

# ***Work Package 3: Joint Strategy***

## ***Action n. 3.2.6***

***Definitions of required criteria and principles of public spaces design with regards to all aspects of sustainable development***

# **Urban Design and (Landscape) Architecture Aspects**

**Vienna University of Technology**

**Partners Meeting Erfurt  
October 2009**



**EUROPEAN UNION  
EUROPEAN REGIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT FUND**

# Act 3.2.6 Formal Design Aspects

1.1 It is not possible and certainly not desirable to separate out 'formal' design aspects from all others...

'Design' is about giving form to and integrating a wide range of functional considerations – such as those covered in the presentations of the previous five project partners.

Consideration of 'Design' without looking at functional issues risks creating meaningless 'empty shells' which may look good on drawings and perspective renderings, but rarely, if ever, function in practice!



# Act 3.2.6 Formal Design Aspects

1.2 ...But, all else being equal, there are some things which can be said nevertheless...

...in fact rather a lot – but it must be taken in isolation from other aspects



## 2. Theoretical section dealing with the issues covered by the subject of the working paper

2.1 Formal design aspects can best be thought about at three separate scale levels:

- The wider context of the urban space in question
- The site design and organisation
- The use of materials and their detailing



## 2. Theoretical section dealing with the issues covered by the subject of the working paper

### 2.2 The wider context of the urban space in question

- Urban spaces as part of a larger strategic network
- Edges, thresholds and entrances – links in to the surrounding area
- Openness and flexibility – different uses and groups of users
- Providing the physical basis for other open space functions
- Sustainability



## 2. Theoretical section dealing with the issues covered by the subject of the working paper

### 2.3 Site design and organisation

- The creation and definition of outdoor space
- Overall spatial composition
- Human scale, anthropometrics and the sense of enclosure
- Gestalt principles of perception
- Direction and orientation
- Circulation and movement – orchestrating spatial experience
- The design concept as narrative and symbolism



# 2. Theoretical section dealing with the issues covered by the subject of the working paper

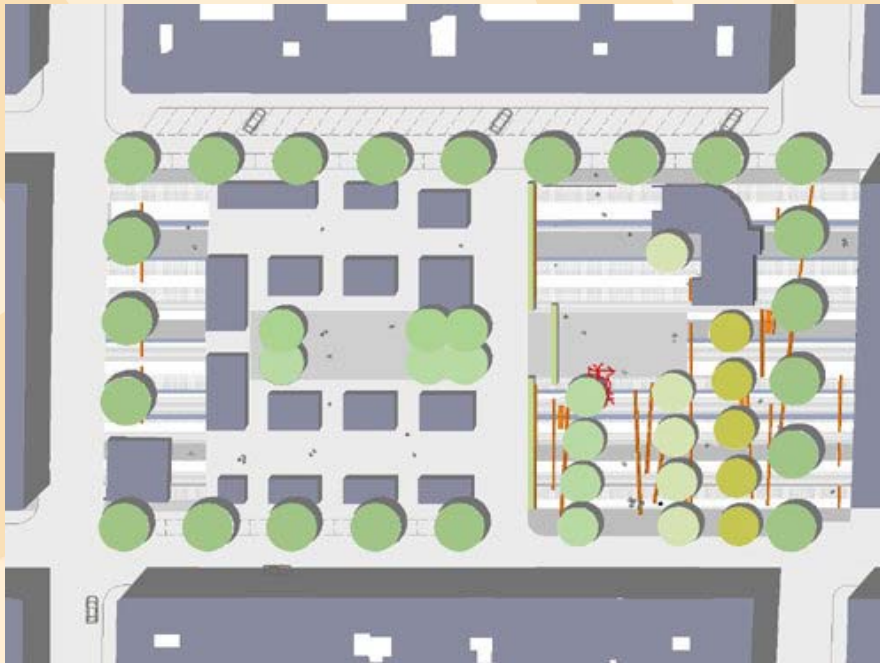
## 2.4 Use of materials and their detailing

- Using detailed design elements to support the wider aspects of the design and to articulate and punctuate spaces
- ‘Floor’ elements – Materials and detailing
- Enclosure and the division of space - Materials and detailing
- ‘Roof’ elements – Materials and detailing
- Structures – Materials and detailing
- Furniture and lighting – Materials and detailing
- Art, interventions, installations, sculpture etc.
- Using vegetation from a design point of view



# 3. Project case studies illustrating the application of the theoretical issues in a practical context of specific projects

## Volkertplatz, Vienna 2nd District



- Pocket park in 19th century urban renewal area
- Area: 0.4 ha
- Date: 2005
- Design: Anna Detlhofer, Vienna





# 3. Project case studies illustrating the application of the theoretical issues in a practical context of specific projects

## Volkertplatz, Vienna 2nd District



# 3. Project case studies illustrating the application of the theoretical issues in a practical context of specific projects

## Rudolf-Bednar Park, Vienna 2nd District



- Local park in urban redevelopment area
- Area: 3.2 ha
- Date: 2007-08
- Design: Guido Hager, Zurich





# 3. Project case studies illustrating the application of the theoretical issues in a practical context of specific projects

## Rudolf-Bednar Park, Vienna 2nd District



# 3. Project case studies illustrating the application of the theoretical issues in a practical context of specific projects

## Monte Laa, Vienna 11th District



- Linear park/urban open space as central feature in area of new mixed use development
- Area: 1.2 ha
- Date: 2007
- Design: Martha Schwarz, Boston, Implementation: 3:0 Landscape Architects, Vienna Zurich





# 3. Project case studies illustrating the application of the theoretical issues in a practical context of specific projects

## Monte Laa, Vienna 11th District



### 3. Project case studies illustrating the application of the theoretical issues in a practical context of specific projects

#### ‘Green Axis’ - Oberer Talsandterasse, Schedt/Oder, DE



- System.built housing area
- Area: 2.9 ha
- Date: 2001
- Design: Martin Seebauer, Karl Wefert und Partner





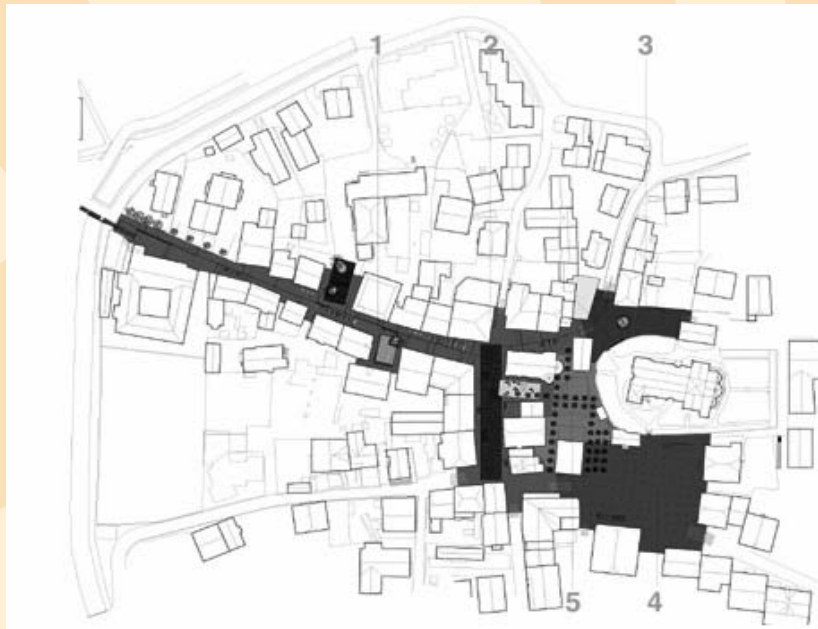
### 3. Project case studies illustrating the application of the theoretical issues in a practical context of specific projects

#### ‘Green Axis’ - Oberer Talsandterasse, Schedt/Oder, DE



### 3. Project case studies illustrating the application of the theoretical issues in a practical context of specific projects

#### Pedestrian Zone Innichen/San Candido, Süd-Tirol/Alto Adige, IT



- Town centre pedestrian zone
- Area: ca. 1 ha
- Date: 2002
- Design: AllesWirdGut, Architects, Vienna





# 3. Project case studies illustrating the application of the theoretical issues in a practical context of specific projects

## Pedestrian Zone Innichen/San Candido, Süd-Tirol/Alto Adige, IT



## 4. Possible relationships/interface between the subject matter of the working paper and the topics of the other five working papers

- **Formal design and environmental Issues**
- **Formal design and public participation**
- **Formal design and gender issues**
- **Formal design and security/social cohesion aspects**
- **Formal design and accessibility aspects**



## 5. Conclusions (the basis for part of the joint strategy) :

- **Formal design aspects represent the ‘grammar’ of creating good urban spaces, but the substance and the content involves a much wider range of functional aspects**
- **Good design is about weaving together these functions in a**



## 5. Conclusions (the basis for part of the joint strategy) :

- Design is not just a ‘product’ but also a ‘process’ which must involve a wide range of actors if it is to be successful
- The joint strategy needs to take both aspects into account
- Good urban spaces are not finished when they have been built and handed over to the public – there needs to be a consideration of the whole ‘project life-cycle’ which must include feedback from users, either directly or indirectly
- This must be integrated with maintenance, management and continual adaptation of the design

