

# \_ringlocpark

## revitalisation of augsburgs railroad district

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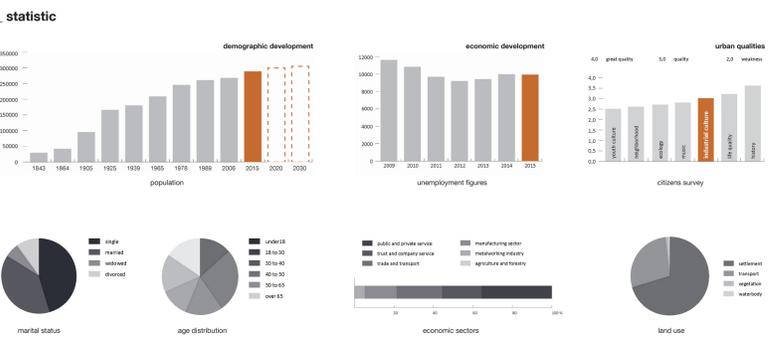
"Doesn't it all look the same?" This succinct but quite serious question regarding transformation projects in urban design and landscape architecture is the basis for a critical analysis of contemporary design practice and the urban landscape it is confronted with. The project uses examples of former railway yards to discuss the appearance of 'convergent spaces' in the urban fabric and the tendency of seemingly homogeneous places with similar design expression to consequently emerge, with a risk of inter-visibility and loss of site-specific identity. To handle this dichotomy between convergence and site specificity, an approach from spatial sociology is consulted to serve as a basis for landscape architectural and urban design work. The 'Raumbildtheorie' (Space-Image / Sign-Theory) by Detlev Isen is added to the conventional spatial and physical understanding of sites through an additional mental and cultural interpretation of space. The former rail yard and repair depot and its surrounding districts in Augsburg serves as a project area to verify the applicability of this approach in a specific design proposal.

Augsburg is located in the south of Germany at the confluence of the rivers Wertach and Lech. The city, founded by the Romans is one of the oldest cities in Germany. In the 15th and 16th century Augsburg became an influential commercial metropolis in Europe. After centuries of decline the city experienced another prosperous period since the mid-20th century where Augsburg evolved into a great industrial base and rail hub. The railway history and culture within its urban and social structures is defining for the southern city districts down to the present day. But as a result of structural changes in technology, society and economy abandoned land and a crisis of identity have emerged.

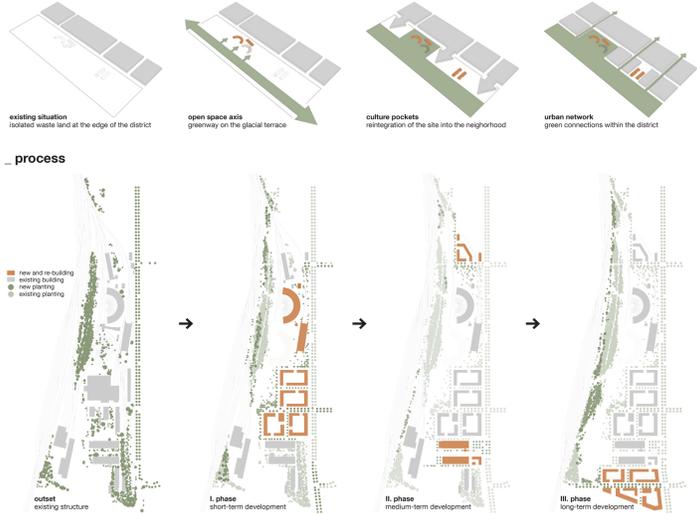
The cultural led urban transformation of the former rail yard and repair depot for locomotives contributes to the spatial and social development of a growing city with increasing pressure on land and resources. The proposed 'ringlocpark' acts on the one hand as the primary component of a new open space axis on the plateau of Augsburg and on the other hand as a suture of the urban gap within the southern parts of the city. The spatial conversion strengthens the existing built and cultural structures in a manner which establishes identity and enables the transition to a site-specific development for the new railway district in the 21st century.



## \_analysis



## \_concept



## \_transformation

