

C H A N G I N G M E T R O P O L I T A N S P A C E :

A ROLE FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE IN BETWEEN BUILT AND OPEN SPACE

Berlin . April 23rd - April 30th , 2012 . WORKSHOP at Aedes Network Campus Berlin

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WORKSHOP AT ANCB - BERLIN

CHANGING METROPOLITAN SPACE:

A ROLE FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE IN BETWEEN BUILT AND OPEN SPACE

1. TOPICS

- EDGELANDS

Spaces between the urban and the rural which don't have a fixed destination and shape.

- URBAN AGRICULTURE

Agricultural activities, integrated into - and interacting with - the urban economic and ecological system.

2. BERLIN

- REGENERATION PROJECTS OF THE "EDGELAND"

The topic of the regeneration of an "edgeland" in the urban area has already found in the city of Berlin opportunities to be discussed and experimented, which makes Berlin a very interesting case study.

- PUBLIC SPACES

The green and open space is not only as an aesthetic and ecological issue, Berlin is acting to use its space as social space for people and is now responding to the need by using the large scale transformation areas as an opportunity to rediscover public space.

3. CASE STUDIES

- Naturpark Schöneberger Südgelände
- Landschaftspark Adlershof
- Tempelhofer Park
- Mauer Park

- Prinzessinen Garten
- Gleisdreieck Park
- East Side Gallery

4. TASKS

Visit the sites, collect information, meet designers and other actors, in order to make an exercise of evaluation of the case studies.

5. OUTPUTS

- 5 GROUPS: 5 MAIN THEMES

Green and Grey

Recycling

Sequence

Appropriation

In Between Space and Time

- MAPPING OPEN SPACES IN BERLIN

The workshop was hosted by Aedes Network Campus Berlin, whose object for 2012/2013 is to compile a spatial reading of the European City referring to 10 critical issues of urban comfort: *Migration, Mobility, Security, Orientation, Welfare, Cultural Heritage, Resource, Consumption, Water, The Sensory Environment, The Commons.*

The question they're posing through the formats of University Design Studios and Public Debates is then: "How can design best respond to make politicians, professionals, individuals, or collective positions and behaviours around urban comfort more conscious?"

In this framework we introduced the specific topics of "edgeland" and "urban agriculture" keeping into particular account some interesting study cases in Berlin: Naturpark Schöneberger Südgelände, Landschaftspark Adlershof, Tempelhofer Park, Mauer Park, Prinzessinen Garten, Gleisdreieck Park, East Side Gallery.

EDGELANDS AND URBAN AGRICULTURE

The theme of the workshop linked then two topics that are emerging as important issues in the contemporary urban condition: edgelands, spaces between the urban and the rural which don't have a fixed destination and shape, and urban agriculture, an activity integrated into - and interacting with - the urban economic and ecological system.

Contemporary European cities are dealing with the necessity of the regeneration of the abandoned industrial areas, on one side, and a growing demand for an alternative in food production and distribution, on the other.

How to combine these different needs in an urban design action?

How to do it with the lack of funds that many cities are experiencing?

During two weeks the students had the chance to take a look at the answers that Berlin has recently found to solve these issues.

DAY 1 . VISITING BERLIN . PUBLIC SPACES

What makes public green and open spaces in Berlin being so successful in terms of use is the way people relates to them. Everyone is used to take care of what's "public", as if it was "their own".

This means sometimes even taking possession of enclosed and forbidden pieces of land, only by starting to use, or better, to inhabit them.

Residual lots, interstitial areas, abandoned industrial spaces become the scenes for fairs, parties, parades and carnivals, with the main object of simply enjoying a sunny day.

Designers and planners seem to have understood this natural tendency and many examples of intelligent use of the



"edgeland" can be found in Berlin, sometimes with the "expedient" of the urban agriculture.

To let the students have an autonomous experience of such a stimulative framework, we invited them to take some time to visit the city on their own, to get used to this particular way of living in the city.

East Side Gallery, Kulturbrauerei, UFA Fabrik, Arthouse Tacheles were some of the suggested spots, all representing this concept of appropriation and reuse of abandoned buildings and residual spaces.

COLLECTING INFORMATION . BIKE TOUR DAY 2.

Bike has become the symbol of the ecological means of transport and Berlin is investing a lot on cycling paths and facilities for bikers (that can even bring their bikes on buses, trains and metro). So to visit the study areas we chose to bring the students on a bike tour around the city, that resulted to be one of the most enjoyable moments for everyone and the demonstration that cycling mobility can be successful, maybe even for a city like Milan, dominated by

Naturpark Schöneberger Südgelände, Landschaftspark Adlershof, Tempelhofer Park were taken as examples of reuse of abandoned infrastructures: all turned into parks, they are designed to become attractive spots for leisure and sport, but with less maintenance costs as possible.



Tempelhof

Berlin compared to the rest of Germany is in fact guite poor of industries and banks, but even with money being always an issue for the municipality, to renounce to the green space is not an option.

Mauer Park and the East Side Gallery are both remembrances of an unforgettable history: how to keep this history in people's memory and at the same time give the space back to the city?

Many topics were discussed by the students, that were asked to come up with relevant questions about the study cases' "urban life".

During the visits they had to pay attention to the most significant elements (architecture, spaces, urban context, social uses, etc) that they perceive playing a key role in the site.

Each selected key-element had to be described through:

1- context information (map)

the car power.

- 2- specific information as photo, video, sounds etc.
- 3- the association of each key-element to a concept and to a keyword
- 4- the visualization of the concept/keyword with some sketches, drawing, storyboard, models etc...

We tried to ask them to forget about any kind of standard analysis model that they had learned in the past, to find their own way to perceive the spaces and the uses.

Most of them found this approach really difficult to understand, and it took a while before they were even able to decide what to look for during the surveys.

Pictures and videos were usually the most used tools of investigation, but someone found it really useful to directly have a talk with the people living in the area or visiting it.

The suggestion to fix some concepts by the use of key words turned out to be the easiest way for the students to give a direction to their investigation.

DAY 3 . FIRST PRESENTATION . KEY-WORDS

We listened to an input talk about general strategic planning issues in Berlin by architect Enrico Gualini, professor at TU Berlin: the students had an overview on the new directions that the municipality is taking in terms of urban planning.

In particular they understood how economical issues can influence and sometimes lead the choices of the planners, even in cities like Berlin usually mindful for urban communities and inhabitants.

At the end of this first phase of surveys every group was asked to present their first impressions on the visits, choosing a particular topic regarding one (or more) of the case studies.

It was a very important moment of discussion, since the students' knowledge about the sites was based on their personal observation.



The groups chose one (or more) significant picture, to which they linked some key words.

Even if the first task of producing a variety of different materials (sketches, models, videos) wasn't completely fulfilled, since it was difficult for the students to find their own way of reinterpreting a space, this first presentation brought some interesting results.

The work on the key-words was particularly relevant: we collected and grouped them into five main sets, each one corresponding to a specific topic.

The initial groups were matched together according to the themes that the students had chosen, so to have five big groups working on different themes: Green and Grey, Recycling, Sequence, Appropriation, In Between Space and Time, with an extra group "mapping open spaces in Berlin".

DAY 4 . SECOND PHASE OF WORK

After the visit to the Landschaftspark Adlershof, guided by Tancredi Capatti from Büro Kiefer, the second phase of the work started.

The students were asked to focus on their topics, trying to see the places they were studying through different lenses, finding their own line of analysis.

Our indications on how to proceed were purposely not restrictive, since we wanted to observe which direction the work would take.

The students were not asked to come up with a project, or any kind of specific material, but to give their personal interpretation of a space.

Most students found this approach a bit confusing at the beginning, since they are probably used to being given a more defined direction from the professors. However, they managed to develop some interesting themes.



The wall

DAY 5-6-7. BACK TO THE SITES

During the last three days the groups visited the sites again to specify their work tracks. Back to the studio they worked on an effective way to present their results.



Key -words

Each of them approached the same subject from a different perspective: how do public greens spaces interact with the built environment? What is the role of heritage in the process of creating public spaces? And how important is the direct involvement of the people in this process?

All questions were linked with each other and considered important for their own significance and not necessarily looking for an exact answer.

Most students explained their interpretations through diagrams and sketches, since they helped them make more synthetic assertions on their theme. They tended to relate to the places with a sort of analytical approach, which in some cases brought them to dissect them into pieces instead of experience them.



Taking pictures and, even more, filming short videos was on the contrary a way to report the spaces in their overall appearance, showing how plans and sections wouldn't have been enough.

However all groups were in the end able to combine different approaches, so to produce satisfying material.

DAY 8 . FINAL PRESENTATION

For the last day every group prepared a presentation, collecting the material they had produced along the week.

Four of them took different areas and analysed them through the specific topics of "green and grey", "recycling", "appropriation" and "in between".

A fifth group focused on the study of the public spaces that were born along the Berlin wall line after its demolition, and the last one prepared a sort of general conclusion on public spaces in the city.

GREEN AND GREY

- Case studies:

Naturpark Schöneberger Südgelände, Landschaftspark Adlershof, Tempelhofer Park, Prinzessinen Garten.

The students studied how originally "grey" (built) areas, turned into "green" spaces, affect the life of the inhabitants.

They tried to understand what "quality" means in terms of public space, and when "green" is actually better than "grey".

After the analysis at different scales (city, district, site), they came to some interesting conclusions and explained how the transformation of urban infrastructures into green areas has increased the quality of life.



- Final questions:

Is the transformation of "grey" into "green" becoming a guideline for future urban developments in Berlin? Should the agricultural garden become a fourth level of design, considered as a mediator between "green" and "grey"?

Are spaces for free temporary activities the key to successfully design the "green" and the "grey" of future parks?

RECYCLING

- Case studies:

Naturpark Schöneberger Südgelände, Landschaftspark Adlershof, Tempelhofer Park, Gleisdreieck, Mauer Park.

The students focused on the reuse of the dismissed infrastructures, underlining the importance of the historical heritage. They analysed how the spaces were functioning thanks to the "recycle" of elements that had lost their original use.

Their approach to the theme was mostly based on sketches, drawings, pictures and videos, showing the different perceptions of the space in the different case studies. The emptiness of Tempelhof contrasting with the "fullness" of Mauerpark, the rusted structures and rails testifying the presence of the man in the past in Schöneberg compared to Adlershof's untouchable nature.

SEQUENCE

- Case studies:

Mauerpark, Bernauerstrasse, Teltowkanal, Landschaftspark Rudow Altglienicke.

Particularly interesting was the study of the public spaces that rise along, and between, the two walls that created the Death Strip during the Cold War.

The students went through the bike lane that runs along Berlin wall's old path and discovered how the absence of an object could be felt by the birth of another one.

The monument in Bernauerstrasse responds specifically to this function. It's also very evident how Mauerpark is the result of residual spaces put together and one can feel like something's missing.



How can the presence of a wall cutting the city in two affect the urban fabric? And what happens if the wall just disappears from one day to the other?

APPROPRIATION

- Case studies:

Tempelhofer Park, Prinzessinen Garten, Est Side Gallery.

Berlin is typically known for the number of squatted buildings and illegally occupied areas that can be found all over the city, especially in the old industrial zones.

The students studied the concepts of "appropriation", "bottom up" and "participation", through the analysis of three very successful public spaces in Berlin.

Tempelhof is an example of how people can be attached to some places that are significant and symbolic for what they represented in the past: the airport of Tempelhof was in fact the one that received the goods coming from West Germany before the fall of the wall.

In this case this attachment led them to overcome the administrative forces, that wouldn't allow the locals to occupy the huge abandoned green space.



Like Tempelhof, the East Side Gallery is obviously a historically connoted space: the space behind the wall, the riverfront, was as well being autonomously used by the inhabitants for sunbathing and leisure activities. before being officially opened to the public in 2010.

The Prinzessinengärten are a typical example of a bottom up project, with the creation of a social gardening space out of a residual lot.

The students told the story of this places by making evocative photomontages of their evolution. Both in the montages and in the videos they made, people were the protagonists of the scene, making it clear what the focus of their study was.

IN BETWEEN SPACE AND TIME

- Case studies:

Tempelhofer Park, Mauerpark.

The fifth group made a comparison between two spaces that they considered being in an "in-between" stage, for different reasons: on one side Tempelhof, still waiting for a future (maybe never happening) landscape project; on the other Mauerpark, physically placed in between a dismissed area and the stadium, which compress it in a long strip of land.

What do the "in-between use" of Tempelhof and the "in-between position" of Mauerpark have in common?

The students tried to answer this question, underling some common characters of the two parks: old dismissed infrastructures. nomad architecture for temporary use, education and health.

Their study was very detailed, however in the end it wasn't very clear what their thesis was.



MAPPING OPEN SPACES IN BERLIN

- Case studies:

Tempelhofer Park, Mauerpark, Gleisdreieckpark, Kleine Gärten, Prinzessinengärten, Naturpark Schöneberger Südgelände, East Side Gallery, Landschaftspark Adlershof.

The last group gave an overall view on Berlin open spaces, making a comparison in terms of size, use position in the city, etc... They started out with two parallel analysis: on "processes/people" and on "spaces".

The fist one was focusing on the concepts (parameters) of "heritage", "bottom up process", "appropriation", "city park", "temporary", the second one on "connection", "mix of functions", "equipment", "artificiality of nature", "freedom of movements".

Each site was marked from 0 to 3 (by asking all the other groups

to give marks), according to the parameters, in order to make a comparison.

This allowed them to develop a tool to actually classify and evaluate public open spaces.

It was a very "scientific" approach, still requiring a much deeper analysis, but the fact that they actually went beyond the analysis level and made a proposal was considered appreciable by both the professors and the quest jury.



C O N C L U S I O N S

The general response was in conclusion guite positive.

The decision to push the students out of their "comfort zone" caused in some cases, especially at the beginning, some kind of disorientation, which made them struggle with the undefined track that we gave to the work.

Not knowing "what to do" was in fact stimulating for most of the students: they had to find a way to express their ideas, without having limitations on the contents or the ways to explicate them.

The fact that they knew they didn't have to deliver a project at the end didn't put on them the usual pressure, that the necessity of coming up with a proposal often creates.

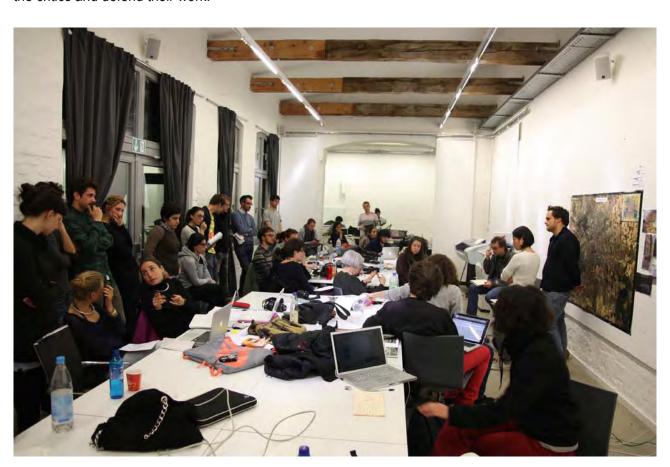
As a matter of fact, sometimes the results of this kind of workshops are unsatisfying and inconclusive, because of the short amount of time.

In this case it was interesting how it was possible to actually create a discussion, not giving very specific inputs to the students, but giving them the chance to witness situations that were different from what they were used to.

Berlin was in this sense a very good scenery, not only because of the number of interesting design and landscape projects, but also because it offers many urban scenes, that can be experienced just by wondering around the city.

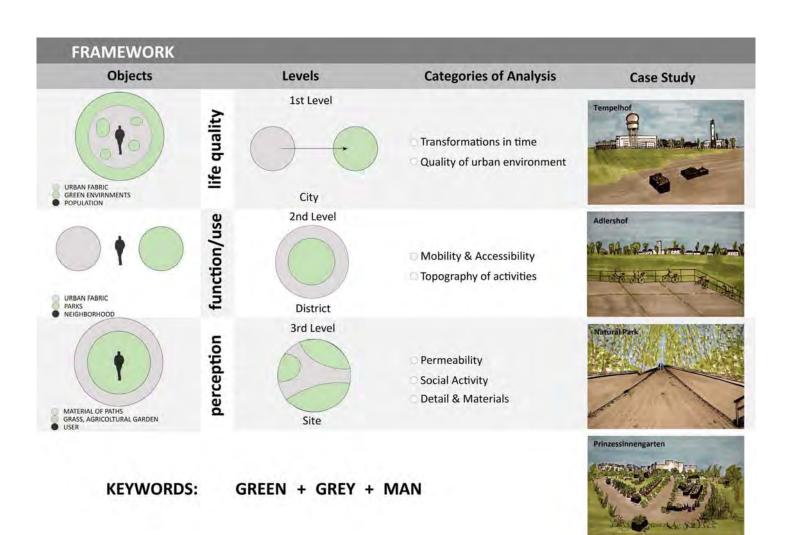
The outputs, the presentations and the analysis, were consistent in the sense that they were the result of a personal course that every group's work had taken.

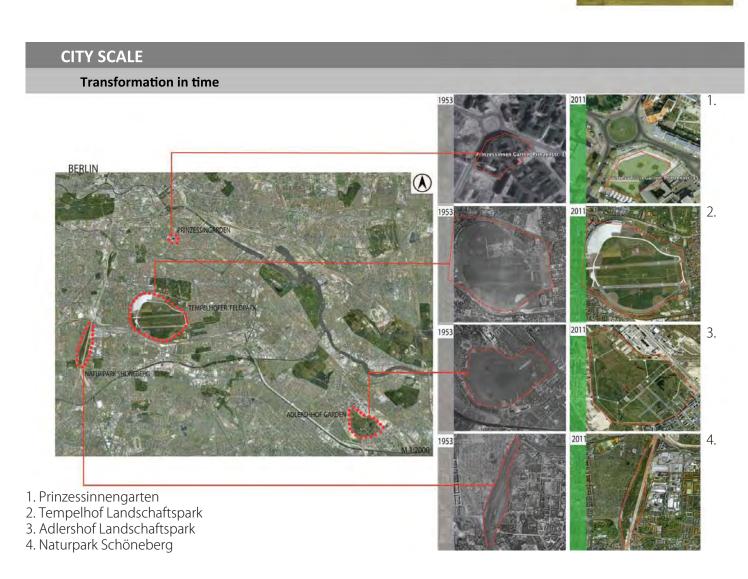
The guests in the final presentation were in fact appreciative of the way the topics were presented, so that it was always possible to start a discussion between them and the students, that were ready to respond to the critics and defend their work.



 $\ensuremath{\text{1}}$. "GREEN and GREY" . artificiality and nature in the city







SITE SCALE

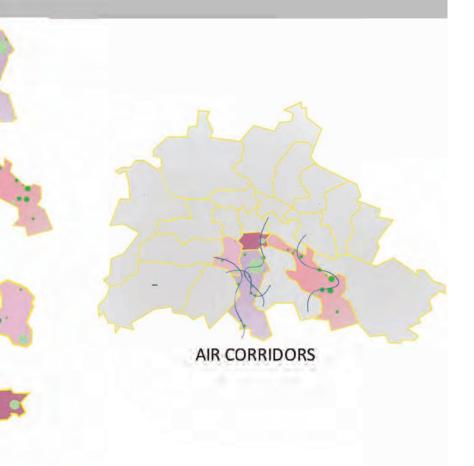
Quality of Urban Environment

green now 6797 mq grey 12193 kmq population 54.382 park area 4117 mq increase of green %153

> green 1113 mq grey 40649 kmq population 113.140 park area 397 mq increase of green %55

green 644 mq grey 10599 kmq population 116.743 park area 467 mq increase of green %263

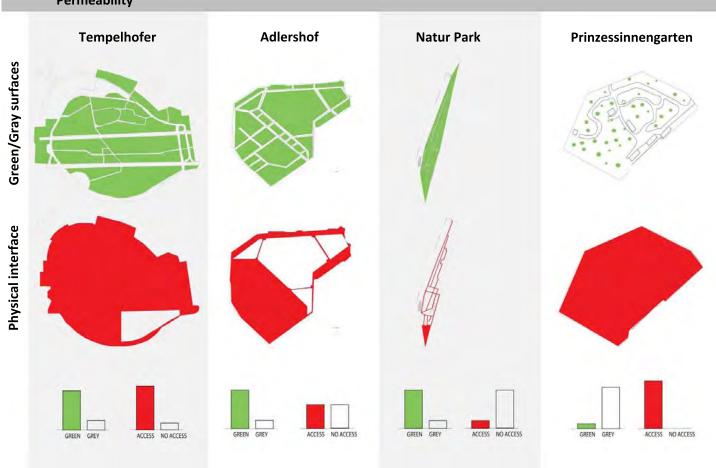
green 393 mq grey 10399 kmq population 147,227 park area 76 mq increase of green %24`

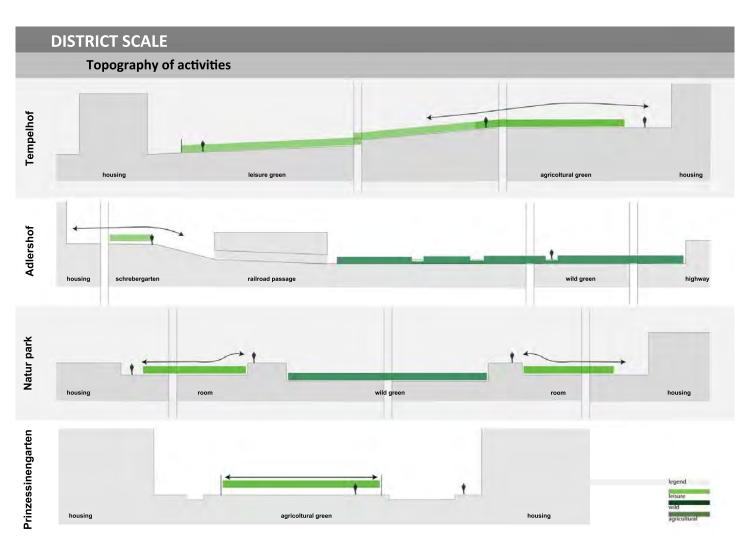


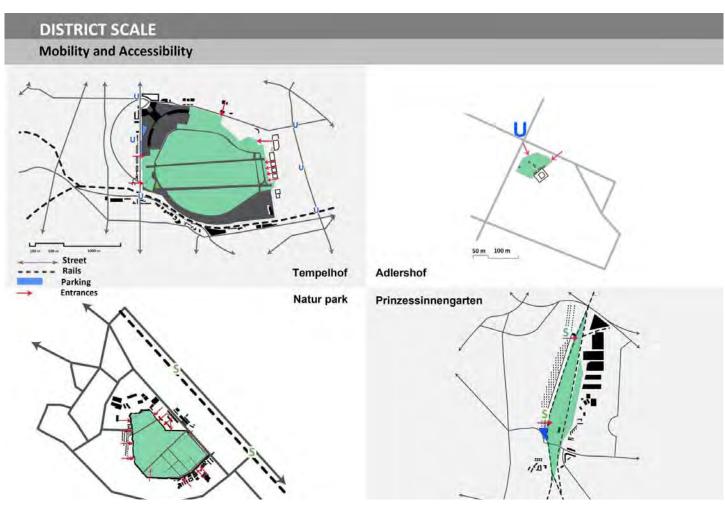
SITE SCALE

Prinzesennen

Permeability







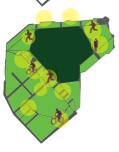


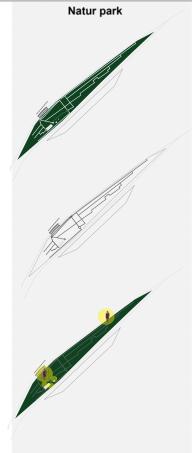
Social Activity











Prinzessinnengarten

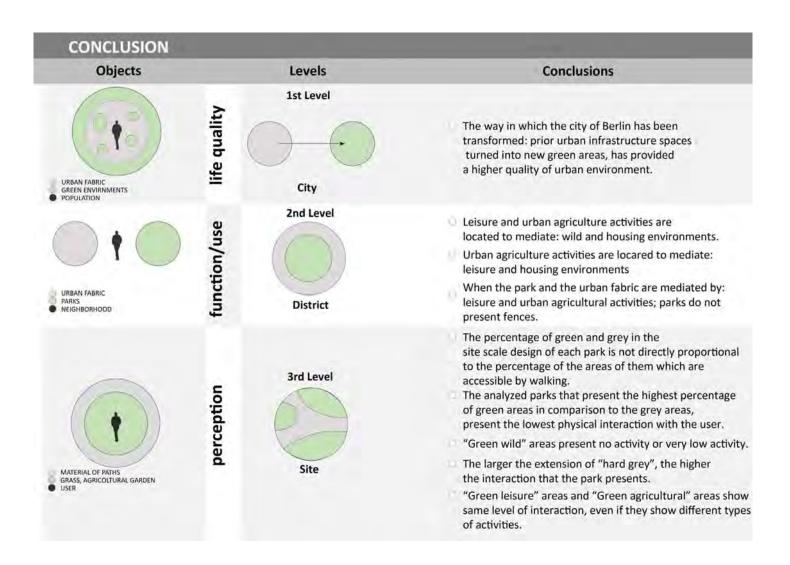


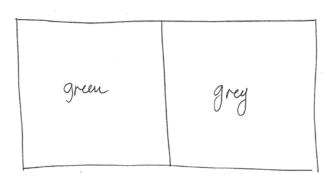




iegena	
interaction	leisure
soft	wild
hard	agricultural







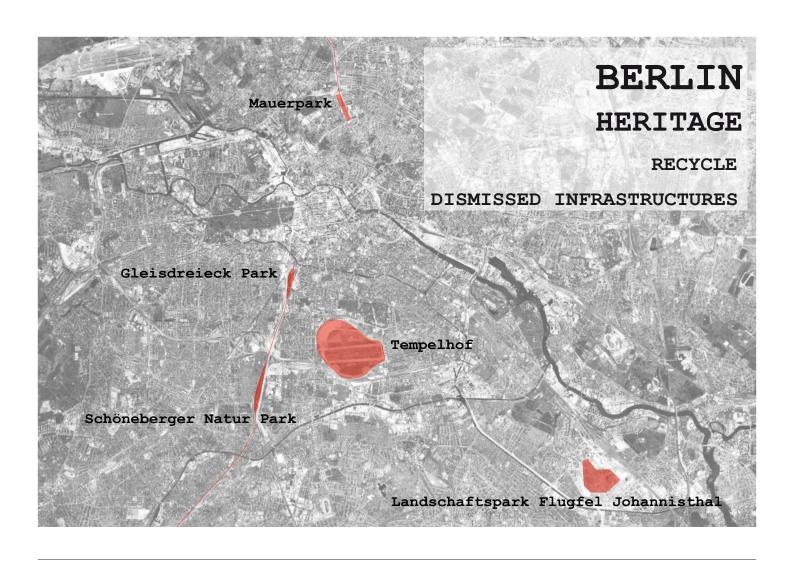
Is the transformation of "grey" into "green" becoming a guideline for future urban developments in Berlin?

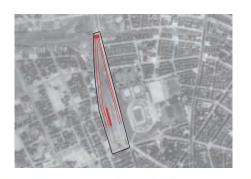
Should the agricultural garden become a fourth level of design, considered as a mediator between "green" and "grey"?

Are spaces for free temporary activities the key to successfully design the "green" and the "grey" of future parks?

${\bf 2}$. "RECYCLING" . the heritage of dismissed infrastructures

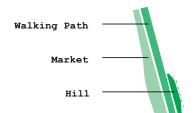








MAUERPARK

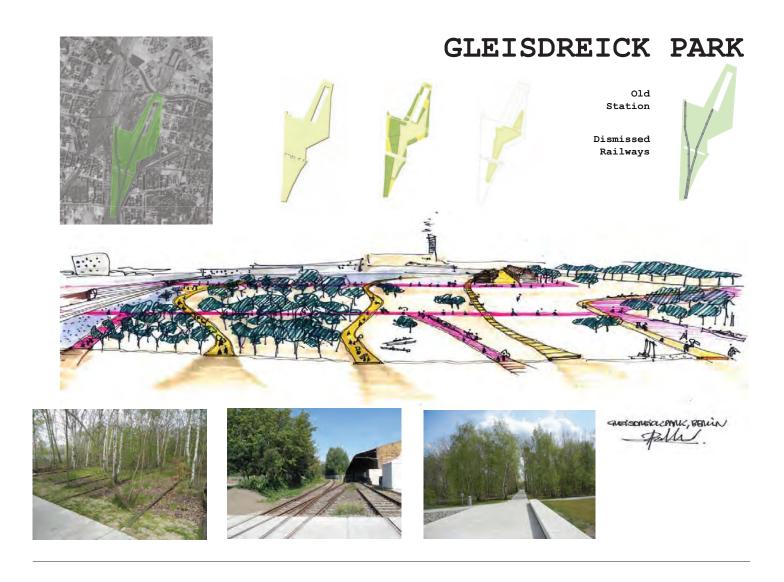




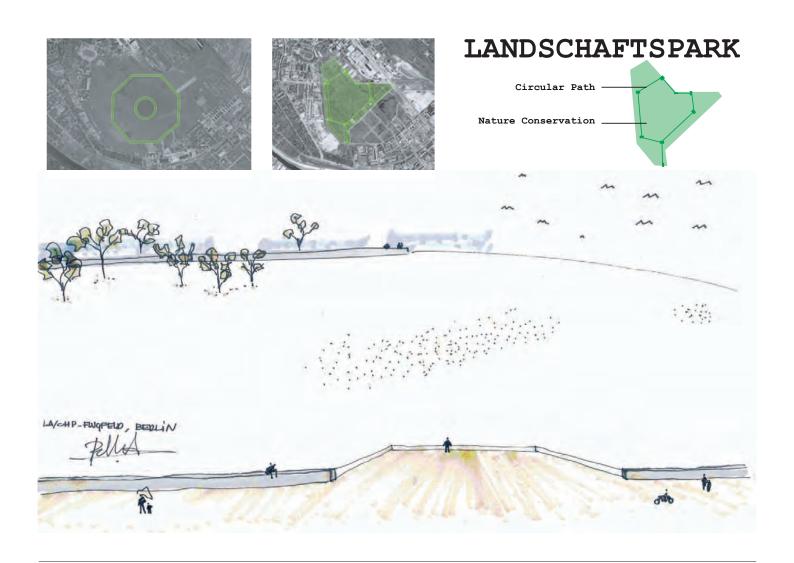


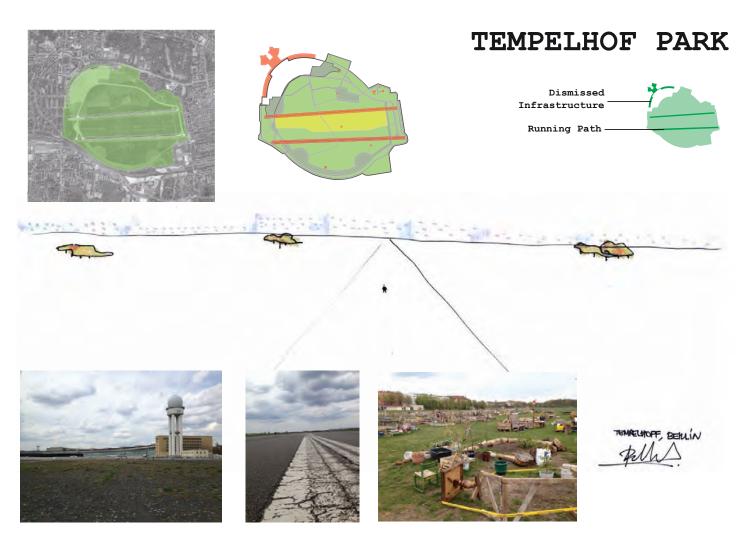


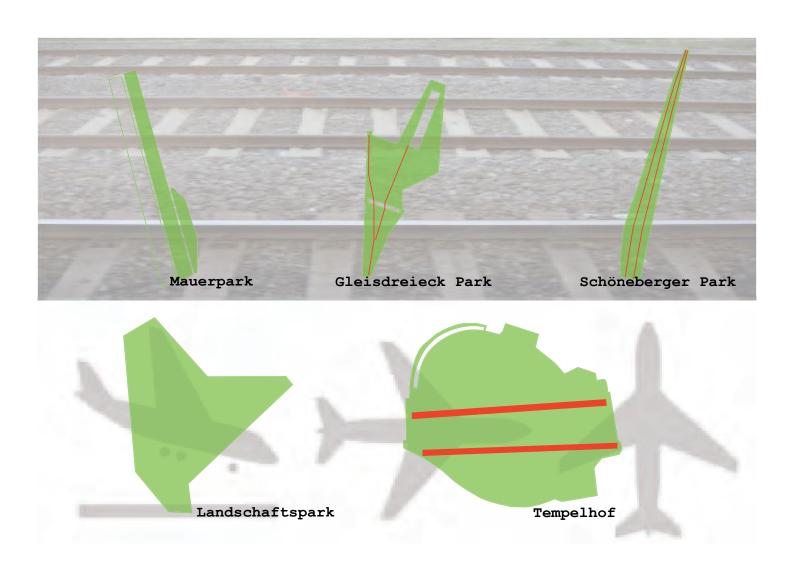




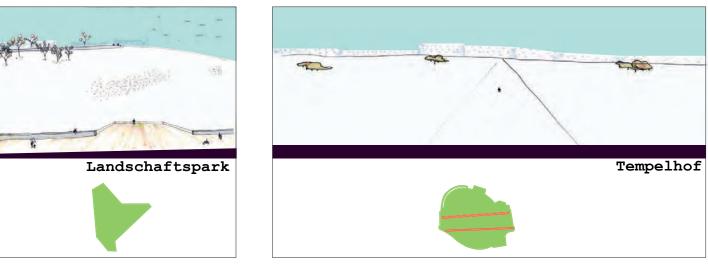








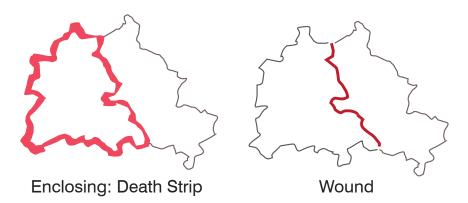




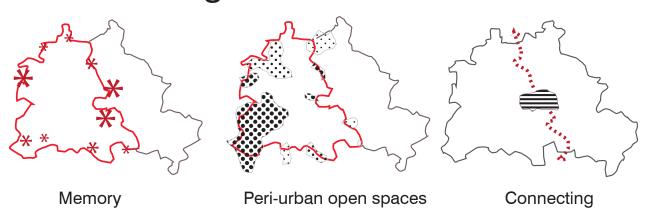
3 . "SEQUENCE" . public space along the wall

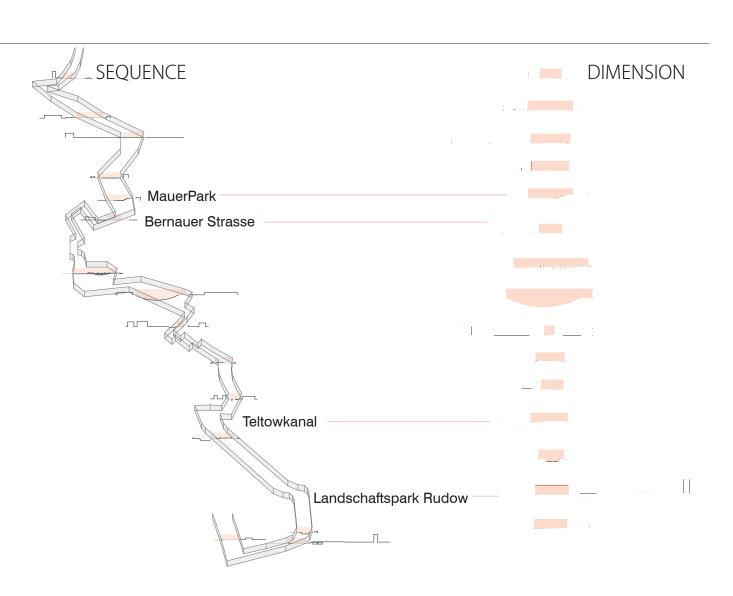


The Mauer

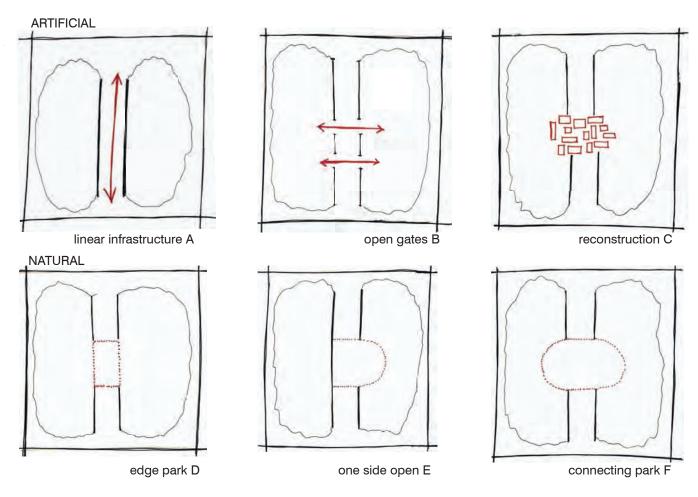


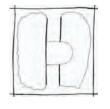
The Mauerweg





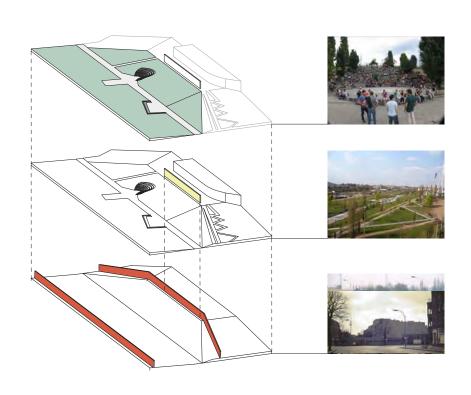
Resew abacus

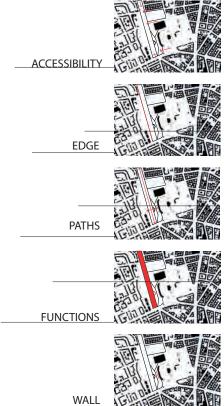




MAUERPARK



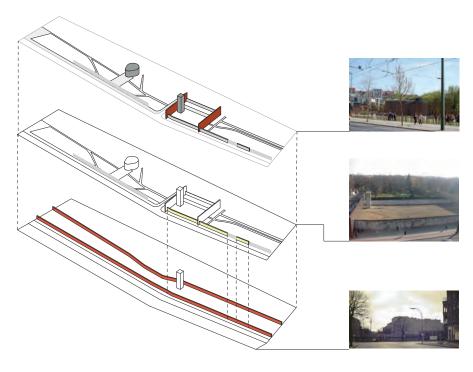


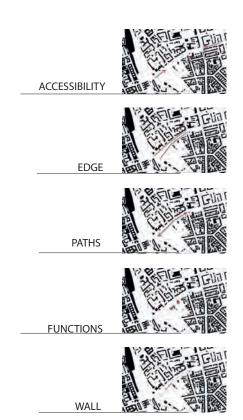


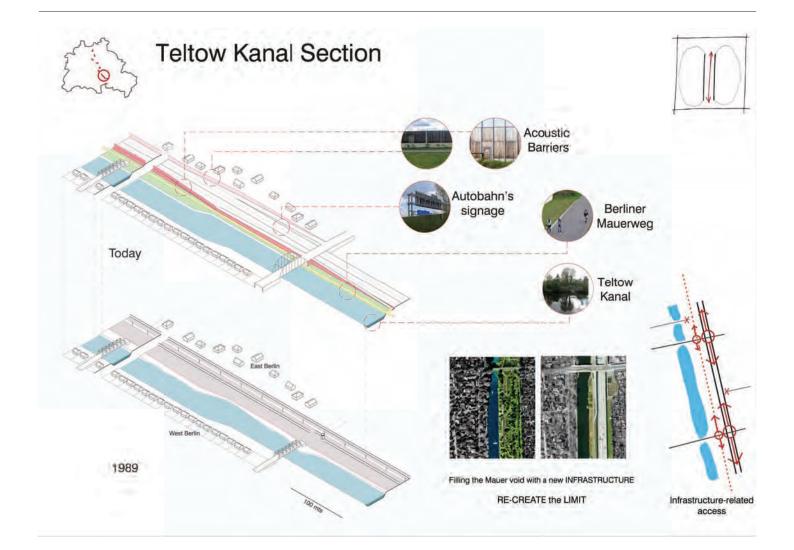


BERNAUER STRASSE

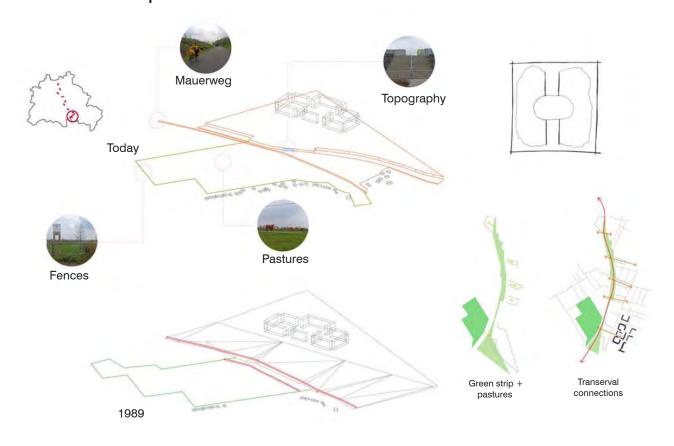






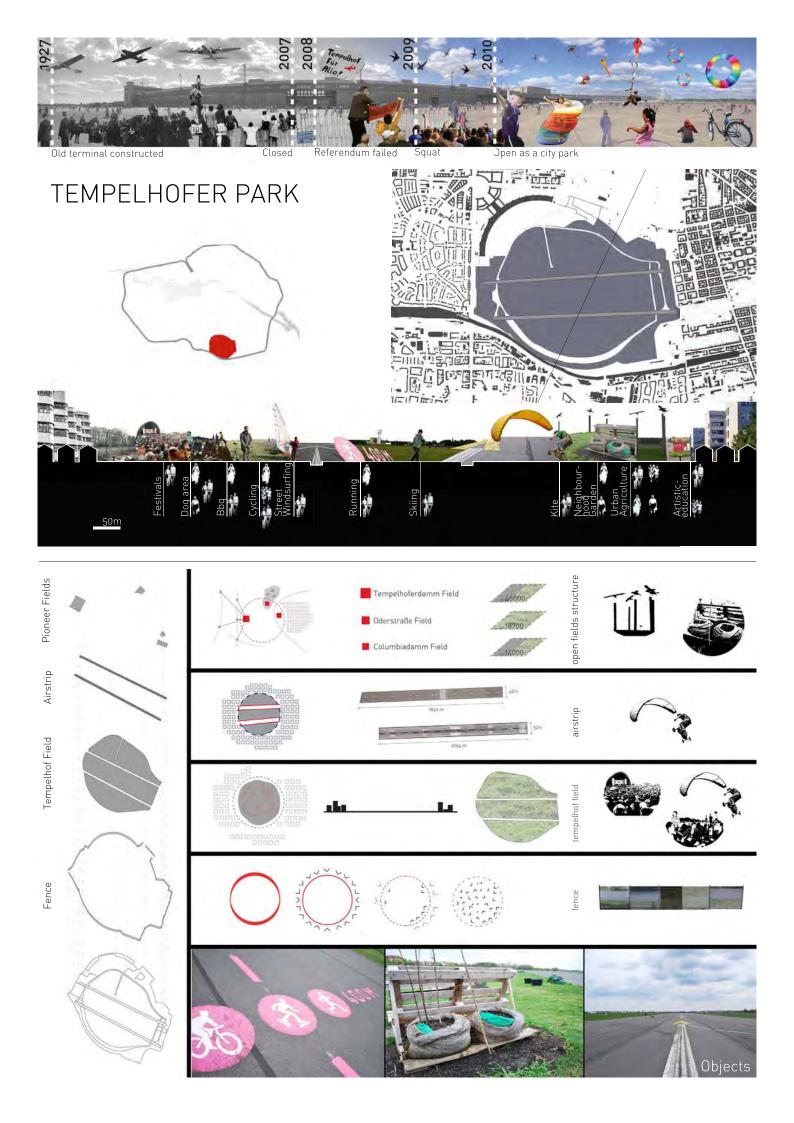


Landschaftspark Rudow Alt-Glienicke

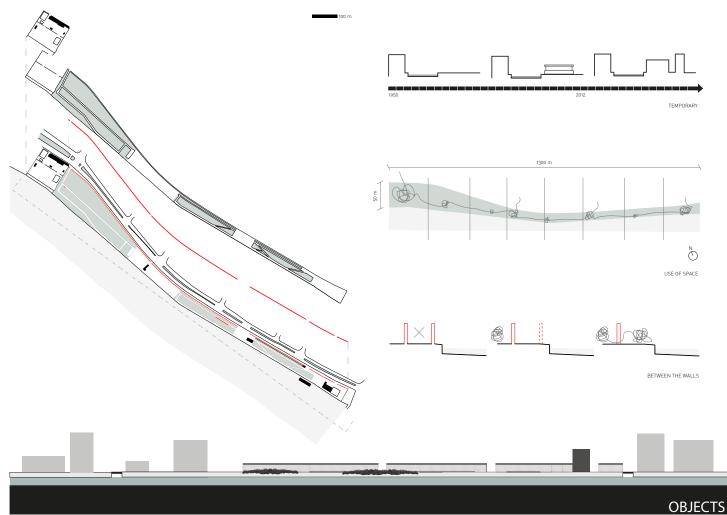


 $\hbox{4. "APPROPRIATION". spontaneously public spaces } \\$

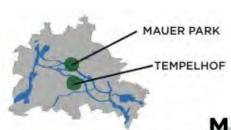












IN BETWEEN SPACE AND TIME MAUERPARK TEMPELHOF

LINEAR SHAPE OF THE IN-BETWEEN USES

BIKE AS A TRANSPORTATION MEAN

LEISURE USES

MORPHOLOGY

OLD DISMISSED INSRASTRUCTURE

NOMAD ARCHITECTURE FOR TEMPORARY USES

100000

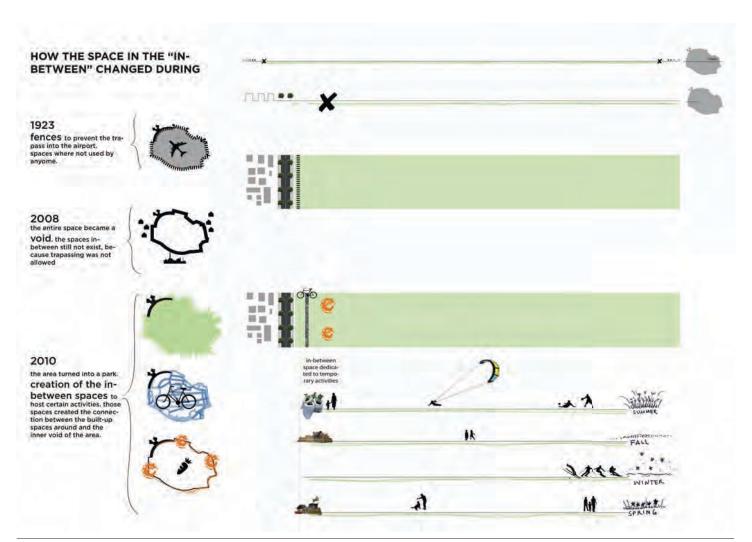
EDUCATION AND HEALTH

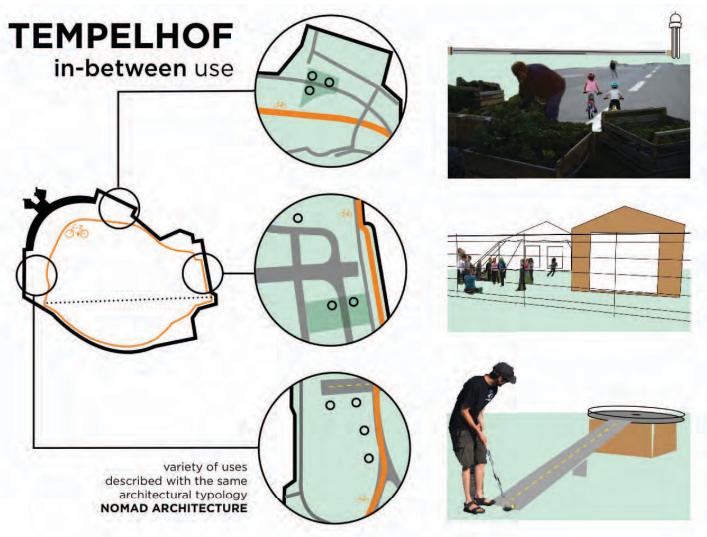
COLLAR SHAPE OF THE IN-BETWEEN SPACES

BIKE AS AN ACTIVITY

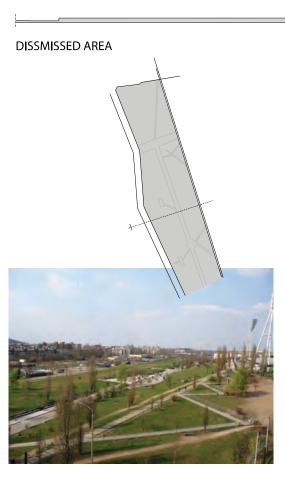
SPORT USES

SIZE





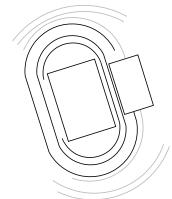
SECTION OF THE INBETWEEN



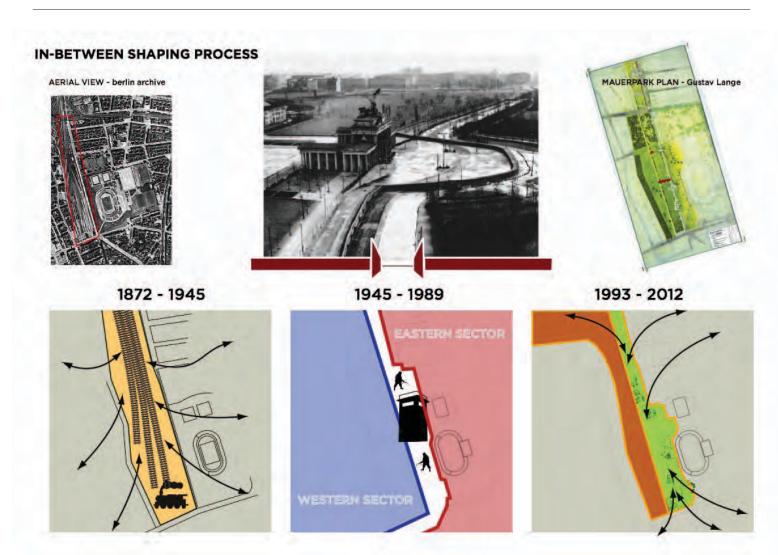


The park covers an area between a dismissed site and the stadium, the level of the ground enhance the division of functions in the two areas around.

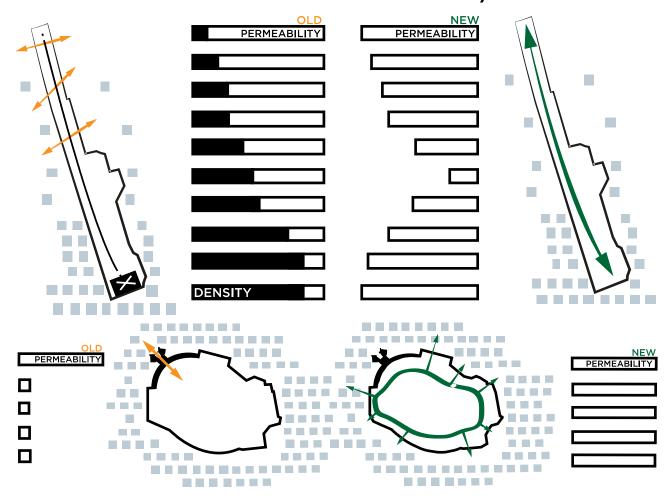
STADIUM AND SPORT FACILITIES





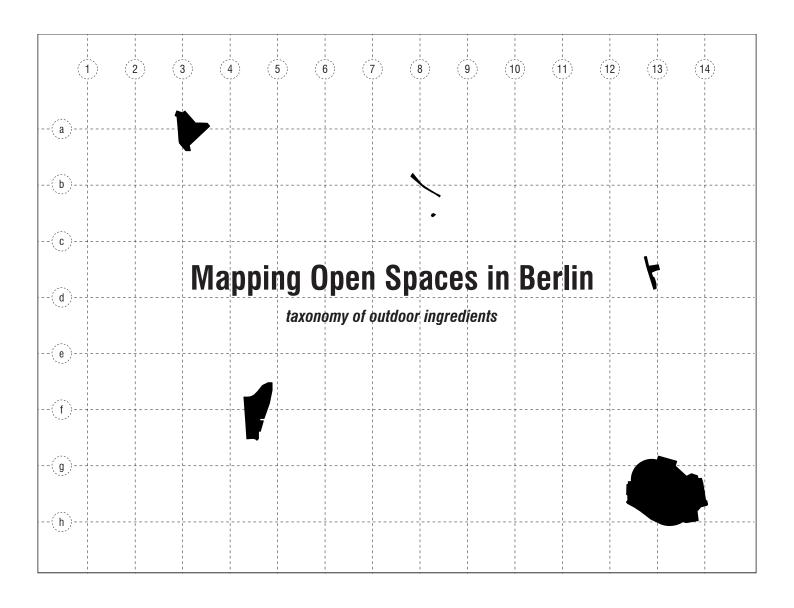


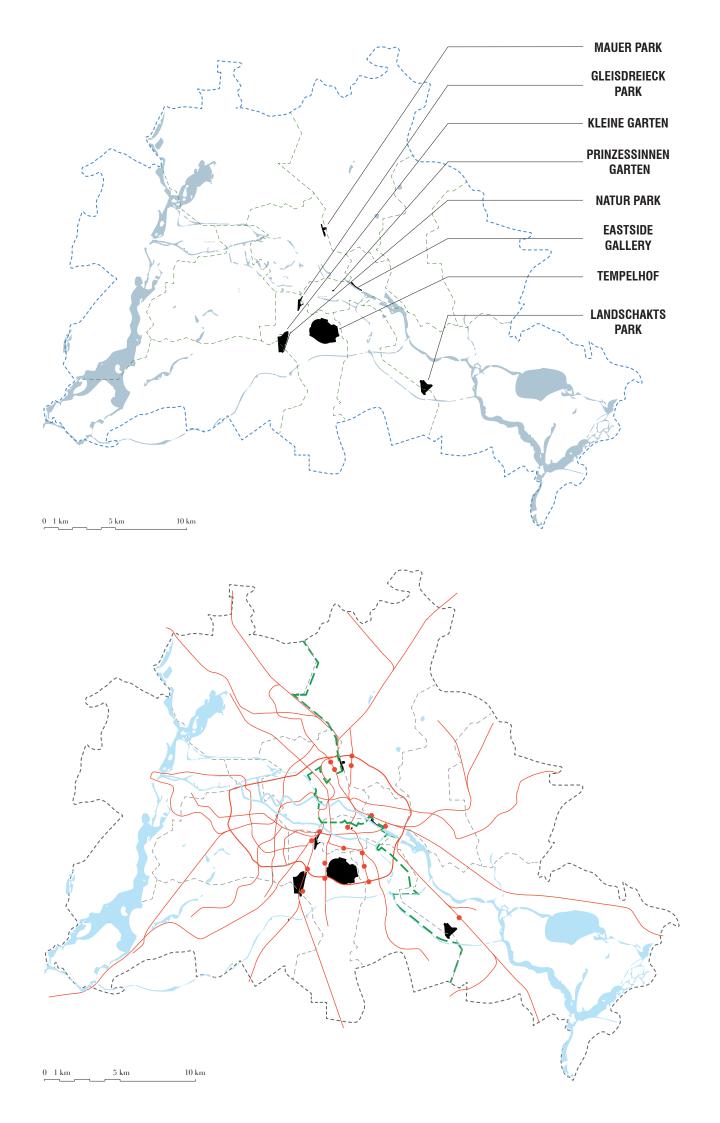
DENSITY/PERMEABILITY

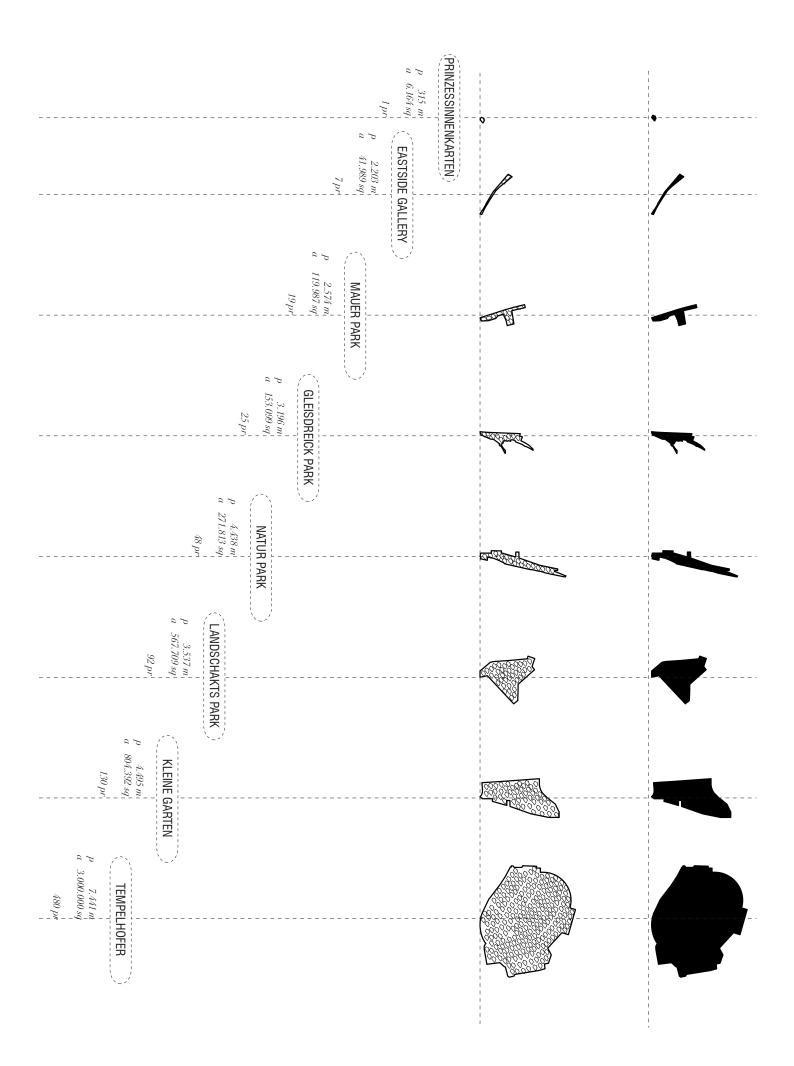


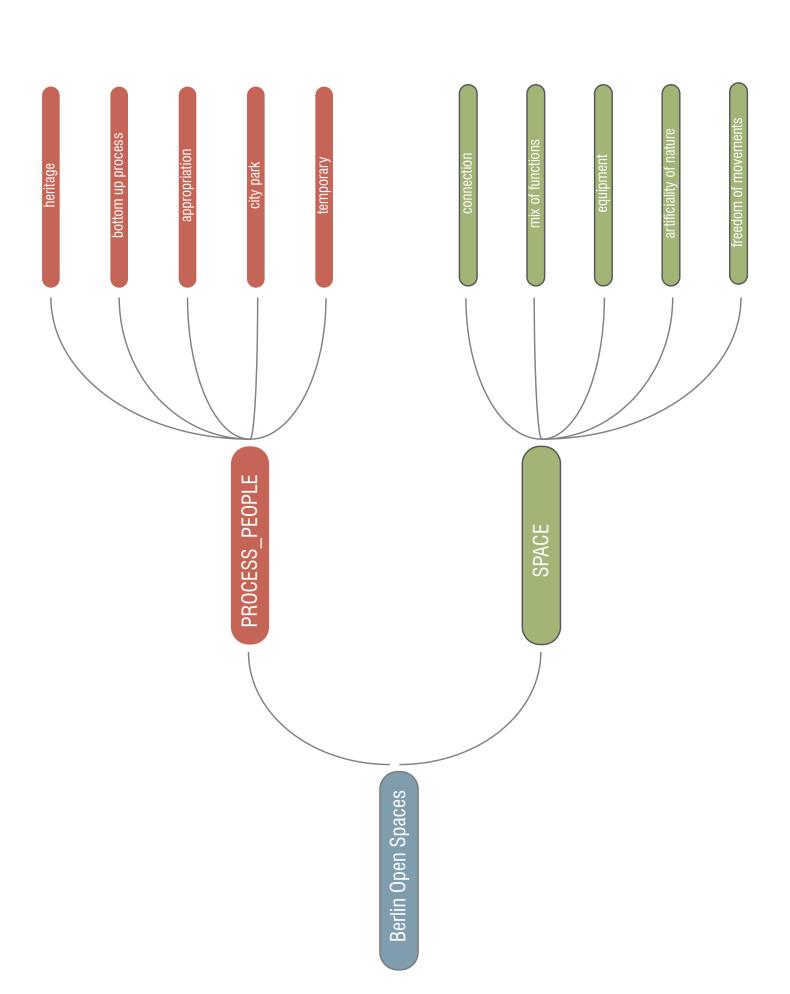


6." MAPPING OPEN SPACES IN BERLIN"









PEOPLE/ PROCESS HERITAGE

Memory, different meanings coming from the past.

Does the place have different meanigs, according to the functions it used to have in the past? Is it a maninful memory for the whole city?

BOTTOM UP PROCESS

When design process comes from citizens' initiative.

How much did citizens take part to the project design and implementation?

APPROPRATION

Self customization, personalization of a piece of pubblic space.

What percentage of spaces and activities in the park are the result of a spontaneous users' start up?

ATTRACTION

When the park is an attractor for city-scale users.

Are the park users coming from different areas?

TEMPORARY

The occupation of the space is temporary.

Is the occupation of the space threatened?

no memories identification with memory 1 2 3 top-down planning bottom-up planning 0 1 2 people adapting to the space people adapting the space to them 0 1 2 3 neighborhood park city park 0 1 2 3

SPACE

CONNECTION

The area is served by pubblic transportation, at a urban scale

Is the park served by pubblic transportation? Are the in a 10 minutes walking circle serving?

MIX OF FUNCTIONS

Different activities could be implemented in the park.

How many different activities could people do in the park?

EQUIPMENT

Precence of structures to support human activities.

What percentage of the park area is equipped?

ARTIFICIALITY OF NATURE

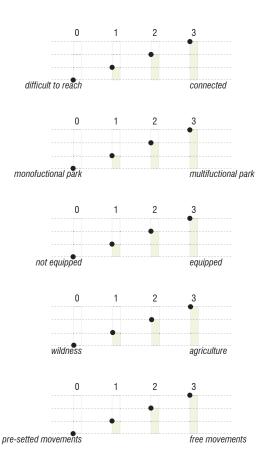
The nature in the park is the result of human work.

How much are green areas the result of human work, maintenance, design?

FREEDOM OF MOVEMENTS

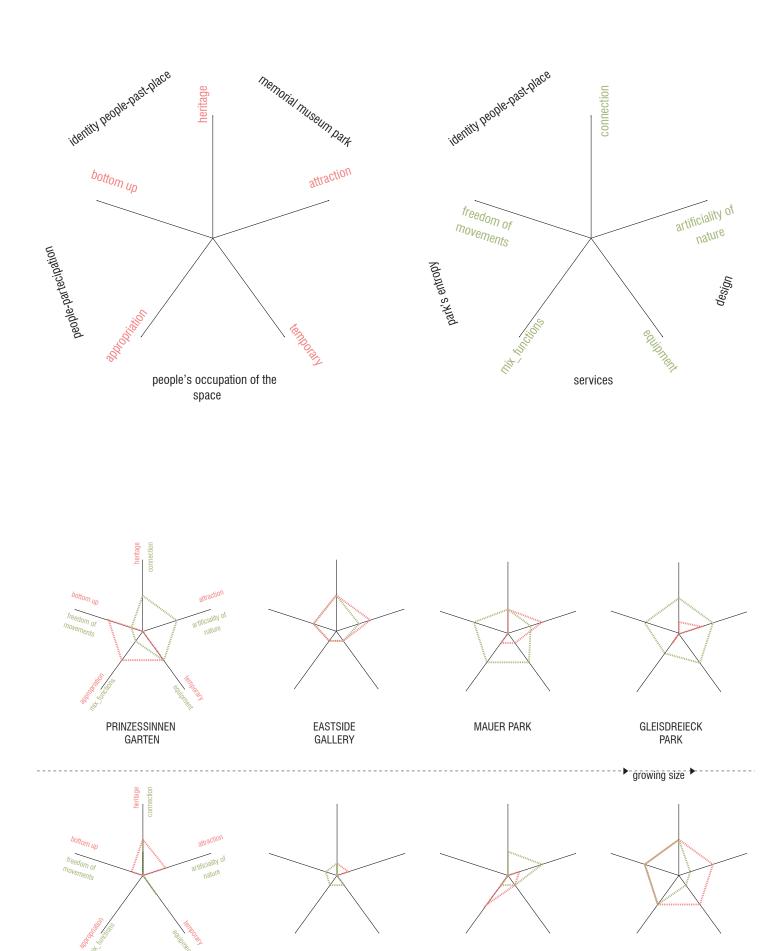
The design of the park allow people to move freely in the space.

How much people could decide where to go in the park?



PEOPLE/ PRINZESSINNEN Garten **PROCESS** LANDSCHAKTS Park **MAUER PARK** NATUR PARK TEMPELHOF EASTSIDE Gallery **HERITAGE BOTTOM UP PROCESS APPROPRATION ATTRACTION TEMPORARY SPACE** PRINZESSINNEN Garten MAUER PARK CONNECTION MIX OF **FUNCTIONS EQUIPMENT** ARTIFICIALITY , *** **OF NATURE** FREEDOM OF

MOVEMENT

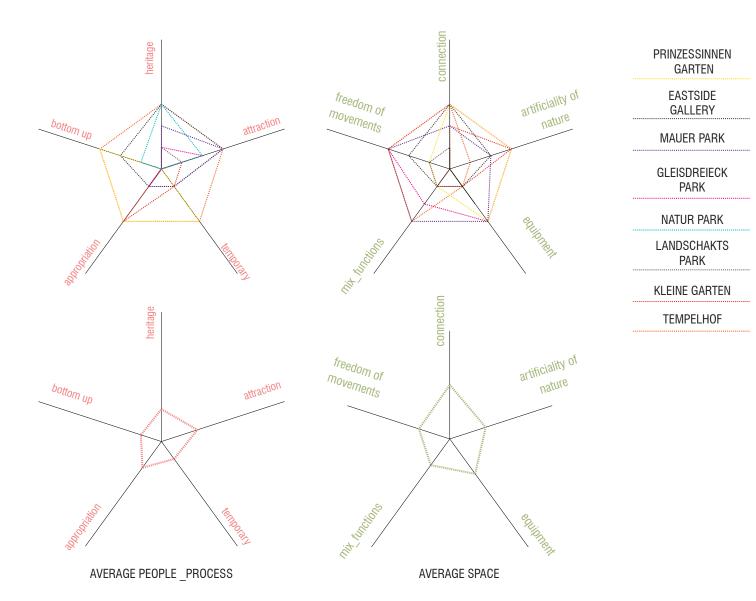


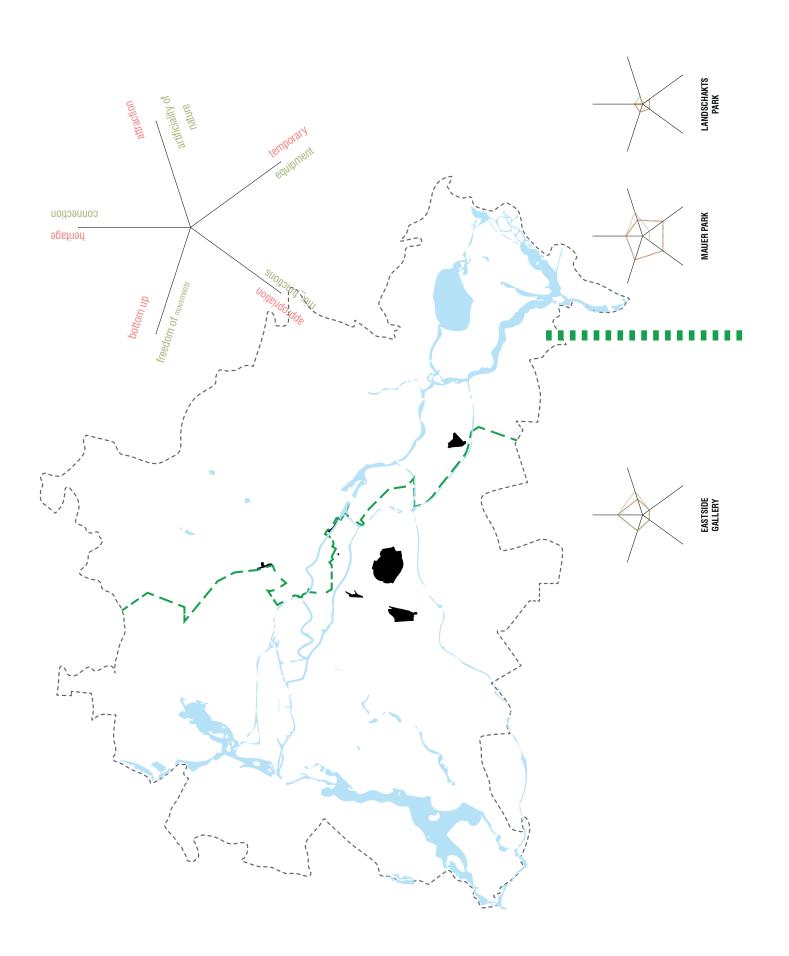
LANDSCHAKTS PARK

NATUR PARK

TEMPELHOF

KLEINE GARTEN







Maria

Maria is a mother.

She could be quite worried about Marc, her little son.

She is pregnant and she needs a space easy to reach, where she could rest while watching Marc playing.

The place should be safe, equipped with benches and playgrounds, with a controlled and urban pature. controlled and urban nature.

- connection
- mix of fuctions
- equipment artificiality of nature

MARIA	PRINZESSINNEN GARTEN	EASTSIDE Gallery	MAUER PARK	GLEISDREIECK Park	NATUR PARK	LANDSCHAKTS Park	KLEINE GARTEN	TEMPELHOF
HERITAGE								
BOTTOM UP PROCESS								
APPROPRATION								
ATTRACTION								
TEMPORARY								
CONNECTION .								
MIX OF FUNCTIONS		X			X		X	
EQUIPMENT								
FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT								
ARTIFICIALITY OF NATURE					\times			X



International group

Ludovica, Davide, Sciuo, Stanisl are four friends living in Berlin and coming from Italy, US, China and Spain. They love laying in a park in Sundays where they could meet other international students. They place should be easy to reach. Ludovica loves having pic-nics, Davide and Stanisl are "great" football players and Sciuo is usually lazy. They need a place where they could freely do all their favourite activities.

- attraction
- connection
- mix of fuctions -freedom of movements

1	LUDOVICA DAVIDE SCIUO STANIS	PRINZESSINNEN GARTEN	EASTSIDE GALLERY	MAUER PARK	GLEISDREIECK Park	NATUR PARK	LANDSCHAKTS Park	KLEINE GARTEN	TEMPELHOF
HERITAGE									
BOTTOM UP PROCESS	† in								
APPROPRATIO									
ATTRACTION	BERLIN								
TEMPORARY									
CONNECTION									
MIX OF FUNCTIONS		X	X			X	X	X	
EQUIPMENT									
FREEDOM OF MOVEMEN	T 🏂 →	X				X	X	X	
ARTIFICIALITY OF NATURE									



Michelle

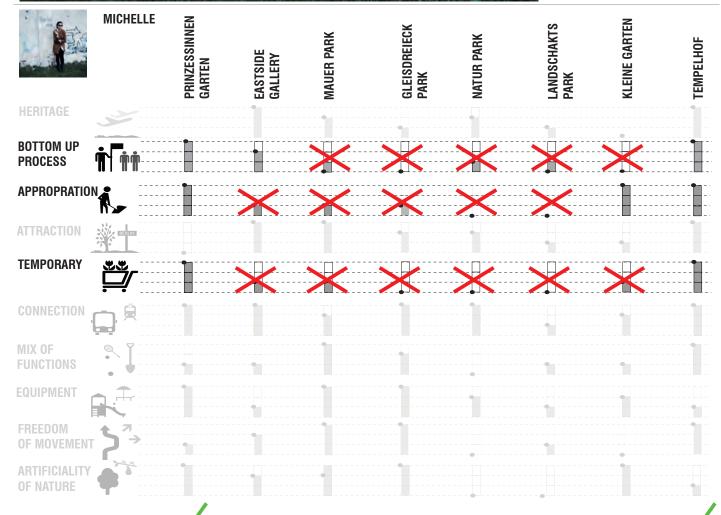
Michelle studied Architecture in Paris.

Then she realized she wanted to live in Berlin, making pieces of furniture out of recycled materials.

She is vegan, and she just wants to eat biological products. She likes places in the city, who where created thanks to the action of her friends.

Actually in those places there are severals of the tables and the chairs she made.

- bottom-up process
 - appropriation
 - temporary

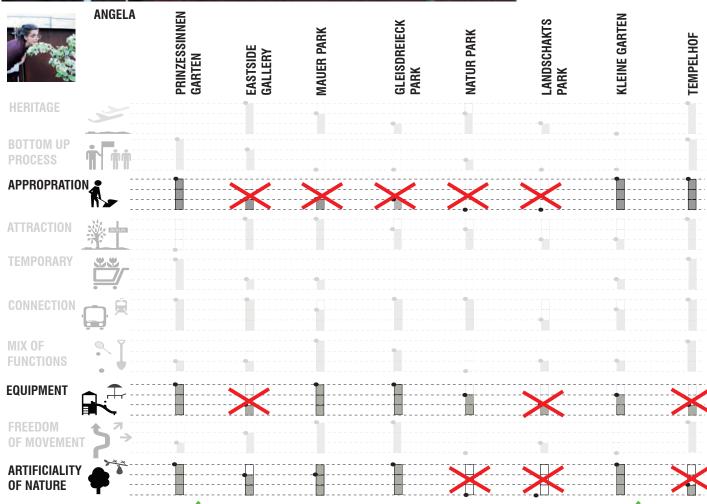




Angela

Angela is 68. She used to live in the coutryside near Munich. She moved to Berlin, butt she would love to find a place in the city where to grow her favourite flawers and trees.

- appropriation
- equipment artificiality of nature





Jennifer

Jennifer is a tourist from US. She is in a European Inter Rail . She needs to take pictures to show her friends how cool where the places she went. Berlin and its wall is going to be her next Facebook profile picture.

She doesn't have a car, and she needs

She doesn't have a car, and she needs to move around with pubblic transportation.

- heritage
- attraction
- connection

