

Press Release

RUHR.2010 project „Route der Wohnkultur“ opens doors and eyes

How the Ruhr Region Lives

The „Route der Wohnkultur“ shows the architecture and everyday culture between Duisburg and Dortmund during the Capital of Culture year.

The Margarethenhöhe in Essen, the Eisenheim housing estate in Oberhausen, Fliedner Village in Mülheim an der Ruhr, the Tossehof in Gelsenkirchen, the Hohenhof in Hagen, the Canal Flats at Duisburg's inner harbour, the Hattingen Altstadt - residential culture in the Metropole Ruhr, architecture and housing development that signify the history and transformation of this region. The Capital of Culture project „Route der Wohnkultur“ ("Route of Residential Culture") showcases select, significant and distinctive properties in the region and invites visitors to get to know the people of the Metropole Ruhr and their everyday culture: in each of the 58 residential properties, one flat will be available for viewing.

The final list of participating properties was set at the beginning of December. City planners, architects, housing associations, historic preservationists, the North Rhine-Westphalia Ministry for Building and Transport, RUHR.2010 GmbH, the North Rhine-Westphalia state initiative StadtBauKultur and the individual communities contributed to the decision-making process. „It's a terrific selection of houses and residential developments that can be toured on the „Route der Wohnkultur“ says project co-initiator Lars Niemann of Stadtidee. „Not only do we have the typical miner housing estates, but also modern architecture, successful experiments and rediscovered, converted and respectfully renovated housing. The individual properties are arranged around the themes of Housing Estate, History and Modernity, Urbanity and Demography.“ In addition to the buildings and their integration into the urban context, the „Route der Wohnkultur“ also presents the people who live there, their living environment, the neighbourhood density and mix as well as the social structures and the questions of the housing's identity and symbolism.

During the Cultural Capital year bus tours will be offered that depart from the hub cities of Duisburg, Oberhausen, Essen, Bochum and Dortmund and travel to the surrounding properties. Scheduled walking tours of the individual housing estates and neighbourhoods will also be available. From January to July and in November and December the residential projects can be viewed from their exteriors. During the Wohnkultur summer from August to October each tour will include at least one flat interior. One high point is the Day of Wohnkultur on September 19, 2010, when all 58 housing estates, flats and residential buildings can be viewed from the inside. On this day housing seminars, themed tours, events and neighbourhood celebrations will be held between Duisburg and Hamm. Information regarding individual tours can be found on the internet at: www.routederwohnkultur.de

As of May 2009 an extensive catalogue of the project will be available that documents the locations and provides information on the past, present and future of housing in the Ruhr region. Further information can be found at: www.routederwohnkultur.de



All properties in overview

Bergkamen

Women Planning and Building*

Bochum

Hasenwinkel Machine Hall, Housing in the Centre, Im Hole*, Grummer Karree*, Hammer Park*, Hustadt*

Bottrop

Haus Luise-Hensel-Strasse, Villa Dickmann

Dortmund

Apartment Building, Tremonia Architect Houses, Tremonia WohnreWIR, Corvarastrasse, Fürst Hardenberg Housing Estate*, Heiligegartenstrasse High-rise, Immermannstrasse Housing Estate, Presidential Housing Estate / Kaiserblock, Praebau Housing Estate

Duisburg

AWO Seniors Centre, NF1, Bauhaus Karree, Canal Flats, Ratingsee Housing Estate*, Bridge Towers

Essen

Margarethenhöhe, Villa Werden, Dinnendahlsche Factory, Zollverein Assistance Centre, Beginenhof*, Dinnendahlstrasse Housing Development, Gruga Carree, Dilldorfer Höhe*, Rosstrasse One-Family Home

Gelsenkirchen

Malakow Towers Coal Mine Holland, Vittinghoff Housing Estate*, Schüngelberg Housing Estate*, Küppersbusch Housing Estate*, Tossehof*

Hagen

Hohenhof, Thron Prikker House / Lauweriksbauten, Zamel Apartment House, Walddorf Housing Estate

Hamm

Old School

Hattingen

Birschel's Mill, Altstadt Apartment Houses, New Bauhaus

Herne

Teutoburgia*, Bebelstrasse Residential and Commercial Blocks, Mont Cenis Academy Housing Development

Kamen

Seseke Meadows*

Lünen

Osterfeld Residence*

Mülheim

Former City Bath, Fliedner Village*, Feierabendhaus, Wrexham Barracks

Oberhausen

Water Tower, Eisenheim Housing Estate*

Oer-Erkenschwick

Schillerpark*

* Publicly funded residential construction projects



Theme: Housing Estate

The Metropole Ruhr is like hardly any other urban region of housing developments. The various types of housing estates allow the region's housing history to show through: from the early garden city developments and the post-war housing estates to the large-scale residential developments of the seventies and the International Building Exhibition Emscher Park (IBA Emscher Park) of the nineties.

Examples:



Eisenheim Housing Estate, Oberhausen - Housing with Tradition

The 150-year-old Eisenheim housing estate is the oldest industrial-era workers' estate in the Ruhr region and one of the oldest housing estates still maintained in Germany. It was built in several construction phases beginning in 1846 for workers at the nearby iron works. When Eisenheim was to be demolished in 1968, a citizens' initiative was begun to preserve the 39 buildings. In 1991 the one- and two-storey brick buildings comprising Eisenheim were finally placed under historic protection. The LVR Industrial Museum in the development's former wash house documents the eventful history of the housing estate. The renovation and modernisation of the Eisenheim housing estate was publicly funded.



Fürst Hardenberg Housing Estate, Dortmund – Old and New as One

The Fürst Hardenberg housing estate was built in Dortmund between 1923 and 1929, and in terms of architectural and urban development quality it is among the few self-contained housing developments for miners in the Dortmund area. Resulting from a project organised by their residents as part of the IBA, the existing buildings were modernised between 1991 and 1998 with respect to both historic preservation and ecological considerations and the housing estate was supplemented with 15 low-energy buildings housing 29 residential units. With the conversion of a home for single persons into the „Fürst Hardenberg“ neighbourhood centre in March 2001, the entire redevelopment was complete. A unique quality of this housing estate was the new interpretation of the idea of the garden city. The modernisation and new construction were publicly funded.



Hustadt, Bochum – Housing Estate Construction from the Seventies

Hustadt in Bochum is a prime example of housing estate construction from the seventies. The project began in 1968 as a satellite town for all social classes in close proximity to the Bochum universities. Chief among the development's target groups were those associated with the newly created Ruhr University Bochum. In the area adjacent to the high-rises, some reaching up to 13 storeys, a ring of one-family bungalow-style houses was constructed. With its own kindergartens, schools, churches and shops, Hustadt functions as an independent city district. The roughly 6,000 residents feature a large number of nationalities and a low average age. As part of „Stadtumbau West“ ("Urban Restructuring in West Germany") Hustadt has undergone a tremendous functional and structural upgrade. The renewal and restructuring of the housing estate resulted from the federal and state funding programme „Soziale Stadt“ ("Social City").



Theme: History & Modernity

Housing in the Metropole Ruhr has been transformed while retaining its historical substance and incorporating modern elements into the mix: old factories give rise to modern flats, historically protected buildings are respectfully modernised and new, future-oriented, in part experimental housing is developed.

Examples:



NF1, Duisburg – Trend-setting and Design Perfect

Built from 1999 to 2001 after designs by Lord Norman Foster and Partners, the NF1 block of flats in Duisburg's inner harbour is a unique project, both locally and nationwide, and represents the transformation in the region. Clear forms in harmony with select materials comprise the architecture of the 68 flats, which are suited for both single individuals as well as families. In recent years Duisburg's inner harbour has been converted from Europe's largest inland port into a modern living environment with model infrastructure: a modern gem in a terrain steeped in history.



Dinnendahl's Factory, Essen – From Machine Hall to Loft Complex

Steam engines were once built here - today the former factory building has become modern loft flats 140 to 210 square meters in size. The façade of the entrance area alone continues to remind visitors of Germany's first foundry and engine factory. In 1992 the existing building earned landmark protection and continues to broadcast its association with other buildings in the industrial region: transformation from industrial structure to living space.



Altstadt Apartment Houses, Hattingen – Tradition Maintained

Since its 1962 renovation plan Hattingen's Altstadt has enjoyed unique status within North Rhine-Westphalia. In 1962 a property refurbishment was carried out instead of a site remediation, a practice more common at the time: an ensemble of roughly 150 half-timbered houses and historically protected buildings arranged around St. Georg's church was preserved, extensively renovated, modernised and in some cases rebuilt while empty lots were innovatively filled in. Besides the half-timbered houses, there exists an abundance of additional interesting residential buildings and industrial properties that had already been modernised at the beginning of the 20th century.



Theme: Urbanity

In addition to its more scenic elements, the Metropole Ruhr also incorporates urban city centres that have spawned groundbreaking forms of housing. In the course of an inner-city renaissance, these zones are becoming interesting again as a location for new, attractive forms of housing and a reinterpretation of existing living environments.

Examples:



Women Planning and Building, Bergkamen - Women for Women

Residential areas by women, for women: women architects designed 28 residential units for women. The occupants became involved relatively early in the planning process, providing input concerning the size, the floor plan, the colour concept for the façades as well as the design of the common spaces and open areas. The flats were built in 1991 as part of the IBA Emscher Park project „Stadtmittebildung Bergkamen“ („City Centre Development Bergkamen“) aimed at promoting the development of the city centre that had been artificially created in the seventies. Women Planning and Building is a publicly funded residential construction project.



Heiligegartenstrasse High-rise, Dortmund – Glimpse into the Future

The Heiligegartenstrasse high-rise from the seventies lies directly at the northern edge of Dortmund's inner city. The 15-storey building was renovated extensively in recent years without state funding. Elevators were replaced, hallways renovated and the entrance area newly designed. And the city of Dortmund has created art for the building: at night the high-rise sports the illuminated phrase: „Im Norden geht die Sonne auf“ („The sun rises in the north"). A structurally similar building called the „Geisterhaus“ („Haunted House") is also within eyesight but has been shut down due to vacancy.



Gruga Carree, Essen – From Fairground to Neighbourhood

On the 12.4-hectare site of the former Gruga Stadium/fairground a new neighbourhood is developing. In immediate vicinity to the Rüttenscheid shopping and residential location, Gruga Park and the Essen trade fair, a mix of buildings is taking form that combines and integrates work space, residential space and services. With its 111 conveniently located flats, the Gruga Carree is now drawing some international attention from those who value the urban quality of life. Two L-shaped parts of buildings enclose an inner courtyard that is modelled after the „secret garden“ in Paris and is discreetly lit at night..

Theme: Demography



As a traditional immigrant region the Metropole Ruhr provides examples of a melting pot of various cultures. A declining population, numerous elderly people and housing vacancies must be simultaneously addressed in residential construction: possibilities for the development of numerous new and diverse forms of housing.

Examples:



Fliedner Village, Mülheim an der Ruhr – Inclusive Housing

600 people from all age groups, with and without handicaps, have found a home in Fliedner Village. The main goal of this integrative, publicly funded housing concept is to combine various ways of life, each with its attendant individual needs, and to promote exchange between people. The houses were built by a total of six renowned architects and provide diversity and exciting results for the region.



Beginenhof, Essen – Autonomy in Community

„Beginen im Pott e.V.“ ("Beguines in the Pot"), the self-styled name for the affiliation of single women who run the „Beginenhof“ residential project. Since the mid-nineties the initiators of Beginenhof have pursued the goal of living autonomously in their community. The former, historically protected financial building was remodelled to create 26 flats and two residential groups, each with six suites, as well as small commercial units. Recreation areas, communal spaces and the leafy courtyard with play areas for children provide social hubs. Beginenhof is a publicly funded residential construction project.



Tremonia WohnreWIR, Dortmund – Community and History

In 2001 a multi-generational housing facility with 21 residential units (16 flats, 4 row houses and 1 communal house) was built on the grounds of the former Tremonia coal mine. The residents were able to contribute their own, yet communal, ideas to the planning of the facility in order to create a higher degree of identification with the project. Community life and interaction are also enhanced by the particular configuration of the buildings: the second storey of each row house is connected to the flats by means of a walkway.

Every vision needs people who believe in it. The European Capital of Culture RUHR.2010 would like to thank it main sponsors:

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