

Paderborn Königsplatz >>>



Paderborn Königsplatz

1st prize invited competition

project
design proposal for a public square

location
Paderborn, Germany

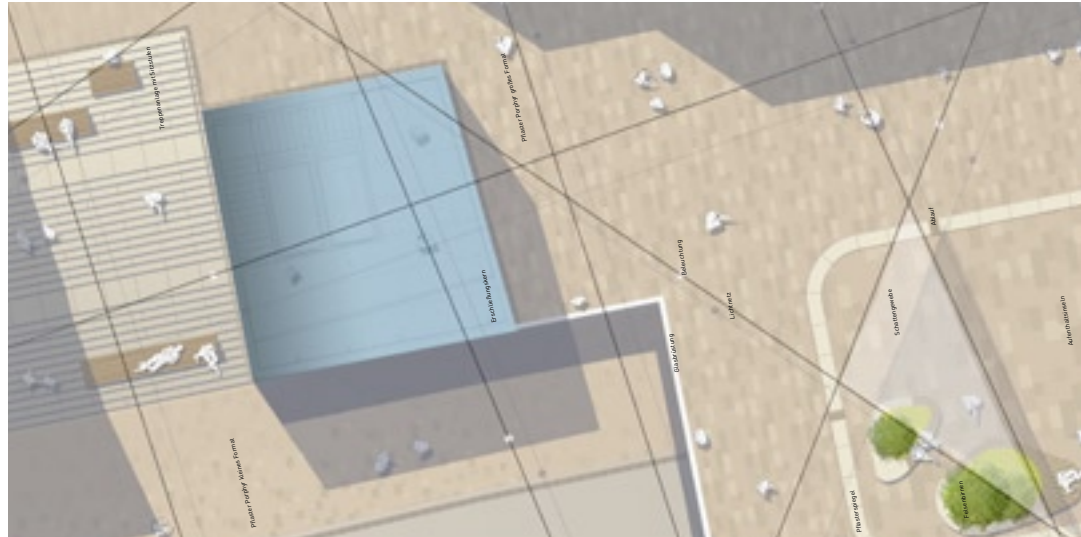
designers
Frits van Loon
Gerwin de Vries

partners
Foundation 5+ Landscape Architects

client
Municipality of Paderborn

size
0.5 ha

year of design
2011



The shopping center in the heart of the German city Paderborn, built in the 70s, has to undergo a major transformation in the near future. Part of this transformation is the public space called Königsplatz, situated on top of a parking garage, next to the old town. The municipality of Paderborn has launched a competition for the design of the public space. Hosper and Foundation 5+ Landscape Architects from Kassel have won the first prize in the competition with their proposal. The proposal includes both a design for the short term and a strategy for the long term.

A new identity for the Königsplatz

For the short term the proposal is to clean up the current square and to introduce a proper lighting plan. Because of the uncertainties in the planning and construction of the whole area, the design is flexible and kept simple. Above the square there is a net of lights, creating a starry sky in the evening. A series of moveable seating elements gives new identity to the square. The seating elements are decorated with wood and light the plaza floor of the Königsplatz. They also function as a container for trees





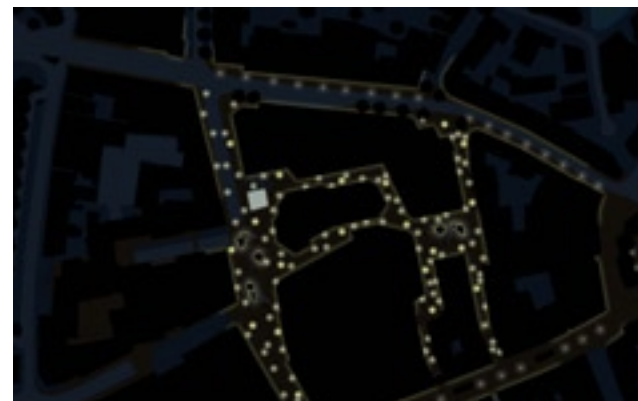
(*Amelanchier lamarckii*) since these cannot be placed in the floor, due to the construction of the parking garage. In order to enhance the relationship with the rest of the town, the Königsplatz will be paved with porphyry, a natural stone that is being used in the public space of the historical centre.

Strategy for the long term

For the long term Hosper and Foundation 5+ suggest to demolish parts of the parking deck in order to restore the original street pattern. The Königstraße, once an important shopping street and now a dark, covered parking street, is the shining example of that strategy. At the place where the deck is removed, a staircase makes a beautiful edge to the Königstraße and at the same time provides access to the renewed Königsplatz.



design of square



design of square by night



seating elements

