



Fig 1 Visionary new Bagnoli landscape

## Prototypical planning transformation in new frames of meaning – shown on ex ILVA landscape, BAGNOLI OPERA VERDE, Naples 2021

Paper

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Official participant of International ideas competition for the redesign of the new landscape of Bagnoli, Naples 2019-2021  
CONCORSO INTERNAZIONALE DI IDEE PER IL DISEGNO DEL NUOVO PAESAGGIO DI BAGNOLI- COMPRESA LA DEFINIZIONE  
PLANIVOLUMETRICA DEL NUOVO EDIFICATO DI CUI AL PROGRAMMA DI RISANAMENTO AMBIENTALE E RIGENERAZIONE  
URBANA (PRARU)

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### Project partners in Munich, Naples and Turino:

- bekh vorhammer - Structural Computational Design [ <https://bekh-vorhammer.com/> ], (Structural Engineers–Munich)
- IdroGeo Srl di Vico Equense (NA) [ <http://www.idrogeo.it/> ], (Geotechnics and Geologist – Vico Equense (NA))
- Agr. Dario Grua, (Agronomist -Turino)
- For. Savino Mastrullo, (Forester and Environmental expert VlnCA, VIA, VAS and VExA. - Naples)
- Prof.ssa Anna Maria Zaccaria, (Environmental und territorial Sociologist - Naples)
- Dr. Riccardo Staffa, (Economist – Naples)
- Prof. PhD Marco Giglio, (Archaeologist – Naples)
- Dr. Cinzia Verde, (Marine biochemist and Head of Research CNR, IBBR– Naples)

Client: INVITALIA Rom

Surface: 247 Hectar

**Keywords:** Transformation of post-industrial landscapes; structural change; preservation of cultural industrial heritage; reclaiming public space; soil enhancement through phytoremediation; increasing biodiversity; land use through public participation; material recycling.

One of LATZ+PARTNER's fields of work is the transformation of post-industrial landscapes. Transformation is not only as processual change, but as the transfer of a given situation into a new context of meaning. It is an examination of the visible and the invisible, the existing, and the spirit and history of the place.

The planning transformation of industrial facilities is preceded by their decommissioning. After years of standstill, the neglect of places, landscapes and regions, people no longer associate anything positive with what is left of the once prosperous plant. Industrial landscapes are per se subject to constant change. Competitiveness requires the will to change. If this will is lacking, decline is usually pre-programmed.

The example of the former ILVA iron and steelworks in Bagnoli also shows successive processual phases of decline: Shock, destruction, foreign domination, failure, and finally the attempt at reorientation through the launch of international competitions, such as the 2019-2021 international 2-phase competition by INVITALIA.

We want to illustrate our approach with our official competition entry for the revitalisation of the ILVA landscape in Bagnoli.



Fig 2 Bagnoli Opera Verde

## **BAGNOLI OPERA VERDE - Industrial, Cultural and Natural Park, Naples**

After a joint analysis process, the different conditions of the currently inaccessible ILVA site are brought together.

Structural relics and also polluted soils can be transformed into a sustainable park of the 21st century. Building culture is used to secure the cultural heritage, transform it innovatively and to make it positively experienceable for the citizens: - quality and aesthetics of experienceability, - the process of transitioning the wasteland into a public park, sustainability through circular economy, - inclusion, - affordability, - biodiversity -use of former industrial routes, -ecological corridors,- spatial diversity for participation, - stimulation of new experiences.

The industrial past of the site is respected and developed. At the same time, a park of short distances responds to the everyday needs of local residents. Cultural events reinterpret and celebrate the former industrial spaces as 'new flames in newly converted halls'.

Changes in soil type, light, planting density and types lead to microclimatic changes and influence the occupation of the site. Small and medium-sized spaces along "industrial paths" and planted areas define boundaries within the extensive park space. They convey a sense of coexistence, inclusion and immersion as a feeling of freedom and rootedness at the same time.

Biodiversity, the introduction of an innovative water system, good connectivity and security within the park enhance the environmental quality of the new neighbourhoods adjacent to the park. As an educational park near the sea, it offers visitors interesting facts about existing and new vegetation in a botanical teaching garden. Continuing the history of the place, they experience ecology on site and enjoy the historical heritage in new perspectives.



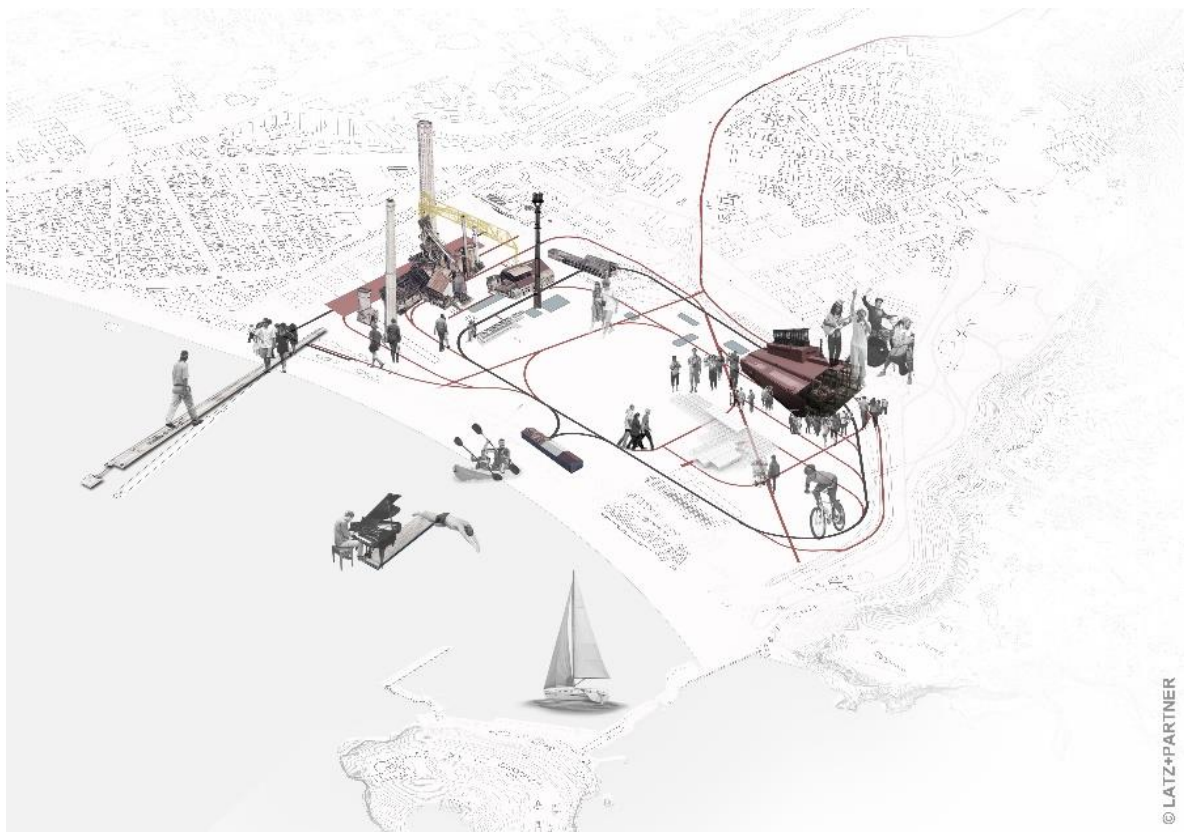


Fig 3 Walking like the former trains

### Time - Walking like the trains of the former ILVA iron and steelworks - industrial park.

The park aims to bring people and elements together through a hierarchy of paths, their materiality and memory.

Remains of the former ILVA centre are secured as a cultural heritage industrial archaeological site and connected by a modern park path system for pedestrians and cyclists. It clearly follows the former railway tracks and inner ramifications. The continuity of the historical linear industrial routes enables a systematic experience on new paths. Historical elements in the sequence of former production lines provide a generous, elegant and sustainable structure for the development of the new park. Its "mountains" are the steelworks and the blast furnace, spectacular "monsters" of steel, cement and bricks up to 70 metres high. Its "cliffs" are the former piers, - its "valley" is the Arenile di Sant'Antonio and its gorge the Canale Bianchettaro. It bows to the dramatic topography of the Campi Flegrei, the caldera of Posillipo, the hills of Agnano and the island of Nisida.

It is the stage on which urban society meets. The new architecture connects to the historic structures, brings new life to the old halls reinterpreted architecturally and extends the lines of sight as 'mise-en-scene' from accessible vantage points. Old pavilion buildings are carefully, in a basic style and cost-effectively restored. They preserve their nature and history in the interior and exterior spaces. Rentable for civic festivals and community celebrations, they are the new venues for culture, music, art and theatre, for gatherings, presentations and sports, as parts of Naples' public space.

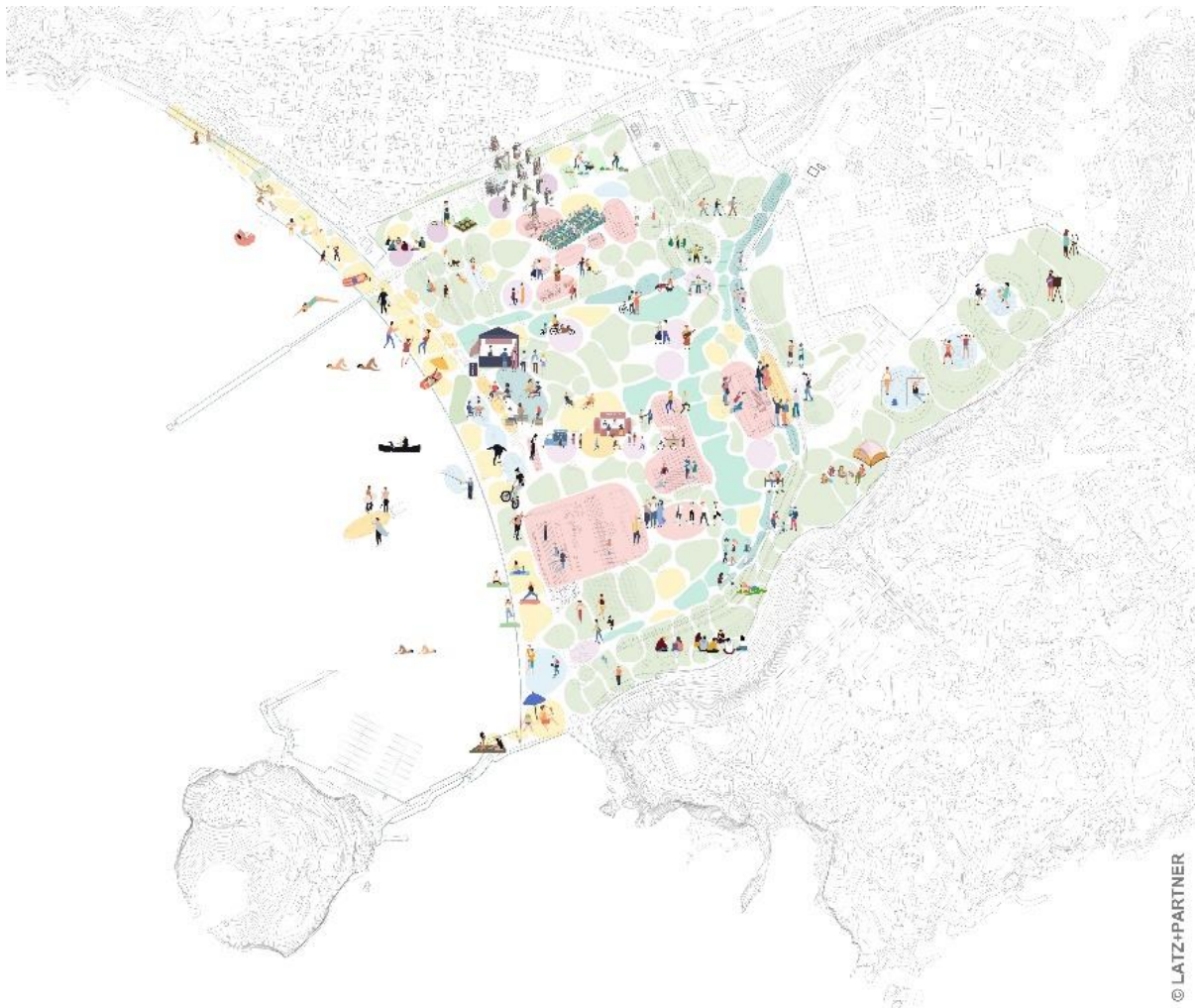


Fig 4 Corridors of life

### Space - Corridors of Life - Cultural Park

The new park preserves and creates cultural links between geomorphological, fluvial, territorial, historical and archaeological landmarks, such as the former straight *Strada Regia* as a link from Naples to the coastal road to Pozzuoli, the *Collina Santa Teresa*, the *Canale Arenile di Sant' Antonio* and *Canale Bianchettaro* as a man-made water system in the landscape, or the *Grotta di Seiano*, as access to the *Posilipo - Gaiola archaeological park*, which is visited by 10,000 people a year. This requires an innovative shading module, which can also generate solar power, and guarantees sustainable management of parking spaces at several locations in the park. The largest car park is centrally located next to the public transport station of the large red *Acciaieria* hall, which is cost-effectively converted into a vibrant cultural centre with a viewing platform and a think tank for start-ups.

The central part of the park, especially the steel mill corridor, offers multi-functional spaces for future uses, such as outdoor concerts, picnics and sports.

Forest-like tree structures connect the sea with the city, direct fresh air flows to surrounding neighbourhoods and allow for various changes of perspective. In order to have a cooling effect on the microclimate and create spatial configurations for flexible activities, fresh air corridors are formed as ecological corridors in extension of the main wind direction. Thus, this new morphology of the future park also changes the way water is collected and used, by retaining it in a decentralised way, collecting it, storing it and making it experienceable. The canal water systems are upgraded as a

new experimental landscape with semi-aquatic habitats for flora and fauna and converted into an experimental field for environmental technology. The hydraulic barrier will be rebuilt as water areas where clouds and water can be experienced by citizens as a multifaceted park element. Depending on demand, water can now be offered everywhere in the park to irrigate vegetation.

At the edges of the park, new small-scale building volumes are being created as an urban offer to the population. The new locations overlooking the park should in turn lead to new projects of a cultural or economic nature. A processual development of the structures favours the functional mixing of the area and promotes social inclusion and security. Architecturally and urbanistically, this translates into high-quality, mixed housing types consisting of small units and structures for different uses, such as residential, commercial or tourism. Cultural projects and functional spaces for sports facilities on land and sea are created.

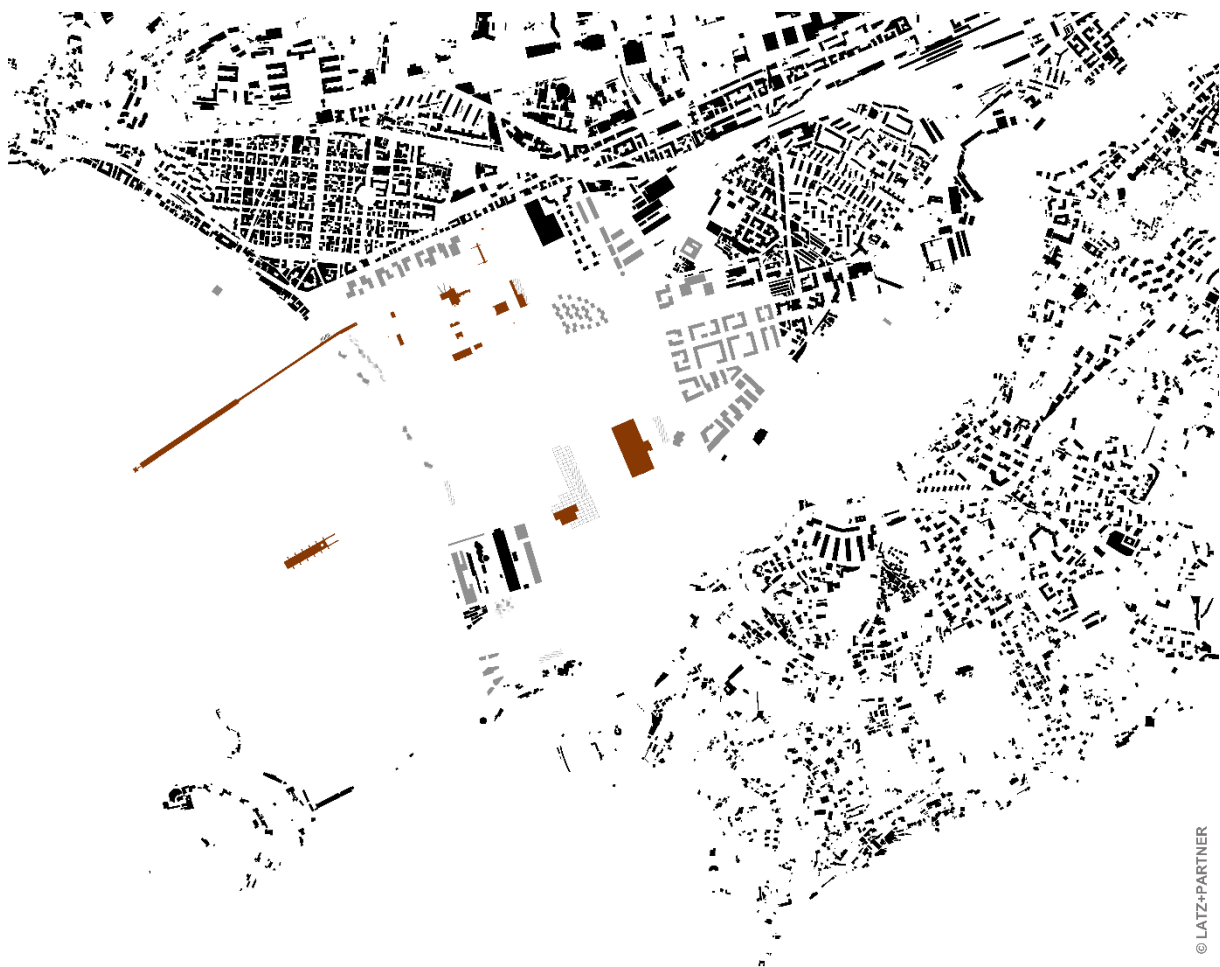


Fig 5 New urban park edges

Next to the new urban front of Bagnoli, an open urban space and an archaeological landscape are created for the participation of the local community. From south to north, park elements change from a more fluid to a more defined configuration: in the former storage area of the factory raw materials, sequences of spaces for different activities such as playgrounds, archaeological park areas, etc. are created along the main industrial route. Organisations such as 'Friends of the Park' move into the old walls, offering guided bike tours and the like through the park. Water reservoirs, gymnasiums, cinemas, art workshops, residences for artists, cultural associations, meeting spaces for public and private events are being built in ruins.

Squares are designed from the materials that remind us of former uses. Oversized, urban pergolas covered in vines provide meeting places between the park gate and the new buildings. Home-grown fruit in the urban neighbourhood gardens become a flagship and symbol of the new, fertile soil.

The Padiglioni Morgan structures are surrounded by special gardens as a greenhouse and butterfly house, where climbing roses cling to the old steel supports and thus become a visitor magnet.

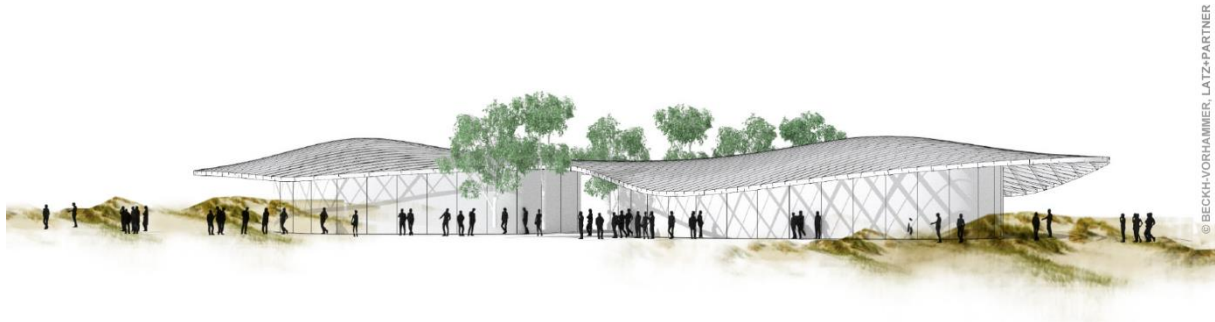


Fig 6 Architectural modules in between beach and dunes

A 2.4 km long promenade defines the new - coastline as a beach area with dunes behind. Architectural modules peel out of the dunes and offer retail space for gastronomy, local products and arts and crafts. The former ILVA archive is architecturally reinterpreted into a museum flanked by skaters. The pier will be used as a promenade. The former central pier will be largely deconstructed and used as a bathing platform and canoe harbour. For evening events, the platform, surrounded on all sides by water, will be opened up as a cultural island. The recycled rubble of the central jetty serves as a breakwater and retreat for the marine fauna along the entire coastal area below the water level. Water sports activities are found to the south, in connection with the island of Nisida and a new harbour with 900 berths.

The coastal strip Spiaggia di Coroglio now connects the sea with the new natural space along the caldera edge via the inner Bagnoli Park.





Fig 7 Vibrant green for good and fertile soil

### **Vital green for fertile soil - connecting city and caldera**

#### **VITA - vibrant green for good soil - a nature park.**

The protected cultural heritage of the park must not be consumed prematurely.

Biodiversity depends in particular on the successful soil colonisation process. Therefore, a slow processual development of meadows, maquis and hedges, overlaid with linear tree plantations, orchards and woodland areas is envisaged. Half of the currently inaccessible areas will become extensive 'garrigue', the other half will become meadows and parterres for more intensive uses. Areas intended for forest will be sown. Only a few large trees will be planted with root balls in the partially contaminated soil as leading species dominated by umbrella pines (*Pinus pinea*) and holm oaks (*Quercus ilex*). The newly established forests will colonise the majority of the areas in the future. Initially, pioneer tree species will dominate; later, cork oaks, pines, tamarisk and cypress will become established on the hilltops and slopes, and poplars, willows and alders in the wetter lowlands.

Garrigue extends from the *Parco dello Sport* and the slopes of Posillipo towards the plain and consists of partly naturally occurring, partly locally adapted species. Visitors enjoy their protection, the typical smells and colours and the special fauna. Meadows, on the other hand, can be shaped by mowing and thus react flexibly to changed user behaviour or the requirements of major events. Space is given to the natural colonisation process: In order to secure areas that cannot be entered for a longer period of time for undisturbed ecological processes, semi-transparent recyclable 'canvases' are stretched around these areas. They are available for temporary art exhibitions and students and visual artists for an artistic dialogue. In order to be able to improve the quality of contaminated industrial soils, the suitability of different species for phytoremediation is scientifically investigated in



circular experimental fields. If the investigations are assessed as promising after about 5 years, the species will be used in the process of soil colonisation.

To enable vital greenery and maintain it in the long term, the water concept is being rethought. Surface drainage, water collection and water reuse are considered separately. Forest edges can be modified over the years to incorporate new things and enhance spatial effects.

The processual development of vegetation and the modification of the soil mean long years of change. However, this also opens up the opportunity for a conscious experience of natural processes and the promotion of social responsibility for the common good that is soil.



Fig 8 Aesthetics of Bagnoli Opera verde

Loosely arranged, the trees symbolise the forces of the caldera's natural processes, emphasise the dramatic topography, extend the sports park and accommodate the new transport infrastructure. Smaller, more intimate park spaces are created, where the experience of flora and fauna is paramount. Trees arranged in a grid represent the rationality of the industrial past. They connect the remaining architectural structures to form a broad and dramatic image close to the city. In the northern area, they allow deep insight into the car parks, communication over long distances, flexible use, social control and thus security.

### Participation + management

The transformation of the industrial wasteland into a public park increases the value of the adjacent land. It increases the quality of life in terms of health, safety, culture, economy and ecology. An essential factor is the creation of jobs and an economically advantageous environment to attract younger generations. To achieve this, strategies are put in place that take advantage of the specificities of the site and its inherent potential and adhere to them through the appointment of a meta-organisier (public-private partnership). A project communication plan facilitates dialogue with citizens, investors, stakeholders and knowledge holders. They move the project forward together and activate a territorial management group that guarantees feasibility, participatory management and sustainability.

The project allows citizens and the park to grow together through participation, from the exciting beginnings to the satisfactory maturity of the park. Our aim is to combine innovation and usability of the land, to give impulses for new behaviours with creativity and design, and to show green and sustainable solutions in adaptation to climate change.

Kranzberg / Munich, 03.06.2021