation) with an appropriate graphic scale showing the major features structuring the area (buildings, networks, natural features).

B. Urban Scale – Study Site
1 aerial picture; at least 1 semi-aerial picture; at least 5 ground-level pictures showing the characteristic features of the study site: topography, natural features, existing architecture, etc.; plans with an appropriate scale; characteristic features: infrastructure, existing and future plans, etc.

C. Local Scale – Project Site

at least 3 semi-aerial pictures; at least 10 ground-level pictures showing the characteristic features of the project site: topography, natural features, existing architecture, etc.; plan(s) with an appropriate scale, showing: the project site's location within the study site and the plot divisions, constructions, natural elements, etc.; topographical map of the project site with an appropriate scale and, if necessary, characteristic features (buildings and natural features to be retained or not, etc.)

8 FAQ

8.1 Questions on the Sites

A meeting is organised on each site with the teams and the municipalities and/or developers to give a detailed picture of the issues related to the site. The national structure of the site then publishes a report in English in a maximum of two weeks after the meeting. This report is available online on the site presentation pages of the European website. In addition to this an FAQ section on sites is open on the European website for a limited period of time (see calendar). Only registered teams can submit questions.

8.2 Questions on the Rules

An FAQ section on rules is open on the European website for a limited period of time (see calendar).

9 Submission of Entries

9.1 Digital Submission

Digital submission is compulsory. It includes the 3 A1 panels (visual elements), 4 pages (max) illustrated text explaining the link between the project and the theme of the ongoing session as well as the implementation and building processes of the project, documents proving the eligibility of the team members and documents for the communication of the project.

The complete submissions shall be submitted before midnight (UTC+2) on September 17th, 2021, on the European website (Entry section). Failure to comply with the hereunder-mentioned requirements may, eventually, if the jury decides it, result in the disqualification of the team. The number of entries per site is available on the European website on the European map of the sites (column on the right).

9.2 Anonymity and Compulsory Content

The site name and the project title must be displayed on every document: panels,

illustrated text and communication documents. A specific code is automatically attributed to each project upon upload. The teams do not know this code, through which the jury members take note of the project. When anonymity is lifted, the teams' identities are revealed via an automatic link between the code and the team on the online projects database.

9.3 Language

The panels shall be either written in English or bilingual (English + the site language).

9.4 Items to Submit

Submissions include documents divided as follows: 3 vertical A1 project panels composed of visual elements of the project; 1 text presenting the ideas of the project (6 pages max.); Documents proving the eligibility of the team members; Documents for communication (3 images + a text of 800 signs, spaces included)

9.4.1 Panels Vertical A1 Format

Content: The 3 panels must: explain the urban ideas developed in the project with regards to the site issues and the thematic orientations of the session; develop the project as a whole, highlighting the architecture of the project, and particularly the relationship between the new developments and the site's existing context, including three-dimensional representations of the project; develop the method foreseen for the implementation process of the project.

All graphic and descriptive documents must have a graphic scale.

Technical Specifications:
PDF format; Vertical A1 (W 594 mm × H 841 mm) Maximum 20 MB; One box (W 60 mm × H 40 mm) is left blank in the upper left corner for the automatic insertion of the code; the name of the city appears next to it
Panels numbered from 1 to 3 in the upper right corner; the team is free to decide on the positioning of the proposal title

9.4.2 Text

Content: This text must present the ideas of the project and its links with the theme of the session but also the process and periods of implementation.

Technical specifications: 3 to 4 pages (maximum) with limited visuals; PDF format; Vertical A4 (W 210mm × H 297mm).

Documents to prove the eligibility of the team members Documents for the disclosure of names and verification of the validity of the proposals shall be uploaded as PDF's on the European website.

Personal information includes:

A. For the Team:
The team form and the declaration of author- and partnership, and of acceptance of the competition rules available online on the team's personal area; to be filled out and signed;

B. For Each Associate:
A copy of an ID document with a picture, providing evidence that they are under the age of 40 at the closing date for submission of entries (see calendar.)

A copy of their European degree as an architectural, urban or landscape professional (architect, landscaper, urban planner, or others…) or proof of such a status under the law of a European country.

C. For Each Contributor:
A copy of an ID document with a picture, providing evidence that they are under the

age of 40 at the closing date for submission of entries (see calendar.)

No other document than the ones above-listed is necessary.

Attention: The personal documents must be uploaded individually for each team member. Only team members that correctly registered and submitted their eligibility documents separately shall be considered within the team final composition.

The upload of one sole document with all the required information (copies of the ID's and degrees) will not be accepted.

9.4.3 Documents for Communication

Each project must be summered up as follows: One short text of 800 signs (spaces included, to be typed in during submission) developing the project ideas; 3 separate JPG images that symbolize the project (max. 1 MB per image).

9.4.4 Communication Video

Winners and Runners-up of the E16 session will make a communication video presenting their proposal and will be sent, after the announcement of the results on Monday, December 20th, 2021, to the European Secretariat before January 16th, 2022.

- length: 3 minutes (maximum);
- Format : MP4 video with the codec H.264;
- Language for the voice and/or texts: English;
- Content: the main ideas of the project linked to the theme of the session and the possible implementation process.

9.5 Control of the Submissions

Each team can check the upload of their projects on their online personal area on the European website. They can also – if needed – modify these documents until the deadline for submissions.

A period of 6 days is left open after the deadline for submissions (see Calendar) for the European secretariat to control the upload of each submission sent before the expiry of the deadline, as well as to correct the potential problems that might have appeared during the upload of the documents.

10 Results and Prizes

10.1 Results

All the results for Europan 16 (winners, runners-up, special mentions) are available online from December 20th, 2021, on the European website (Results section).

10.2 Winners' Prize

The authors of the Winner projects receive a reward of the equivalent of 12,000 Euro (all taxes included) in the currency of the site's country (at the exchange rate on the date of the announcement of the results). The organizers undertake to abide by the decisions of the national juries and to pay the reward within 90 days of the announcement of the results.

10.3 Runners-Up's Prize

The authors of the Runners-up projects receive a reward of the equivalent of 6,000 Euro (all taxes included) in the currency of site's country (at the exchange rate on the date of the announcement of the results). The organizers undertake to abide by the decisions of the national juries and to pay the reward within 90 days of the announcement of the results.

10.4 Special Mentions

A Special Mention can be awarded to a project considered innovative although not completely adapted to the site. The authors of such proposals do not receive a reward.

11 Communication of the Competition

11.1 Events

At the National Scale of the Organizing and Associate Countries
Promotion is organized around the competition launch. After the first jury round, an exhibition or online publication of all the submissions on one site can be organised, provided that it respects the teams' anonymity and it is correctly communicated beforehand. This communication shall be specified in the site brief.

The results announcement is accompanied with results ceremonies and presentations and/or workshops creating a first contact between the winning teams and the site representatives.

At the European Scale
A European event called Inter-Sessions Forum is the link between a finishing session and the beginning of the new one. This forum gathers the winning teams and site representatives of the finishing session and the site representatives of the new one. Working-groups are organized around the results and first implementation steps of the projects awarded during the last session.

A 500 Euro compensation is granted by the National Secretaries to each winning team (winners and runner-up) participating to the Forum to cover the journey and accommodation expenses.

11.2 Publications

The competition results can be the opportunity for publications in every organizing or associate country.

The European secretariat publishes a catalogue with the European results along with expert analyses. This catalogue is available either for free consultation or for sale on the European website. One exemplar is given for free to each winning teams (winner, runner-up, special mention).

11.3 Websites

Websites are open by the national and European structures to promote the current session, future events and archives (previous sessions, team portraits, etc.). At the European level, the European website allows participants to find information on all the sites, to register to the competition, to submit their projects and to know all the results of the current session on the European level.

12 Rights and Obligations

12.1 Ownership

All material submitted to the organizers becomes their property, including reproduction rights. The intellectual property rights remain the exclusive property of their author(s).

12.2 Exhibition and Publication Rights

Moratorium on Publication
Teams may not publish the documents submitted to the competition or disclose their names by using their project for any communication before the official announcement of the results. Any such publication may result in the disqualification of the team.

Publications
The organisers reserve the right to publish all the projects submitted to them after the official announcement of results. Projects are exhibited or published under the names of their authors.

12.3 Disputes

The Council of the European Europan Association, which is empowered to arbitrate, shall hear any dispute. In the event of jurisdiction, this will take place in the respective country.

13 List of Europan 16 Competitions

The Contact section of the European website shows the detailed national competition conditions country by country (number of sites and prizes, conditions and rules for implementation, etc.) as well as the composition of the National and European structures, (with names of the people involved).
The Jury section of the European website lists the members of the national juries.

14 Inter-Sessions Forum

Before the launch of the competition, the Inter-Sessions Forum represents the link between a finishing session and the beginning of the new one. This forum gathers the winning teams and site representatives of the finishing session and the site representatives of the new one.

This Forum, for Europan 15/16, took place as an online forum from January 18th to 22nd, 2021. The next Inter-Sessions Forum – presenting the Europan 16 results and the sites proposed for Europan 17 – is scheduled for November 2022.

15 Organization of the Juries

15.1 Technical Commissions

Each country sets up a Technical Commission, which does not judge but examines all the projects submitted in the country to prepare the work for the jury. Its members are appointed by the national structures and the list of members is communicated to the European Europan Association. This committee may include city representatives and national experts.

16 Juries

16.1 Composition

Each country sets up a jury, whose members are appointed by the national structure and approved by the European Europan Association.

The jury considers all the projects that comply with the competition rules and is sovereign in its judgement. In the event of non-compliance with the rules, it has discretion whether or not to disqualify the entrant.

According to the country, the jury consists of 7 (or 9) members, that are independent and are not linked to a site proposed to the competition and is constituted as follows:

2 representatives of the urban order (public or private) – or 3 in case of a 9-member jury;

4 representatives of the architectural and urban design (architects, landscapers, urban planners) – or 5 in case of a 9-member jury–, among which at least 2 architects;

1 public figure.

At least 2 out of the 7 members must be foreigners – at least 3 in the case of a

9-member jury. The national structure also appoints at least 2 substitute jury members, representatives of the architectural and urban design. The jury members are identified when the competition is launched and their names are listed for each country on the Jurys section of the European website.

Jury members may consult city and site representatives, but on no account may the latter have voting rights for the final selection of winners, runners-up and special mentions.

16.2 Working Methods and Evaluation Criteria

The jury's decisions are final in compliance with Europan rules. Before beginning to work, the jury receives recommendations from the European Association.

The jury meets in 2 separate sessions at different periods of the competition:

Local Jurys
At the beginning of this session, the jury appoints one of its members as chairman and agrees on its working method. Sites representatives can be integrated to this jury level and, in some countries, may participate to the selection of the shortlisted projects. The jury then studies the projects that do not comply with the rules and decide whether or not to disqualify them.

Later on, it assesses the projects on their conceptual content and the degree of innovation according to the Europan 16 topic and shortlists 20% maximum of the submitted projects.

National Jury
During the second round, the jury examines – on its own and independently– the shortlisted projects and points out the winners, runners-up and special mentions. The jury could assess the projects on basis of:

- the relationship between concept and site;
- the relevance to the questions raised by the topic and in particular to the issues of sustainable development and adaptability;
- the relevance of their programme to the general brief for their specific site;
- the potential for integration into an urban process adapted to the site's issue;
- the innovative nature of the proposed public spaces;
- the consideration given to the connection between different functions;
- the architectural and technical qualities

The jury finally writes a report giving the reasons for the choice made in relation to the requirements of the competition and the concerned sites.

Each country budget includes the equivalent of a Winner's and a Runner-Up's prize per site. Still, each entry is judged on its sole merits and the winning teams are not chosen on basis of an equal distribution between sites – the jury can therefore distribute prizes among entries up to its will or decide not to award all the prizes. In this case, the reasons shall be made public. The jury may single out projects for Special Mention. These projects are recognised by the jury as presenting innovative ideas or insights, yet not sufficiently suitable for the site. The authors of such projects do not receive any reward.

The jury can decide to replace a prize-winning project, if disqualified after the validation of competition participation, by another project if the quality is satisfactory.

16.3 Disclosure of Names

The projects assessed by the experts and juries are anonymous.

Once the decision of results is taken, the jury reveals the names of the winners, runners-up and special mentions. This operation is done

through the European database, which automatically links the codes of the projects and composition of teams.

16.4 Results Announcement

After disclosure of the names of the winning teams and following any adjustments to rankings that may prove necessary, the national secretariats ratify the decisions and disclose the names of all the participants.The European secretariat publishes the complete list of results online on December 20th, 2021.

16.5 European Comparative Analysis

16.5.1 European Comparative Analysis Committee

Between the two jury meetings the members of the European Scientific Committee meet to familiarize with the anonymous projects shortlisted by the different national juries. They compare the projects and classify them by theme on basis of the problems raised by the site categories and the proposed ideas. Under no circumstances does the European comparative analysis committee express a judgement – it simply proceeds to a classification of the projects. Its role is purely thematic and comparative.

16.5.2 Forum of Cities and Juries

Between the two national jury sessions a Forum gathers the national juries and site representatives to discuss the conclusions of the European comparative analysis committee. It aims at ensuring that the different experts participating in the evaluation process share a common culture. Projects remain anonymous throughout the procedures and are only identified by their code.

17 Implementations

17.1 Activities to Promote Implementations

The European Association and the national structures under- take to do what is required to encourage cities and/or developers (or their nominated promoters.) that have provided sites for the competition to engage the prize-winning teams for the operational phase.

The national structures undertake to organize a first meeting with the prize-winning teams within 90 days after the official announcement of results, between the partners of the cities and the clients. This meeting may take various forms and is the starting point for the site representatives to initiate implementation processes with the prize-winning teams on the ideas developed in the projects.

In some countries – and provided this step falls under public market regulations – a maximum of 3 winning teams can be involved in a study and/or workshop organised in partnership with the Europan national structure and the site's representatives, after which the latter – the city or another public official – chooses the team(s) for implementation. This new consultation work is paid.

The operational follow-up consists of a series of stages: preliminary studies, workshops, urban studies, operational studies, construction and within a contractual agreement. If necessary, they may be implemented on another site than the competition site as long as the ideas of the prize-winning projects are maintained. The prize-winning teams must comply with the professional rules that apply in the country where they are engaged to work. After the competition, the prize-winning teams must appoint one of their architect members as a representative, who is the sole spokesperson for the team with the municipalities and/or developers. A summary of the countries' legislations on the rules of professional

practice is available in the Contact section of the European website (Complete Card).

17.2 Websites

The Europan national structures present the implementations at the national level. The European secretariat presents completed or ongoing implementation processes on the European website (Exploration section).

17.3 Implementation Books and Booklets

The European secretariat coordinates European publications on implementations, showing winning and runner-up projects from previous sessions that were implemented or are still in progress.

Part 2

Competition Task

Preliminary Remarks

The very successful State Garden Show of 2014 gave the town of Schwäbisch Gmünd a strong design impulse and was anchored long-term in the awareness of the population and protagonists in the Stuttgart metropolitan region. This positive development was pursued further and reinforced by the Remstal Garden Show of 2019.

The objective is to make further use of this impetus and sustainably position the town of Schwäbisch Gemünd as the oldest Staufer town in the string of municipal pearls on the edge of the Stuttgart agglomeration area based on lots of fresh ideas and the provision of high-quality infrastructure. The town is examining the future of construction, housing, and work in an ambitious way. Two projects from Schwäbisch Gmünd are part of the IBA'27 Network of the Stuttgart urban region. The project 'Unbreak my Hardt', which developed the idea for a new conception from the Europan 13 competition conducted in 2015, and the project 'Wohnen in den Fehrle-Gärten' (Living in the Fehrle Gardens), which is located to the southwest of the new project site in the study site for this competition.

New ideas and approaches are sought for the area of the gateway to the town from the direction of Stuttgart, which has been given quite altered framework conditions as a result of the shifting of federal road B29 into a tunnel and the expansion of the Stadtgarten (Municipal Garden), with new spatial edges.

1 General Information About the Town

1.1 Location and Role of the Town in the Region, Traffic and Transport Infrastructure

Schwäbisch Gmünd is located on the western boundary of the Ostalbkreis (Ostalb District) and is part of the Stuttgart metropolitan region – which should not be confused with the smaller Stuttgart region.

1.1.1 Metropolitan Region

The boundaries of the Stuttgart metropolitan region (Fig. 1) have been oriented as an area of Baden-Württemberg that has hitherto been referred to as the 'Stuttgart agglomeration area'. It includes nearly all the municipalities in the Stuttgart region, and, in addition, the two regional centres of Heilbronn in the north and Tübingen/Reutlingen in the south, our medium-level centre of Schwäbisch Gmünd (with regional centre functions) in the east, as well as the eastern edge of the Northern Black Forest region in the west and the densification areas between these areas. Roughly 3.5 million people live in this region.

1.1.2 Public Transport

The transport link between Schwäbisch Gmünd and the regional rail network takes place via the Stuttgart–Aalen regional transport route of the Deutsche Bahn (German Railway) at hourly intervals, and every half hour in peak hours (43 minutes to Stuttgart Mail Railway Station (HBF)), and via the long-distance Stuttgart – Nuremberg IC (Intercity) route at two-hour intervals (34 minutes to Stuttgart Hbf). It is thus possible to reach the centre of the city of Stuttgart from the railway station in Schwäbisch Gmünd more quickly than from many districts of Stuttgart.

Public transport (ÖPNV) within Schwäbisch Gmünd is provided by eleven urban bus lines, whereby there also an overlapping with the also eleven regional bus lines for the larger urban districts at intervals of roughly 20 minutes. The central distribution hub is the central bus station (ZOB) at the railway station, whereby all the lines also stop at the old town centre.

Fig.1 Cooperation Space

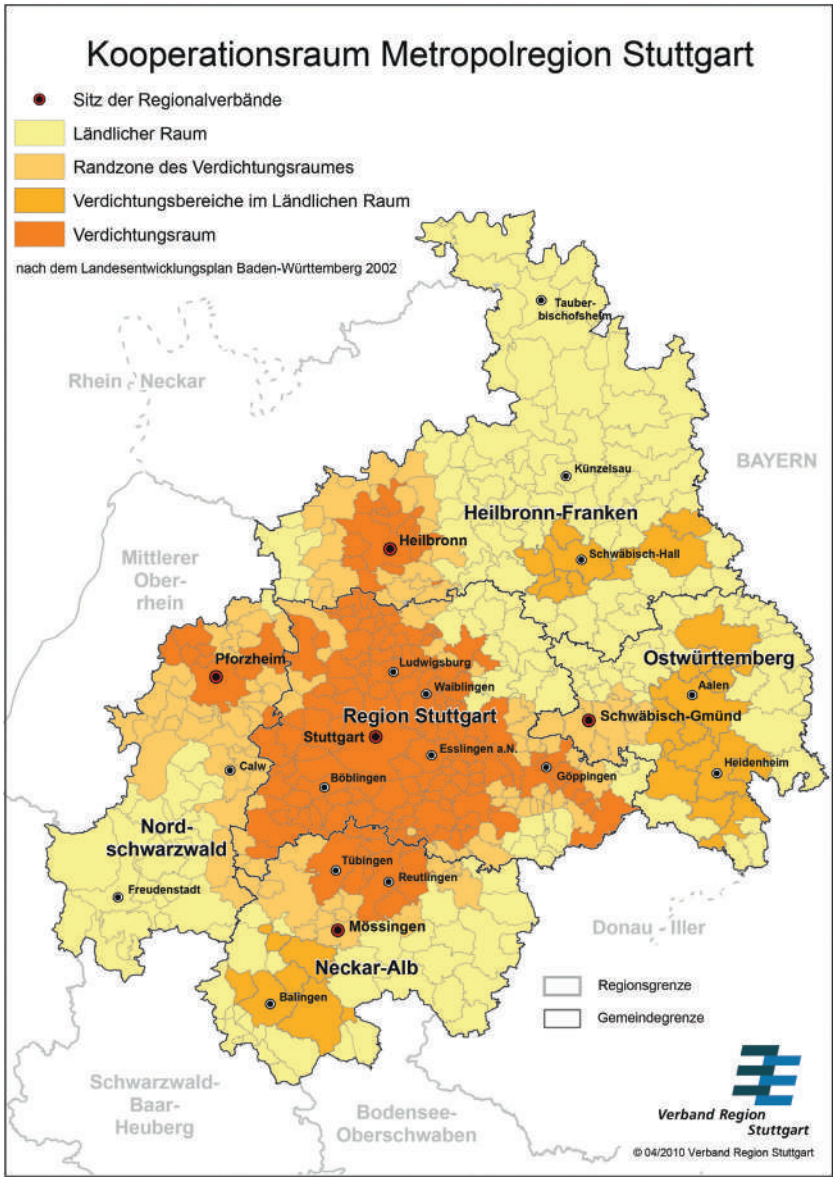
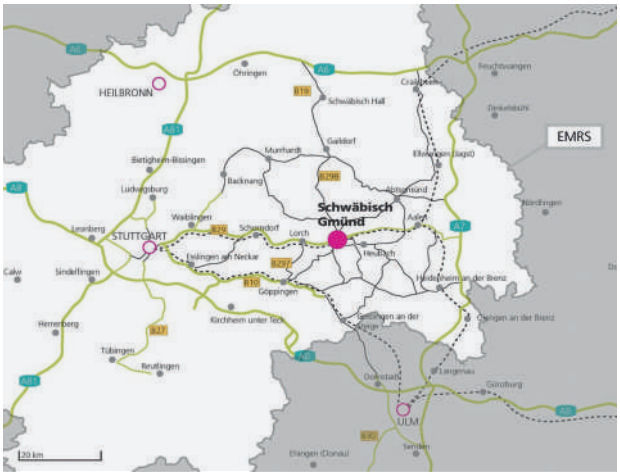


Fig. 2, Fig. 3



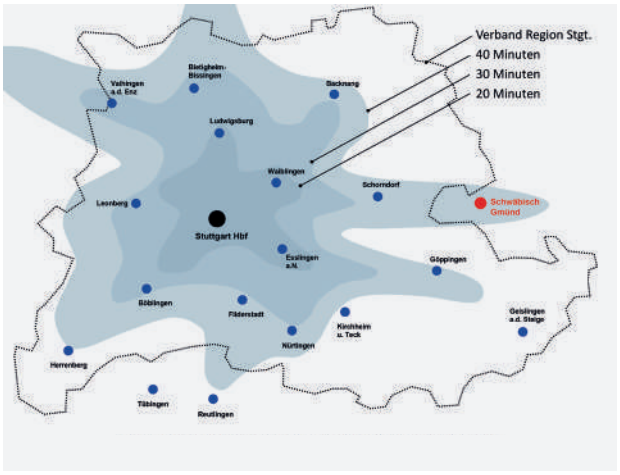


Fig. 3, Fig. 5

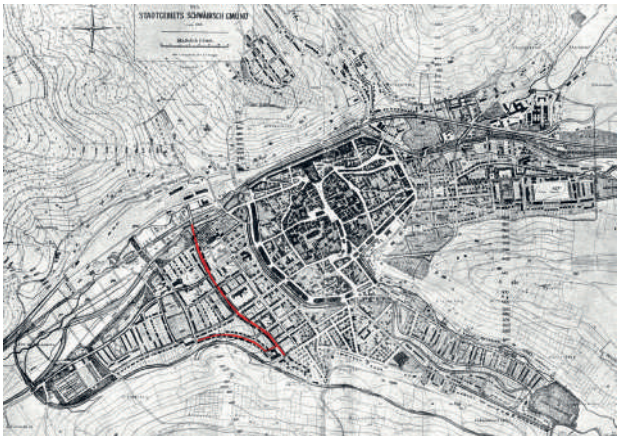


Fig. 2
Supraregional Transport Link

Fig. 3
Isochrone Map

Fig. 4
Municipal Building Plan of 1870

Fig. 5
„Stadtorganismus" (Urban Organism) by Paul Bonatz 1920

1.1.3 Individual Transport

Schwäbisch Gmünd is located at a linear distance of fifty kilometres to the east of Stuttgart, in the middle of the Remstal (Fig. 2). Schwäbisch Gmünd is very well connected to the supra-regional road network by two lanes in the direction of Stuttgart via federal road B29 from Waiblingen to Nördlingen. The 55 kilometres to the centre of the city of Stuttgart (Hbf, main railway station) can be travelled in 40 minutes. It takes 35 kilometres and/or 30 minutes (Fig. 3) to reach the A7 towards the east with the B29 via Aalen (25 kilometres/25 minutes), which, starting at Schwäbisch Gmünd, still has only one lane today. Within the town, it was possible to make private car transport more fluid with the 2.2-kilometre-long B29 Einhorn-Tunnel for bypassing the old town, which was completed in 2013, along with the construction of several roundabouts.

Bicycle traffic is increasing. In cooperation with the State Garden Show, a pedelec station and other Bike & Ride facilities at the railway station were created, and additional main urban cycling routes were signposted in addition to the existing touristic bicycle routes. In Schwäbisch Gmünd, there are currently four RegioRadStuttgart bicycle rental stations. Additional stations in the municipal area are in planning.

1.2 Historical Development

1.2.1 From the Romans to the Post-War Period Around 1949

In the second century CE, a protective wall erected by Roman legionaries, the Limes Germanicus (today a World Heritage Site), ran through the district of Schwäbisch Gmünd (Taubental). In the second half of the third century, the Alemanni assaulted this border formation and settled in the tracts of land evacuated by the Romans. The Gamundias monastic cell, which was first mentioned in documents in a charter for the St. Denis monastery near Paris that was falsified in the ninth century to the year 782, probably belonged to the possessions of this monastery in dominions of the Alamanni.

In 1162, the polity already had a town charter, which was awarded to it during the reign of King Conrad III (1138–52), as the thus oldest Staufer city. After the fall of the Staufers, the town succeeded in achieving the status of a Reichsstadt (free city) in several phases. Starting in the seventeenth century, gold and silver craft was the predominant guild. During the time of the Reformation, the town remained orthodox and is still mostly Catholic today.

In the mid-eighteenth century (ca. 1730–70), the town once again experienced a great cultural renaissance: the opulent interiors of the churches, patrician houses converted by the municipal architect Johann Michael Keller, on the Marktplatz in particular, continue to characterize the town's late-Baroque flair.

The Rems Railway, which opened in 1861, facilitated new economic initiatives and brought prosperity. In the founding years of the German Empire (until ca. 1890), the town was able to take first place in silverware production in Germany (Fig. 4). Starting in 1929, mass unemployment began to occur in the silver and gold industry in Schwäbisch Gmünd (Fig. 5). In 1934, Schwäbisch Gmünd was declared a distressed area. However, thanks to the settlement of various industries in the town, it was possible to gradually reduce unemployment by the beginning of the 1940s.

Schwäbisch Gmünd itself was not destroyed in the Second World War and was taken by American troops on 20 April 1945. It was after this war that Schwäbisch Gmünd had to meet its greatest challenge: by the end of the

1940s, the remaining nearly 25,000 residents of the town were supplemented by over 8,000 displaced persons, who thus comprised one fourth of the residents. These displaced Germans in part brought their own industry along with them. In particular the glass and jewellery industry from Gablonz (today Jablonec) and Silesia settled in Schwäbisch Gmünd.

1.2.2 Modern Changes in the Post-War Period as of 1950

The face of the old town of Schwäbisch Gmünd changed in the 1970s and 1980s. The old barracks – the former Dominican monastery – were converted into the town's cultural centre (Prediger), a new municipal hall was erected in the historical ambiance of the Stadtgarten with its small Rococo castle, the old hospital (Spital zum Heiligen Geist) was given new administrative tasks and geriatric care was added, and the massive former Amtshaus (administration building) was put to use as the municipal library. In addition, the late-Romanesque Johanniskirche (first mentioned in 1225) and the Heilig-Kreuz-Münster – the largest hall church in Southern Germany – large portions of which were constructed by the Parler family in the fourteenth century, and which was renovated once again in recent decades, continue to represent the immutable historical lines of tradition in the town.

The fall of the Iron Curtain in 1989 and German unification in 1990, along with the withdrawal of American forces and the influx of citizens of the former East Germany and ethnic Germans from the former states of the Eastern Bloc, with refugees from the Balkans in the years that followed, brought about radical changes in the population structure in Schwäbisch Gmünd. In the meantime, roughly 35% of the inhabitants of the town have a migrant background and/or are foreigners. In the town centre and on the Hardt, they represent approximately 50% of the population. As after the war with the displaced Germans, vast integrative capacity is once again necessary.

The most recent major event for the town was the State Garden Show of 2014, with a complete redesign of the western entrance to the town between the railway station and the historical old town (Fig. 6).

The Staufer Johanniskirche, the Münster erected by the Parler family, one of the most beautiful market squares in Southern Germany, and the St. Salvator rock-hewn and pilgrimage church erected by Caspar Vogt in 1617, which sits enthroned over the railway station on the Nepperberg, were the pearls and symbols of the town up to that point in time. Two new landmarks have now been added with the futuristic building of the 'Gold and Silver Forum' at the location where the Josefsbach creek flows into the River Rems (Fig. 7) and the 'Himmelsstürmer' in the Wetzgau landscape park, in addition to the Weleda company's largest herb garden in Germany.

The extensive changes that resulted from the urban restructuring can easily be recognized based on a before and after comparison of the Villa Hirzel in the new Remspark (Figs. 8 and 9). With the Remstal Garden Show of 2019, it was the first of its kind in Germany as a whole: sixteen towns and municipalities cooperatively staged the nature of the Remstal, and the restructuring of the town was carried forward with the Green Belt ring.

Today, Schwäbisch Gmünd has roughly 61,000 residents and good perspectives for obtaining new residents from the other municipalities of the Ostalb (district), and is increasingly becoming an up-and-coming small city on the periphery of the Stuttgart metropolitan region.

Fig. 6 New street layout

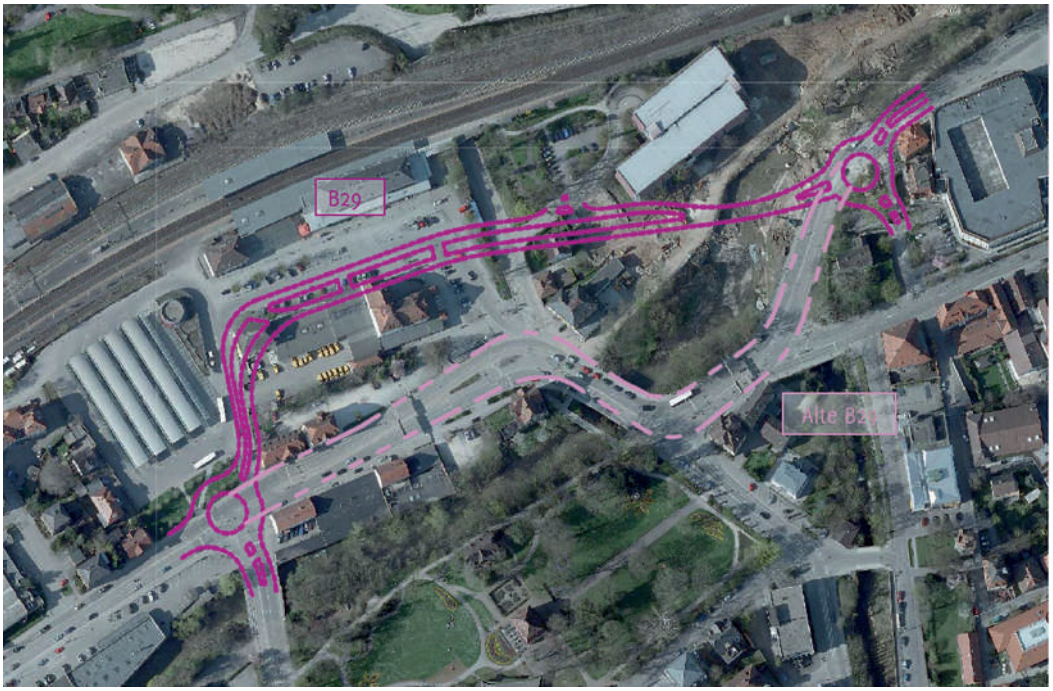


Fig. 7 Outfall of Josefsbach into the River Rems

Fig. 8 Villa Hirzel before urban restructuring

Fig. 9 Villa Hirzel after urban restructuring

1.3 Economic Structure

Machine building, and in particular automotive suppliers, has become an important mainstay for the medium-sized structure of the local economy. The basis was provided by the watch industry (Bifora) that developed from the jewellery industry, and then, since 1937, by ZF Lenksysteme GmbH, with its steering systems for trucks. On 1 January 2015, ZF, the biggest employer in Schwäbisch Gmünd, with 5,500 employees, was taken over by Robert Bosch GmbH. The Forschungsinstitut für Edelmetalle und Metallchemie (FEM, Institute for Precious Metals Research) can also be traced back to the jewellery industry. In the post-war period, Erhard & Söhne developed the world-renowned Unimog (all-wheel drive mid-sized trucks), and the Schleich company in the district of Herlikofen is a toy producer known around the world for its plastic figures. Weleda is active in the field of pharmaceutics and personal care products and a global brand. One of the largest employers is the biggest Germany health insurance company, Barmer GEK.

The Stiftung Haus Lindenhof is one of the biggest social enterprises in the region. Other large employers are the tax authority with its school of finance along with the municipal utilities and the town and district administration.

1.4 Education and Science

Schwäbisch Gmünd has many supra-regional educational institutions, including the Pädagogische Hochschule (University of Education), the Hochschule für Gestaltung (School of Design), and the Hochbegabtengymnasium (State Grammar School for the Highly Gifted). The town's scientific and educational institutions are thus distributed for the most part among three sites (Fig. 10). These sites include the Wissensgürtel West (western band of science) in the extension area of the old town that was created during the Wilhelmine era in Germany, with, for instance, the Forschungsinstitut für Edelmetalle und Metallchemie (FEM), the Hochschule für Gestaltung, and various secondary schools.

The university park in the area of the former Bismarck barracks in the eastern part of the town, where, for example, the Hochbegabtengymnasium is also located. The third site is the Bettringen Campus with the Pädagogische Hochschule, the vocational training centre, and the Landesanstalt für die Entwicklung der Landwirtschaft und der ländlichen Räume (LEL, Regional Office for the Development of Agriculture and Rural Areas) on the Hardt, as well as the Strümpfelbach school centre at the southern foot of the slope of the Hardt district.

1.5 Population Development

As of the beginning of the fourteenth century with the second ring of the town wall, the old town with now 44 hectares accommodated an average of 5,000 inhabitants within its walls until the start of industrialization at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Along with the surrounding villages, which have today been incorporated into the town, an average of 10,000 inhabitants lived within the present-day urban area.

In the roughly 70 years until the foundation of the German Reich in 1871, the population of the core of the town doubled to roughly 10,000 residents and the development of settlements leapt over the boundary of the town wall. The number of residents reached a total of 20,000 in 1905 and Schwäbisch Gmünd became a 'Mittelstadt' (medium-sized town). Due to the First World War and mass unemployment, the number of residents then stagnated under the Nazi regime at roughly a bit over 20,000. Shortly after the Second World War, in 1946, the

Fig. 10

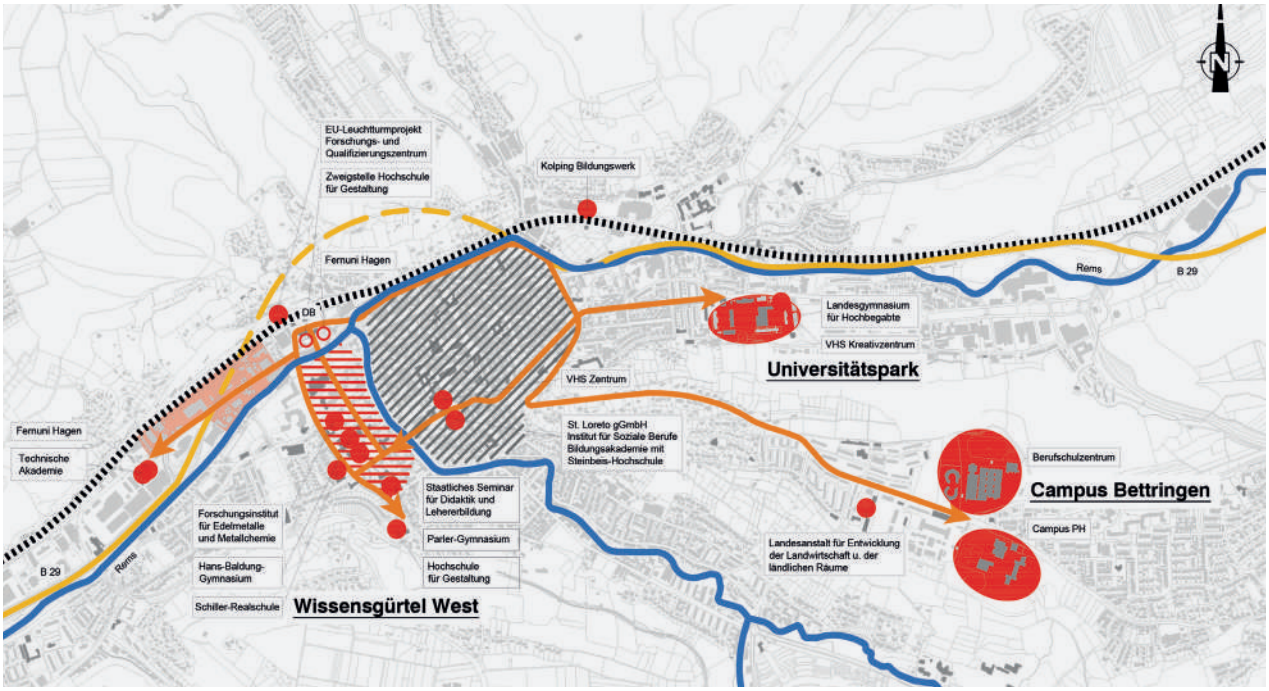
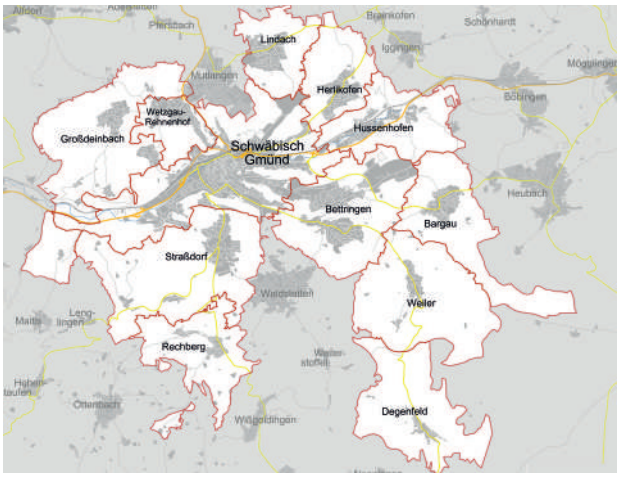


Fig 11, Fig. 12



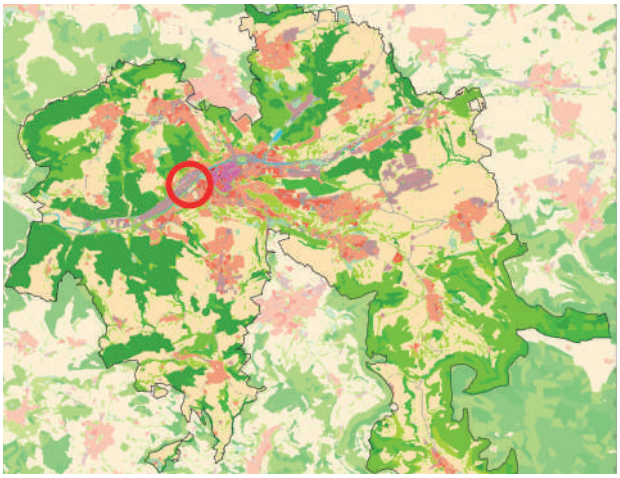


Fig. 13

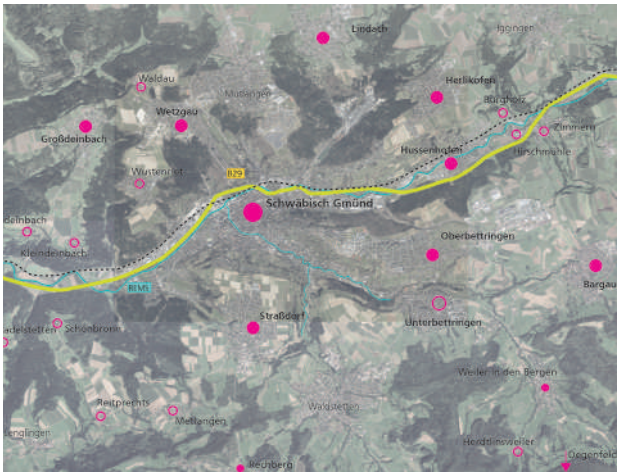


Fig. 10
Master plan of universities and science sites

Fig. 11
Urban districts

Fig. 12
Land use plan

Fig. 13
Municipal area and urban structure plan

number of residents swelled to over 30,000 as a result of the influx of refugees. In 1949, the town had 33,578 residents, including 8,279 displaced persons.

The era of the 'Economic Miracle', the influx of guest workers, and the restructuring of the town saw the population grow to ca. 60,000 inhabitants by the 1970s. The influx from the east after the fall of the Wall in 1989 caused the population to grow temporarily to 65,000 residents in the mid-1990s, to then decrease to ca. 58,000 residents by 2012. In the run-up to the State Garden Show, with a view to an increase in the number of residents in the metropolitan region, residential areas were once again earmarked more intensively, predominantly in the districts of the town, and, by 2013, this strategy had brought about a reversal in the trend. In the years from 2013 to 2018, the town of Schwäbisch Gmünd registered an increasingly rapid growth in residents, so that it once again reached a population of 61,000 in 2018.

Population development as a diagram

Year	Residents	Year	Residents
1810	5.341	1939 [1]	21.940
1823	5.650	1950 [1]	33.448
1843	7.152	1961 [1]	44.587
1855	7.589	1970 [1]	44.407
1861	8.298	1980	56.901
1871	10.739	1990	60.081
1880 [1]	13.774	1995	63.734
1890 [1]	16.817	2000 [2]	61.946
1900 [1]	18.699	2005 [2]	61.350
1910 [1]	21.312	2010 [2]	59.654
1925 [1]	20.406	2019 [2]	61.137

[1] Census result [2] State Statistical Office Baden-Württemberg

The current number of residents of Schwäbisch Gmünd is 62,017 (status: 31 December 2020, Town of Schwäbisch Gmünd).

1.6 Municipal, Settlement, and Landscape Structure

1.6.1 Landscape Space

With 113.78 km², Schwäbisch Gmünd is a municipality with a large area and is located in the middle section of the Remstal in an opening in the valley where the Welzheim Forest, part of the Swabian-Franconian Forest, otherwise extends up close to the valley from the north and the foothills of the eastern Swabian Alb from the south. The urban core is situated at an altitude of ca. 320 metres, whereby there are roughly 500 metres in altitude from the deepest point on the River Rems at the municipal boundary at Lorch, at 290 metres above mean sea level, to the highest point on the Kalten Feld (Swabian Jura), at 781 metres above mean sea level. A large number of streams flow into the town centre, the largest of them, the Josefsbach creek, into the Rems, which is where the name Gamundia/Gmünd also comes from (Fig. 11).

1.6.2 Settlement Area

The settlement area of the urban core of Schwäbisch Gmünd extends for the most part along the River Rems. In the Middle Ages and until roughly 1800, the surrounding town wall with its numerous towers (six of twenty-three of them have been preserved) and (monastery) churches shaped the urban landscape. Starting from the old town, the town grew in particular towards both the west and the east with the beginning of industrialization and settled the floodplain of the River Rems and the Josefbach. This development found its high point with the multi-storey residential buildings of the 1960s and 70s and also left its traces in the larger districts of Bettringen, Strassdorf, and Grossdeinbach. The settlement development subsequently took up a larger amount of area with neighbourhoods of single-family houses for young families, both in the urban core and the districts of the

town. This trend has continued, whereby an intensified development of commercial brownfields with denser modern residential construction can be found in addition in the old town and the Wilhelmine era belt (Fig. 13).

Ten of the eleven districts of the town are found in and on the slopes of the Swabian Forest and the Swabian Alb to the north and south of the River Rems, where ca. 50% of the population is lives. Five districts together also have ten larger sub-districts and numerous smaller places of residence (Fig. 11).

The two southernmost districts of the town, Rechberg and Degenfeld on the Swabian Alb, are local recreation areas shaped by tourism for the population of the surrounding regions as far as Stuttgart. Rechberg is a local recreation destination around one of the Drei Kaiserberge (with the pilgrimage church and the Hohenrechberg ruins) as well as the Schurrenhof leisure time centre with camp-site, which is popular far beyond the region. Degenfeld is known for its ski jump facility (training site for the current Olympic champion Carina Vogt) and the traditional glider area near the Kalten Feld on the Hornberg.

2 Situation and Planning Guidelines

Schwäbisch Gmünd is able to look back at very dynamic economic development in the past ten years prior to the corona pandemic. To promote the town, municipal politics decided on a diverse program, and has pursued it in a targeted manner with the 'Gmünd 2020 – Agenda für eine nachhaltige Stadtentwicklung' (agenda for sustainable urban development) strategic process. This concept for the future, which was decided on in 2013, has since then been the basis for political action. For the town, important building blocks in the concept are citizen engagement and a sense of togetherness, urban restructuring, education, a residential housing offensive, the compatibility of family and work, and an integration concept. Schwäbisch Gmünd has changed positively in various ways as a result of these building blocks. Besides visible changes like those to the townscape, there have also been invisible ones, which can, however, be sensed from the outside, and have also been confirmed within the framework of studies. During this time, Schwäbisch Gmünd has not only increased its name recognition, but can also make reference to positive developments based on many statistics. The number of residents has continued to grow and the number of wage earners has increased over-proportionally.

With the beginning of the new decade and the pandemic, the town and society are facing new challenges. The topic of 'sustainability' along with climate protection and new forms of mobility, the megatrend of 'digitization', and an offensive for the local economy and jobs are topics that must be integrated into a new overall strategy as additional building blocks.

A transformation council consisting not only of leaders of the administration and political decision-makers, but also decision-makers from business and science, including experts from organizations, business, science, and education was thus organized in Schwäbisch Gmünd with this objective in mind. One aim must be developing future-oriented, vibrant districts for living and housing and for new models and forms of work.

Another is to show how transforming underused and fallow areas such as, for instance, the western entrance to the town, into vibrant, diverse, and sustainable areas can be achieved. A site that was already initially used commercially (Zapp, Bifora), with a design subordinated to car transport and commerce, needs a concept for the future that includes feasible steps.

2.1 Urban Development Objectives

With 'Gmünd 2020', an integrated urban development concept was created for the town as a whole. As a future urban renewal area based on the building code, the project site is closely intertwined with the development planning for the entire town (urbanization strategy).

The objective is sustainable development, a transformation that takes cultural, ecological, and economic concerns into account to an equal extent, ensures urban development qualities, and takes climate protection into consideration with the use of innovative technologies.

In order to also be able to achieve the urban renewal objectives with a view to the vital urban development funding by the federal and state government in as a timely a manner as possible, a close interweaving and coordination with the Europan competition procedures is important. An application for acceptance in an urban-development funding program is supposed to be submitted for the program year 2022, while the 'Western Gateway' funding program should be concluded in 2021. In the spring of 2021, the municipal council is supposed to decide on initiating the preparatory examinations required for this as well as the commissioning of a redevelopment agency. These preparatory examinations are the basis for acceptance in an urban-development funding program. The preparatory examinations are planned for the summer of 2021. The results anticipated from the Europan 16 idea competition are intended to be a fundamental component of the urban development framework planning.

2.2 Study Site

The eastern boundary of the study site is situated at the boundary of the old town along the Josefsbach creek. It includes the old urban villas on Uferstrasse and the old Pädagogische Hochschule, in which both educational facilities and the local police station are housed. In the area where the Josefsbach flows into the River Rems, the old municipal garden, a green area with a small Rococo castle and the Stadtgarten seminar and conference centre, is situated to the south of the river.

To the north of the River Rems, the new Stadtgarten borders the Gamundia development, which was created in the framework of the urban restructuring after the relocating of the federal road into a tunnel as part of the State Garden Show. The Gamundia development forms the southern conclusion of the railway station square, which forms the most important hub for public transport with the railway station building and the central bus station. To the north of the railway line, one finds the youth zone with the EULE, which is connected with a workshop in the Haus Lindenhof and the climbing hall of the Deutscher Alpenverein (DAV, German Alpine Association). The Nepperberg with the St. Salvator and the beginning of the Taubental, with the recreational forest as one of Schwäbisch Gmünd's most important local recreation destinations, forms the green conclusion in the northern area. Located further to the west on the Nepperberg is the Vogelhof settlement area with the former Salvator brewery.

Up to now, the railway line has formed a dividing line in the urban space that can only be crossed at a few points. Between the River Rems and the railway line along Lorcher Strasse, the area is strongly shaped by commercial use and the previously quite heavy traffic load. The areas have great urban development potentials, since they are conveniently situated and would be conceivable for extremely diverse uses. To the south of the River Rems, somewhat protected by the green space along the river, residential

development dominates, a rather small-scale settlement structure that was created in the post-war period. The sports areas in the extension of the indoor swimming pool and the private garden areas of the senior citizens facilities of St. Anna and St. Vinzenz form an extensive green corridor in this area. Important building blocks and structures will be described in detail in the points that follow.

2.3 Utilization and Development

2.3.1 Railway Station and Central Bus Station

The railway station building was erected in 1861 as the twenty-second station when the Rems Railway was being constructed based on the standardized planning concept by the architect G. v. Morlok in collaboration with the building authority of Schwäbisch Gmünd. The two-and-a-half-storey building of Stuben sandstone masonry is listed. Its place in the history of the architecture of the nineteenth century is based on Morlok's personality as an architect.

He was one of the most important railway builders and a well-known church architect. The railway station building, which is still in operation today, is a station on the Rems Railway, which is connected with the Stuttgart–Nuremberg railway network and is a stop for Intercity trains and a continuous connections, which means that the Stuttgart main railway station can be reached in 35 minutes.

The central bus station of Schwäbisch Gmünd is located directly next to the railway station. From here, bundled under a large canopy, it is possible to reach all the districts by bus.
In the direct surroundings of the railway station, one finds several bike stands, which are supposed to be supplemented by new, roofed bicycle parking facilities to the north of the bus station.

2.3.2 Senior Citizens Centre

To the south of the River Rems adjacent to Hauberweg, one finds the facilities of St. Anna and St. Vinzenz's centre for the hearing impaired, with their extensive open areas. Assisted living and nursing facilities are offered here. An expansion of the nursing facilities is currently in planning.

2.3.3 The Schwerzeralle Residential Development and the Fehrle Gardens

In the 'In den Fehrle-Gärten' residential district, a project in the IBA'27 network, on the former site of the Fehrle plant nursery in Schwäbisch Gmünd, the Landes-Bau-Genossenschaft Württemberg eG, which is based in Stuttgart, is planning roughly 167 cooperative rental units for all generations, with a child-care centre, a district meeting place / café as well as housing for senior citizens and apartments for people with disabilities and mobile social services in cooperation with the Stiftung Haus Lindenhof. Projects in the Stuttgart region can benefit in terms of content from this residential district with respect to a reorientation of cooperative housing construction.

2.3.4 Lorcher Strasse Commercial Area

The western section of Lorcher Strasse starting at Vogelhofstrasse is a commercial area. A large site of the Bosch company, the biggest employer in Schwäbisch Gmünd, is located here, among other businesses. Next to it, at the intersection of federal road B29, one finds the Eurotech company, a foundry with corresponding emissions. Other small enterprises, car dealerships and retail are found farther to the west.

2.3.5 Zapp – A Piece of Industrial History

The Zapp men's coats factory was established by the brothers Otto and Rudolf Zapp

in Wiesbaden in 1922 and relocated to Stuttgart due to the occupation of the Rhineland. The first subsidiary was erected in Schwäbisch Gmünd in 1937, and production was moved completely to Schwäbisch Gmünd in 1939.

Due to its one-sided economic structure in the jewellery and precious metals industry, Schwäbisch Gmünd was affected particularly severely by the global economic crisis and was declared a distressed area in 1934. The new settlement of larger industrial operations, including the Friedrichshafen gear factory and Zapp, brought relief. From its beginnings as a factory for coat cloth, Zapp developed an extensive product range in the field of high-quality menswear. The company had up to 380 employees. The structural crisis in the textile industry resulted in the company's ceasing production at the end of the 1980s. In 1998, the town of Schwäbisch Gmünd converted the former men's coats factory into a business and start-up centre.

The town thus already began promoting business start-ups twenty years ago. A total of roughly 3,500 m^2 of rental space is available. Approximately thirty companies make use of this offer today. In May 2017, the 'ZAPPA', a new location for art, culture, and music, which is supposed to serve as a platform for producers of music and culture from various areas, was also created on the Zapp site.

Concerts, parties, performances, audio plays, theatre, workshops, readings, poetry slams, jam sessions, exhibitions, and much more can take place here in professional and authentic surroundings.

2.3.6 The Vogelhof District with the Former Salvator Brewery – A Place Worth Preserving

The Vogelhof settlement is grouped around the former Salvator brewery. The brewery for top-fermented beer was erected on the 'Vogelhof' in Schwäbisch Gmünd in 1882 by Leonhard Bantleon. Beer was only brewed there until 1914. The building and the open spaces were then used as a plant nursery. The brewery consists of a half-timbered construction residential house with colourful clinker and a protruding roof with carved purlin profiles. The four-storey brewery building is also a clinker structure. The building ensemble has also served as a set for television films. In the lower section of the settlement, there are residential buildings in the 'Heimat-style' of the 1930s, gable-fronted and with sharply protruding roofs. The five buildings, all of which are gable-fronted or have gable dormers, on Vogelhofstrasse, an access road that crosses under the railway line, come from the beginning of the twentieth century and form a group of structures designed in an axial-symmetric manner towards the street, with alternating gable and eave fronts. These five buildings are situated within the project site on its western edge.

2.3.7 The Salvator District with Rock-Hewn Chapel – A Place Worth Preserving

The rock caves on the Nepperberg, which have probably existed since antiquity, inspired the construction of a two-storey rock-hewn chapel. St. Salvator, with a lower and upper chapel partially hewn into the rock, which was developed into its current form starting in 1617 by the master church builder Caspar Vogt, is a pilgrimage complex that is unique in Germany, with its Mount of Olives tableau also hewn from the rock, the chaplain house, two additional chapels, and a Way of the Cross with wayside shrines and small chapel houses. The site, which is also accentuated topographically, produces direct visual and associative references to other important places of faith in the landscape space of the town and its wider surroundings (Fig. 14).

Fig. 14, Fig. 15

Fig. 16

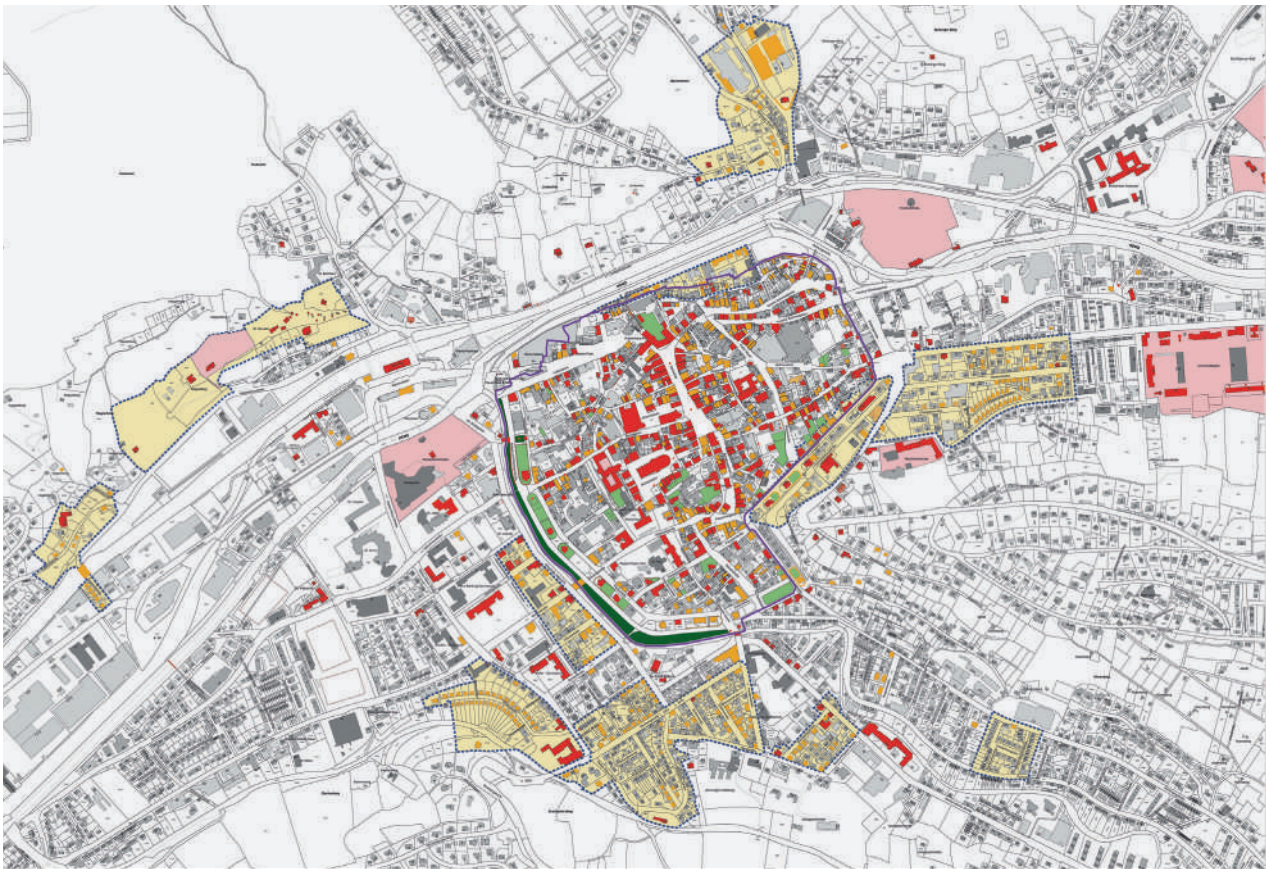


Fig. 14
Salvator district

Fig. 15
Villa Seitz and
Buhlsche Ville

Fig. 16
Urban districts
worth preserving
– general plan

Two important villas that have an impact on the space of the valley are situated to the west of the Salvator site. First, the residential house of Johannes Buhl, the 'Swabian father of gymnastics', which was erected in the country house style in 1863, with its symbolic, glazed veranda, which protrudes from the house on an arcade of wooden supports. At a distance from it, the current 'Villa Seiz' art gallery, which was constructed as a villa for a factory owner in 1911, with richly handcrafted elements.

The tall, gabled house, which sits on a natural stone base that is integrated into the slope by means of a large terrace, forms an eye-catcher on the Nepperberg. The residential houses situated at a quarter of the height below this development were created along Salvatorstrasse until very recently (Fig. 15). The urban district of Schwäbisch Gmünd that is worth preserving is presented in the general plan of Fig. 16.

2.3.8 EULE – Schwäbisch Gmünd's Knowledge Workshop and Youth Zone

With the planning and realization of the 'youth zone', the unused freight yard site was turned into a vital location for the younger generation in 2014. The focal point is the 'EULE' (EUropäisches LEuchtturmprojekt or European flagship project), an innovative 'laboratory' for research, experimentation, and knowledge for children and young people, a purpose that is also symbolized by its striking, provocative architecture consisting of 'stacked' wooden containers.

In the years since its start in connection with the State Garden Show of 2014, the EULE knowledge workshop in Schwäbisch Gmünd has become a true model of success and established itself as an important, extracurricular place of learning. At the EULE, the focus is on one's own activities, doing things oneself, and 'understanding'. Workshops, laboratories, and multifunctional spaces for metal- and woodwork, electrical and control engineering, and many other thematic areas oriented towards the fields of work and products of companies in the region are available for this on an area of over 1000 m².

Children and young people experience and comprehend technical phenomena by means of tests and experiments that they conduct themselves. When building products with their own hands or in exchange with professionals from companies, they experience what they can achieve with the right technology.

On both sides, diverse sports facilities and training areas such as a hard court for football, two beach volleyball courts, obstacle courses for bikes, a traffic training area, equipment for climbing and jumping, et cetera are situated along the railway tracks.

DAV climbing hall
The 'Kletterschmiede' (climbing facility) of the Deutscher Alpenverein supplements the youth zone with an additional sports option. The sports facility offers a climbing surface with an area of 1,200 square metres and a wall height of up to 16 metres. There is also a bistro for gastronomy.

2.4 Green and Open Spaces

Natural areas and public open spaces are becoming more and more important and have to fulfil an ever-greater range of functions. They offer space close to home to spend time and move in the open air. Specifically during the pandemic, it has become clear how important spaces that are easy to reach and accessible for all are, and that such spaces should not be too small. Unsealed and shaded areas, in the optimal case also in connection with water are also gaining in importance with respect to climate change and climate adaptation. Areas for

all these different requirements are found in the study site.

2.4.1 Taubental Recreational Forest

The 'Erholungswald Taubental' (Taubental recreational forest) has an area of ca. 107 hectares. It contributes to the special protection of the forest area for the population and the design and maintenance they direct at it. With the forest experience trail, it has a near-natural attraction for citizens and visitors. On the occasion of the State Garden Show of 2014, the NATURATUM forest experience trail was completely redesigned and supplemented. New experience-oriented stations and a 350-metre-long marble track clearly present the diverse relationships between people and the forest.

2.4.2 The Nepperberg

In the broader urban development surroundings, the green slope of the Nepperberg in the north is a striking backdrop and studded with various monuments: found there, for instance, is an impressive studio building with an art gallery in a representative villa from 1911 with echoes of Art Nouveau (Nepperberg 4), the 'Villa Seiz'; a service agency in a summer house in the country house style from 1863 (Nepperberg 2), the 'Buhlsche Villa'; and the over 400-year-old Baroque St. Salvator pilgrimage shrine with a rock-hewn church that catches the eye from the valley.

2.4.3 The River Rems, Remspark, and the Stadtgarten

The River Rems flows in this area in a deep-lying riverbed, which means that there is no danger of flooding for the neighbouring areas. The depth and amount of water in the River Rems is not sufficient for water sports or bathing. The 5-metre-wide buffering strips of land along the shoreline within Schwäbisch Gmünd starting from the upper edge of the escarpment must be retained, which means that no structural installations are permitted here. The old Stadtgarten with its abundance of large, old trees, flowerbeds, and fountains is located to the southeast of the River Rems. The new extension of the Stadtgarten adjoins Remspark to the northeast of the River Rems. There is access to the river here, with many seating options accessible via several steps.

2.4.5 Green Belt

The Green Belt with its cultural-historical, cultural-commercial, ecological, and horticultural highlights, including the Salvator as the 'sacred mountain' as well as the Buhlsche Villa and Villa Seiz on the Nepperberg, is supposed to be given a ring road via the Gleispark district, and from there a 'green leap' over the railway at the site where the tunnel is located, with a connection towards the south to the southern bank of the Rems. From the southern bank of the Rems, the Green Belt leads via the Allee des Hauberweg to Remspark and further on back to the railway station square, and via the railway station terraces to Salvatorpark and the Nepperberg.

2.4.6 Sports Areas

To the south of the River Rems, roughly in the middle of the study site, there are several sports fields, including the Normania Stadium, which can be accessed by sports clubs. The adjacent large sports hall and indoor swimming pool round off the range of sports facilities here.

2.5 Environmental Concerns/Climate-Adapted Land Management

The town of Schwäbisch Gmünd has had a climate analysis conducted for the entire urban area, since the development of settlements has a significant influence on the increasing heat stress in the city in the summer in the course of climate change.

Fig. 17a Climate analysis map

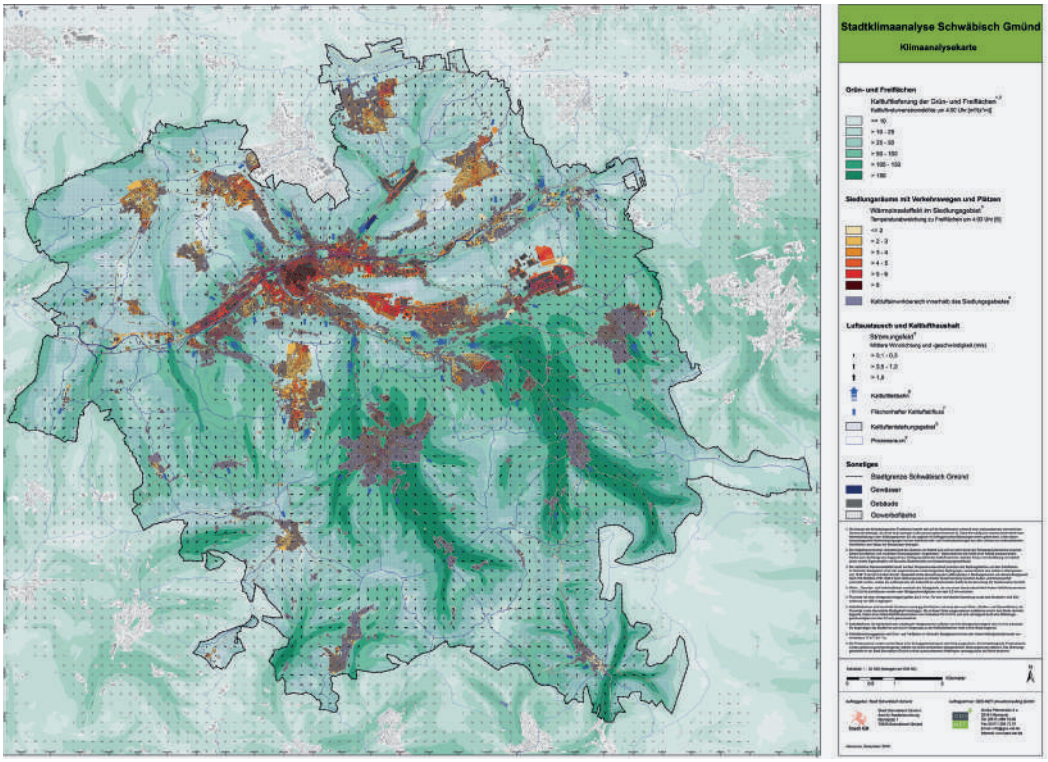
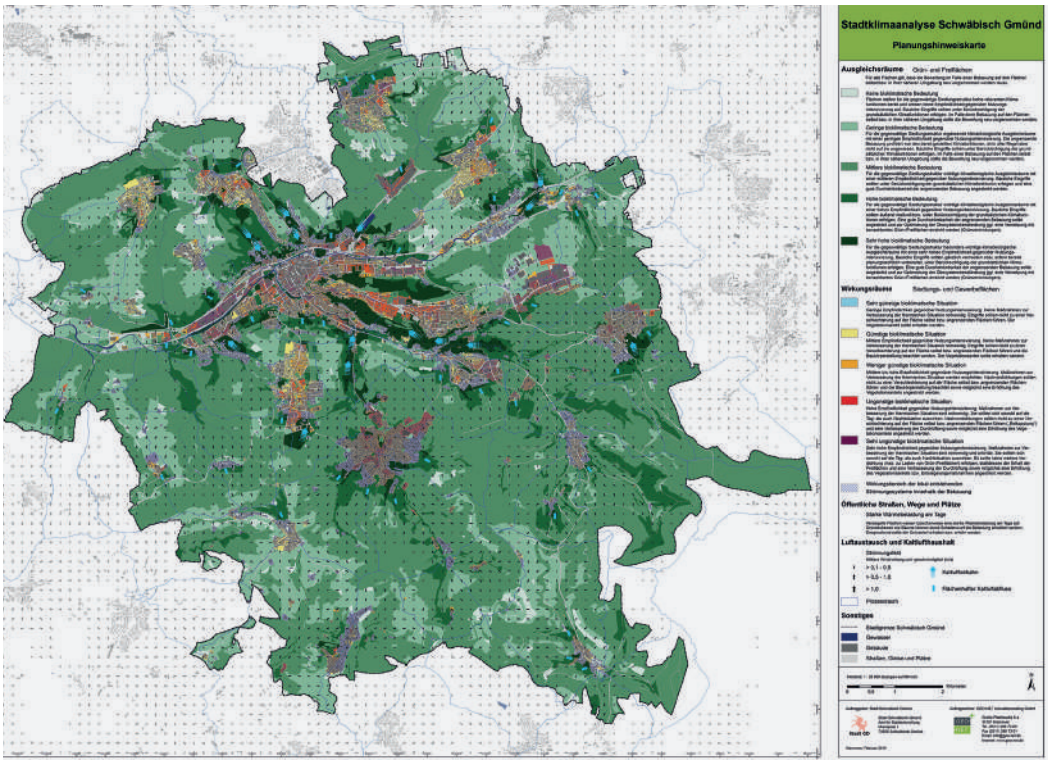


Fig. 17b Climate analysis map



A climate analysis map and a planning recommendation map were created within the framework of the examination, and recommendations for action in connection with climate adaptation for potential development areas elaborated. The climate analysis maps are attached as fig. 17. They make it possible to see what areas have extensive heat stress and from which directions air currents flow.

2.6 Transport and Access

2.6.1 Train and Bus Transport

Schwäbisch Gmünd's transport link to the regional rail transport system takes place via Deutche Bahn's Stuttgart – Aale route in regional transport at hourly intervals, and half-hourly in peak hours (43 minutes to Stuttgart HBF), as well as via the Stuttgart–Nuremberg Intercity route in long-distance transport at two-hour intervals (34 minutes to Stuttgart HBF). The centre of the city of Stuttgart can thus be reached from the Schwäbisch Gmünd railway station more quickly than from many districts of Stuttgart.

Within Schwäbisch Gmünd, public transport is provided by eleven local bus lines, whereby as a result of the overlap with the eleven regional bus lines for the larger urban districts, , also including the Hardt district, there are buses at roughly 20-minute intervals. The central distribution hub is the central bus station at the railway station, whereby all the lines also stop at the centre of the old town.

Via the underpass at the railway station with its spacious stairways and exits and its futuristic-looking design (design: HfG Schwäbisch Gmünd), one can reach not only the 'youth zone', but also the sacred mountain of Schwäbisch Gmünd – the Salvator.

2.6.2 Pedestrian and Bicycle Traffic

The existing cycling routes are situated outside of the project site to the north of the railway line and to the south of the River Rems. There are cross-connections for cyclists in the west in the area of Vogelhofstrasse and in the east after the railway station in the area of Taubentalstrasse. There is another opportunity to cross within walking distance in the area of the railway station with the Pleuer-Passage, which is designed in a spacious and high-quality way. Additional possibilities to cross the railway line are currently not considered necessary. A more optimal use of Lorcher Strasse for pedestrians and cyclists is one objective the planning task.

2.6.3 Automobile Traffic

Lorcher Strasse is one of two main traffic axes of the east-west connection in the valley. Based on the situation in 2020 (prior to corona), the average daily traffic volume on the section of Lorcher Strasse between the tunnel entrance and the roundabout at the hotel is a total of roughly 14,400 cars in both directions of travel.

2.7 Topography

The centre of the town of Schwäbisch Gmünd is situated in the valley along the River Rems. To the north, the topography rises in the direction of the Swabian forest and to the south in the direction of the Drei Kaiserberge and the Swabian Alb.

The study site extends to the south up to the foot of the slope with its green areas, and to the north includes one part of the green slope areas of the Nepperberg with the individual urban villas and the Salvator. The railway line with the adjoining area of Lorcher Strasse and the River Rems are situated nearly level with one another in the valley space. In the eastern area, the valley space widens with the adjacent old town, and borders the Taubental to the northeast. The topography

of Schwäbisch Gmünd with its green and forested areas is depicted in the structural map in fig. 30.

2.8 Project Site

The 'Western Gateway – between the Nepperberg and the River Rems' urban development area extends from the north to the south from the railway line to the River Rems and from the east to the west from Vogelhofstrasse to Hauffstrasse. The areas situated in the project site to the south of the railway line round Lorcher Strasse have laid fallow for years at a crucial location for urban development. Gleispark and the green area of the Nepperberg are adjacent to the areas to the north of the railway line and to the River Rems to the south of the railway line. The Gleispark site borders the play and sports areas developed within the framework of the State Garden Show of 2014. The railway station and the central bus station are situated in the east of the area; the town centre with the old town can be reached on foot in 10 to 15 minutes.

The areas, which are conveniently located for all forms of mobility and conceivable for a wide range of uses, have great urban development potentials. These valuable areas in the town centre offer themselves for diverse, vibrant use. It is necessary to give these high-potential areas a new development concept that also carries the dynamic urban development of the past ten years forward spatially. A coordinated development of the areas seems to be sensible both in terms of content and concept as well as function. The urban structures with green spaces created in connection with the urban restructuring and the State Garden Show could be developed further to the west here. The reorganized traffic infrastructure and the new network of high-quality public spaces give rise to the task of developing the area in an urban way as a 'western gateway'.

2.8.1 Bifora Building

History and current use
The Bifora, previously Bidlingmaier, special factory for wristwatches was established in Schwäbisch Gmünd round 1900. The founder of the company, Josef Bidlingmaier, succeeded in making the company an important player in the watch market with the mark of quality Made in Germany. Watches were produced and exported all over the world with at times over 1,100 employees, a large number of its own patents, newer developments, and Swabian zeal. Production and sales went so well that a new factory building became necessary and construction began in 1927. Josef Walter, an architect from Stuttgart, planned the oblong, three-storey new building.

With its skeleton construction with rectangular honeycomb windows, the staircase tower has a striking appearance and is characteristic of the Neues Bauen of the 1920s. The building bears witness to the history of technology in Europe and to the economic history of Schwäbisch Gmünd.
The listed building today houses the Bifora Uhren/Watch Museum, a dance school, and a fitness studio, among other things.

2.8.2 Lorcher Strasse

The existing construction field on both sides of Lorcher Strasse to the east in the direction of the town centre is very heterogeneous and first finds an urban development foothold again in the preservation-worthy Wilhelmine-era district to the east of Hauffstrasse, shortly before the bus station. On the other side of Hauffstrasse, the former Bifora watch factory, with its Expressionist industrial architecture an important historical anchor, a monument from the year 1928, stands along the railway tracks.

2.9 Planning Law Situation

2.9.1 Land-Use Plan

In the land-use plan of the town of Schwäbisch Gmünd, the project site is presented as a mixed-use and commercial area along with traffic areas and the tunnel. The land-use plan will be carried forward corresponding to the developments.

2.9.2 Development Plan

Within the project site, several development plans and older building line plans apply. Drawing up a new development plan on the basis of a new framework plan here is, however, envisioned following the Europan 16 competition, which is why the determinations in the existing plan do not have to be taken into consideration.

A decision was already made and a statute specifying right of first refusal decided on for a large portion of the area in 2013. The definition of this statute is presented in fig. 18.

2.9.3 Tunnel Entrance

The tunnel for federal road B29 runs through the undeveloped area to the north of Lorcher Strasse in the project site. It was created in this area in an open construction method and therefore cannot be built over. An operations building and access to the rescue tunnel are also found here. An area around the operations building has been kept free and fenced in for emergency operations, and this area is not available for any other use and must correspondingly remain accessible for emergency vehicles. The restrictions that result from the tunnel structure and the related bored pile wall are presented in fig. 19.

3 Planning task 'Western Gateway' – Between the Nepperberg and the River Rems

3.1 Urban Development Objectives

The Urban District as Part of the Town – E16 Scale Level L – Embedding in the Context

One urban development objective is an urban appearance that is correspondingly designed to represent Schwäbisch Gmünd as a large mid-sized town and medium-level centre with partial functions of a regional centre in the region of Ostwürttemberg from the direction of Stuttgart. The currently underused and partially brownfield area of the project site needs to be transformed into a vibrant, diverse, and sustainable district. One large area that is currently used for commercial purposes, with a design subordinated to car traffic and the automobile sector, needs a future-oriented concept with viable building blocks. The objective is a vibrant and future-oriented district that becomes part of the town centre and simultaneously forms an interesting and inviting entrance to the town.

A ring road of the Green Belt from the Salvator to the Nepperberg via the Gleispark district, with a 'green leap' over the railway at the site of the tunnel and a connection to the south to the southern bank of the River Rems is also supposed to be planned.

A concrete urban architecture proposal with the following framework conditions is expected for the project site. A colourfully mixed district with various uses is supposed to be created. A variety of types of housing, also with building groups or cooperatives, combinations of housing and work, and supply offers for residents and employees are desired. But also areas for the start-up scene and knowledge-based services within the framework of the current technological-in-

Fig. 18 Framework plan

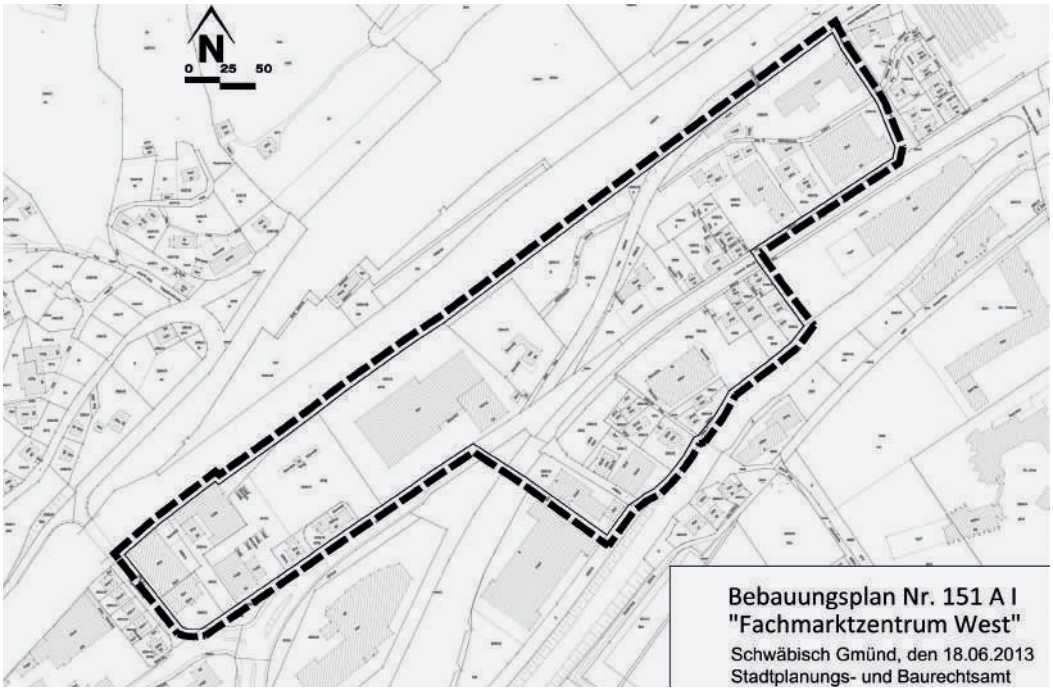
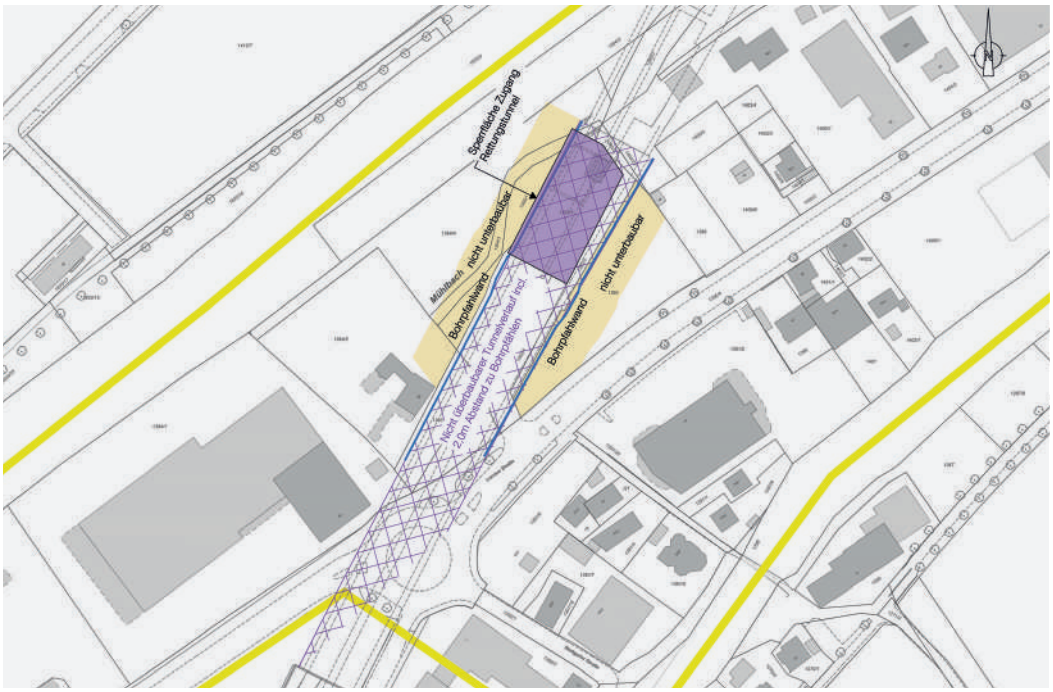


Fig. 19 Plan – tunnel structure – restrictions



dustrial transformation: including human-machine interaction, sensor technology, algorithmics, medical technology, environmental technology, digitization, quantum technology, biotech, lightweight construction, and big data should be included.

Particular value is put on a lively ground floor zone, where cultural facilities can also be envisioned. The area in the south along the River Rems is particularly attractive for housing.

The conditions that exist on the periphery and the specifications with respect to light exposure, ventilation, and noise give rise to an ambivalence between being closed off and opened up. The areas to the north and south of Lorcher Strasse should be connected with one another and/or a certain degree of permeability is desired, just as links with the neighbouring districts. A streetscape with quality of time spent should be created.

Starting with an urban development portal as a 'door' to the town, after passing through it, it is possible to envision the further development of Lorcher Strasse as a fundamentally symmetrical four- to four-and-a-half-storey, essentially closed building structure. It is also conceivable that the street axis be structured from an urban development perspective at another location by portal buildings that protrude on both sides.

In order to be able to develop and realize these areas with their extensive urban development potentials in cooperation with the local stakeholders involved, what is sought is a foundation of ideas on whose basis suitable partial projects can then be defined. This requires a long-term urban development concept that can be implemented in phases. It is thus necessary to develop transition scenarios for the existing automotive operations and to take into account an expansion of the bus company to the east or west. Buildings and/or operations on the project site that should be preserved are:

- the listed Bifora building (Hauffstrasse 2)
- the bus depot of the Schwäbisch Gmünd operator of public transport, the Bus Abt company (Lorcher Str. 64), which would also like to expand with an additional vehicle hall in the medium term
- the buildings at Vogelhofstrasse 1–4 and Lorcher Strasse 98 as part of the preservation-worthy Vogelhof district

All the other existing structures can basically be included in the urban development transformation. The ownership situations for the areas in the project site are presented in fig. 20. The municipally owned and already available areas are shown in green. The yellow area of the shoe shop (Lorcher Strasse 51) is also available as a portal building for the concrete project.

The areas that each belong to one automotive business are shown in the same shade of blue in order to be able to monitor the section-by-section realization of the project. The area used by the Bus Abt company is shown in orange, and an expansion of it can be envisioned either in the area shown in green-orange or, in the other direction, where the purple areas are located. The areas shown in purple each belong to different private owners.

Block Development as an Urban Building Block in the District – E16 Scale Level M – The Concrete Project

When one leaves federal road B29 before it runs through the Einhorn tunnel under the town at the Schwäbisch Gmünd-Zentrum exit, one continues upward to the roundabout at Lorcher Strasse, which marks the urban entrance to the centre and the entrance to the town centre from the west. Found on the left here are the central bus station and the bus depot of the operator of public transport

Fig. 20 Ownership situation

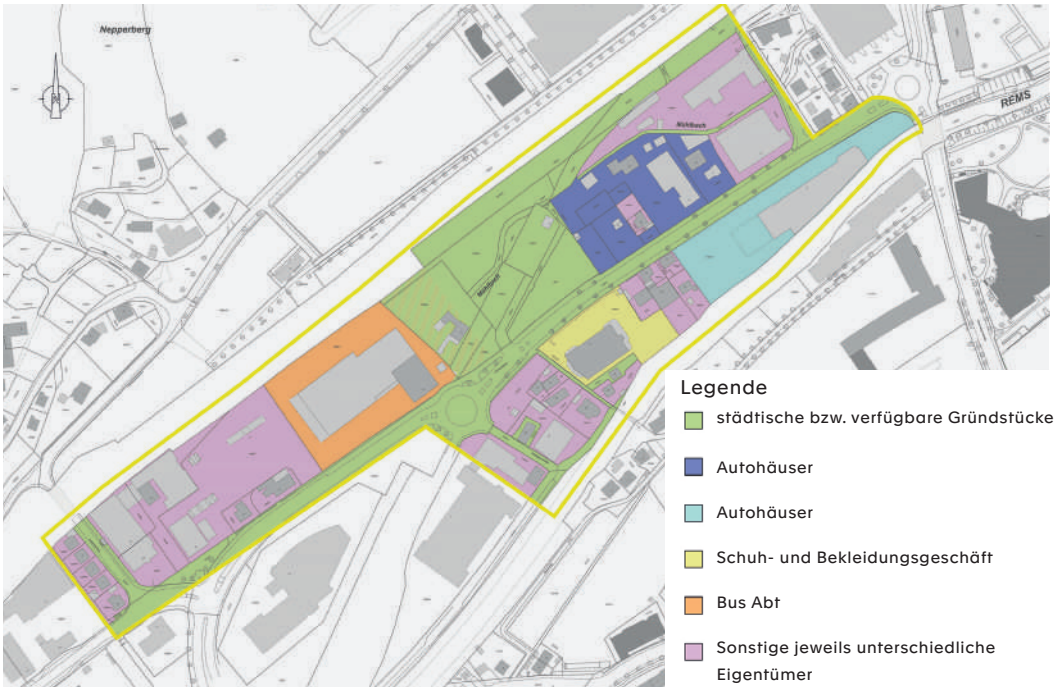


Fig. 21 Urban concept – firm Baldauf

for Schwäbisch Gmünd, the Bus Abt company, which would also like to expand in the medium term, on the left, and the former Zapp coat factory on the right.

This thus concludes the description of the two striking urban development elements that have to be retained in this close range and are important for the further development, also with respect to the architectural character of the location.

If one attempts to orient oneself clearly in the direction of the town centre at the roundabout on Lorcher Strasse, one is currently confronted with a diffuse urban development field that requires reorganization in order to clearly produce this spatial connection. What is concerned is the former tunnel construction site, which is today the cover of the western entrance to the tunnel for the B29, which is being used temporarily as a car park and is still occupied in part by a former industrialist's villa (Lorcher Str. 60). This area presents a considerable urban-development and spatial challenge. Since this plot of land in the area of the diagonal axis of the tunnel running underneath it cannot be built on for structural reasons, but can only be occupied with larger volumes on a triangular layout in its southeast and northwest corners, from a structural perspective, an urban development 'pull of orientation' develops in the wrong direction. This incorrect orientation has to be redirected in a structural, visual manner towards the axis of Lorcher Strasse to the east, and clearly in the direction of the town centre. Since the, at best, secondary axis with a view of the Salvator cannot be ruptured with a closed-off development for the reasons mentioned and since this could only be achieved incompletely by means of large greenery (such as trees with large crowns), the formation of the direction of orientation that is desired as a framing for Lorcher Strasse must be made so clear that misunderstandings are excluded.

Based on preparatory studies thus far, this can only be achieved by means of a town gateway with a fundamentally symmetrical portal construction (on this, see fig. 32: the planning study by Prof. Florian Nagler).

Collective garages at suitable positions are proposed for the parking places needed.

Portal Buildings as a Concrete Building Design – E16 (Level of) Scale S – The Concrete Project

What should be created is a centre for administration and services, with mixed uses on the ground floor. A kindergarten should be integrated into the building. A larger event area could find a place on the upper storeys. The portal structures should be designed architecturally as twins in a striking and very signal-like manner (subordinate extensions can deal individually with the respective situation of the plots of land to the north and south of Lorcher Strasse). An asymmetrical composition of various types of structures is not regarded as expedient. The signal for people arriving must make it clear that the town centre begins here (e.g. by means of vibrantly used ground floors or footpaths for strolling) and that the path here ushers people into it. At the other, eastern end of Lorcher Strasse, the Hotel am Remspark with its striking roof structure represents a visual endpoint in the east of the straight street axis.

The portal envisioned could work with a graduated building structure and a spatial play of contracting and dilating elements. Arcade portals could thus also be used for pedestrians in order to facilitate an expansion of the cubic capacity and possible useable areas upwards. The graduated formation of height can be oriented towards the building limit for high-rises. The two sides of the street could be connected with a bridge so as to design cohesive larger units for use. The right balance between an

architectural gesture of opening up and closing off should thus be found.

What is supposed to be created is a classic urban architecture that forms an urban space formulated in a spatially intensive way, with an urban architecture full of character that takes up valuable local elements or produces points of reference itself. Since Schwäbisch Gmünd has been shaped long term by the architecture of a transformative and/or restrained modernism (e.g. elements by Paul Bonatz and Martin Elsässer) in this urban area of the western town centre, the design of the architecture can be linked with this. What is sought is a language for the building structures and façades that makes this spirit resonate (band façades, shed roofs, or flush façades with a unostentatious cuboid aesthetic, while a too great heterogeneity of materials and restlessness of architectural elements might possibly correlate with this to a lesser extent).

3.2 Green and Open Spaces – Climate Protection and Adaptation

To take into account the growing significance of open and green spaces and satisfy their diverse functional requirements, also with respect to climate change and climate adaptation, the implementation of sustainable climate-active areas and measures should be situated robustly in the design from the perspective of urban development as well as structurally; i.e. they should be integrated durably by means of subsequent planning phases.

This could be achieved, for instance, by means of fixed, ground-level areas of trees with sufficient dimensions for long-term vegetation, with large trees/groups of trees for providing shade; marked-out routes, sealing, and surface uses give rise to a need for undisturbed, open plots of soil measuring 5-by-5 to 10-by-10 metres, depending on the ancillary conditions and other climate functions (flow of cool air). Trees should not simply be positioned as 'plan trimmings' that do not function later on.

Proposals for unsealed and shaded areas, in the optimal case also in connection with water, are desired. Roof areas can also do much more than merely protect from the weather; they offer areas for growing plants, a diversity of species, and spending time, and should also be planned correspondingly. What is desired is the urban development basis for a climate-friendly ('climate-neutral') district.

3.3 Transport Connections and New Mobility

There are no areas that are more optimally connected with public transport than the planning area, with the central bus station and railway station reachable directly within walking distance. The town centre can be reached on foot or bicycle without inclines. With the new planning, the quality of these paths in the district to be covered on foot or by bicycle should be improved. Pedestrian paths in particular are areas for both spending time and encounters. They are important for low-threshold social contacts and for the residents and users' feeling of safety. Cars should be accommodated in a concentrated way in collective or underground garages and take up as little space as possible in the urban space. New, sustainable mobility concepts are desired, with the required number of parking places adapted correspondingly.

The existing connections over the railway line to the north and over the River Rems to the south could be improved. Other connections are not specified.

3.4 Status of the Planning and Conception Thus Far

The firm Baldauf Architekten Stadtplaner from Stuttgart developed an urban development concept for the area round Lorcher Strasse in 2019. This concept, with a possible street cross-section without specified uses, is found in fig. 21. Building on it, the architect Florian Nagler has made observations regarding a new town gateway and/or gateway-tower. This study with a perspective of the new town gateway is found in fig. 32.

Within the framework of the planning task, what is sought is an urban development spatial organization with a play of clearly readable urbanistic indoor and outdoor spaces that examines the surroundings in a more differentiated way than the urban planning by Baldauf and finds a somewhat different language than the urban architecture of Nagler.

In accordance with the Europan 16 theme of 'Living Cities – Lebendige Städte', design contributions are sought that demonstrate innovative ideas and processes while addressing the main themes of 'Dynamics of the Circular Economy' and 'Dynamics of Integration'.

4 Outlook

An application to be accepted in an urban-development funding program is supposed to be submitted for the program year 2022, and preparatory examinations and an urban development framework plan are needed for this purpose. Commissioning participants in the Europan 16 idea competitions to develop this framework plan as well is envisioned. Depending on the level of detail, a commission to develop one building block for realization is also possible.

Fig. 22, Fig. 23

Fig. 24

Fig. 25

Fig. 22
Bifora building, project site

Fig. 23
Lorcher Straße, project site

Fig. 24
Aerial photo of the project site with surround-ings

Fig. 25
The undeveloped area to the north of Lorcher Strasse in the project site

Fig. 26 Project site / Vogelhofstraße

Fig. 27 View from the Salvator district at the project site

Fig. 28 Project site / Lorcher Straße

Fig. 29 Project site

Fig. 30 Structural map


Aalen
Oststadt
Innenstadt
Südstadt

Fig. 31 Project site


rholungswald Taubental
NORD
Salvator
EULE
Bahnhof
Forum
pperberg
ZOB
Remspark
Gold und Silber
Altstadt
Stadtgarten
Münster
Seniorenzentrum
Zapp
Sport
Sport
e Gärten

Fig. 32 Perspective – city entrance, the planning study by Prof. Florian Nagler

Image Credits

Fig. 1
Cooperation Space
Verband Region Stuttgart

Fig. 2
Supraregional Transport Link
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 3
Isochrone Map
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 4
Municipal Building Plan of 1870
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 5
'Stadtorganismus' (Urban Organism)
by Paul Bonatz 1920
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 6
New street layout
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 7
Outfall of Josefsbach into the
River Rems
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 8
Villa Hirzel before urban restructuring
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 9
Villa Hirzel after urban restructuring
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 10
Master plan of universities and
science sites
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 11
Land use plan
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 12
Municipal area and urban
structure plan
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 13
Urban districts
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 14
Salvator district
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 15
Villa Seitz and Buhlsche Ville
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 16
Urban districts worth preserving –
general plan
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 17
Climate analysis maps
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 18
Framework plan
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 19
Plan – tunnel structure – restrictions
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 20
Ownership situation
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 21
Urban concept – firm Baldauf
Baldauf Architeken und Stadtplaner
GmbH

Fig. 22
Bifora building, project site
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 23
Lorcher Straße, project site
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 24
Aerial photo of the project site
with surroundings
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 25
The undeveloped area to the north
of Lorcher Strasse in the project site
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 26
Vogelhofstraße
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 27
View from the Salvator district at the
project site
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 28
Project site / Lorcher Straße
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 29
Project site
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 30
Structural map
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 31
Project site
Archive Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Fig. 32
Perspective – city entrance, the
planning study by Prof. Florian Nagler
Archiv Stadt Schwäbisch Gmünd

Imprint

Publisher
Europan – Deutsche Gesellschaft zur
Förderung von Architektur,
Wohnungs- und Städtebau e.V.
Friedrichstraße 23A
10969 Berlin
Germany
www.europan.de

Editors
Lola Meyer
Vesta Nele Zareh

English Translation
Amy Klement, Jonathan Lutes

Proofreader
Kerstin Wieland

Graphic Design
Christina Schmid and Simon Malz

Printer
Offsetdruckerei Karl Grammlich

April, 2021

www.europan.de