

The withdrawal of the US armed forces and NATO headquarters at the end of 2013 creates the opportunity for Heidelberg to convert the military sites in Sudstadt to civilian use. How could we create a sustainable development that gives equal consideration to social, cultural, ecological and economic aspects and ensures a high quality of urban planning?

URBAN CONTEXT

The Campbell barracks and the Mark Twain Village introduce a unique urban and architectural typology. We strive to preserve and enhance these qualities in order to transform the quarter into a mixed neighbourhood for small business, services and cultural/leisure activities with its own distinct identity and to have its own role in the city. In addition, we continue the communal effort to convert Röhrenstrasse from a traffic axis to an urban, walkable street, an urban link between Weststadt and Röhrbach.

URBAN CONNECTIONS

Old railway tracks that are touching Besselshorn are going to be transformed soon into recreational bike route with regional importance. The green path will connect northern parts of Heidelberg with South. All universities, schools, sport and recreational facilities are going to stitch to these paths. We are connecting Parade ground to this structure by introducing new connections. Old stable buildings are connected with it directly by letting cyclists to go through and live it's spaces. In the same time Röhrenstrasse and Sickingenstrasse will connect valley with mountain and first one is going to become bio corridor to keep biodiversity of Sudstadt.

We consider all other traffic structures as democratic mix. We are not creating separate pedestrian and car routes but mixed streets. New strategy should be used for crossing of main traffic roads, not using 3 roundabouts or light crossings, but both and introducing shared space as third option in front of main entrance.

PROGRAM - A LANDSCAPE OF ACTIVITIES

Both the barracks and the open spaces are to be re-programmed and to accommodate a mixed program. We see the site as a "convenient city" that contains a blend of programs; housing and offices, culture and retail and educational program - that Heidelberg is known for. The more public programs such as cafes, restaurants etc are located in the ground floor while more private programs such as housing, offices and ateliers could be located on higher floors.

We use a similar strategy for the open spaces - they offer an array of activities in the framework of the grid; urban plazas, gardens, allotment gardens, urban agriculture, urban organic ponds, space for temporary structures and installations, sculpture garden etc. The Parade ground is merged with the grid and acts as the central public space, protected from the hustle of Röhrenstrasse, but easily accessible.

By using the grid as a design tool - the intervention is perceived as complete at any stage, thus allowing the development to be carried out in phases while keeping its coherency. It also allows an interactive planning process and a public participation in determining the exact programmatic mixture.



unrolling a landscape carpet



Regional identity - in between fields, river and mountain



Green connections - interlinking Sudstadt with Heidelberg



new relationship between barracks and ground plane



Existing mono-functional urban structure



Introverted & isolated area



Identity



New multi functional blocks



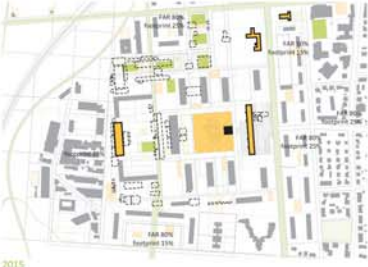
Landscape carpet



Rediscovered public urban identity - mix of program



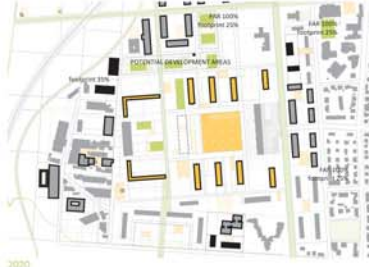




2015

Historical heritage preservation

- Parade ground is hosting big music festival introducing grid
- new program
- densifying activities
- transformation of important buildings



2020

Democrational transformation of a grid

- Parade ground hosting international exhibition Art Heidelberg
- grid is changing
- transformation of Barracks continues
- transformation of Besselhorn
- densifying around Sickingenstrasse
- marking potential plots for development



2025

Radical transformation of a grid

- Parade ground transformed into a landscape during the Summer
- Densifying at potential plots of development
- changing and adding activities
- transformation of housing structures
- densifying around Sickingenplatz

ARCHITECTURAL IDENTITY

The site is characterized by a **strong dichotomy** between two main elements: figure - the buildings, the barracks, and the ground. We believe that its identity stems precisely from this dichotomy. Hence, rather than creating a new identity to the Campbell barracks we propose to **uncover and enhance the one that already exists** - to keep the relationship between the barracks and the ground plane.

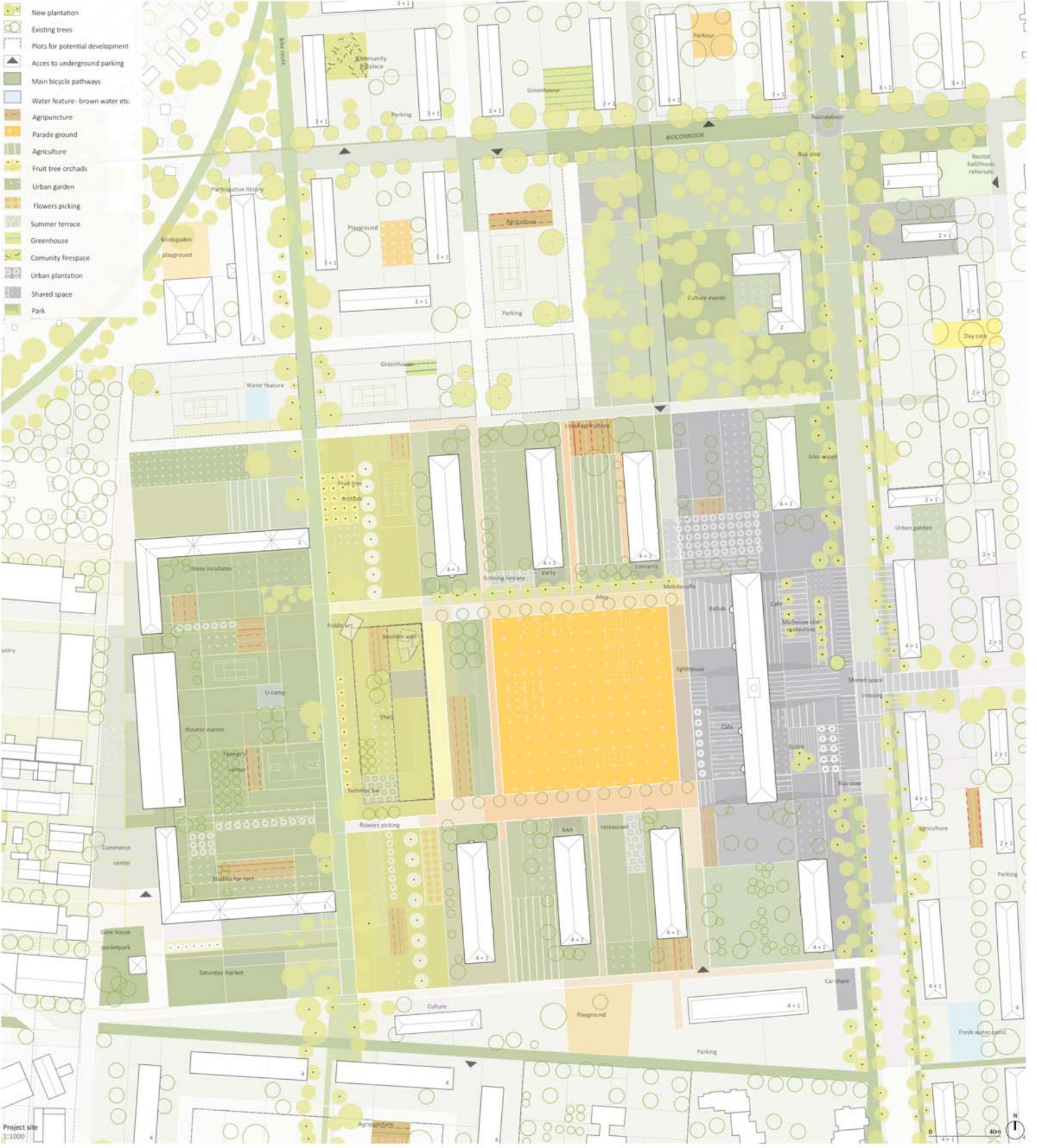
How can we inject new program while preserving this identity? How could we intervene while still keeping free open spaces? Which program could fit such a development? How could we relate to the city's landscape - the mountains that slope towards the valley? How can we stitch the site boundaries and integrate in the city better?

We propose a new way of urban thinking - we deploy a "landscape carpet" that joins and unifies the different free standing buildings. It is imagined as an uneven grid of programs, activities as well as a possibility for future potential developments. It performs not only in the ground plane but also modifies it three dimensionally.

Urban development is an open process that has neither a beginning nor an end. We therefore propose a strategy rather than a fixed design, one that is flexible and can adapt with time and unexpected changes. We use the grid as a design tool that opens up endless options while keeping a structured concept.

The landscape carpet allows us to **stitch the different urban textures together**, to facilitate access to the site through Kömerstrasse to connect to Rhenstrasse and to define a diverse array of public programs in the site.

- New plantation
- Existing trees
- Plots for potential development
- Access to underground parking
- Main bicycle pathways
- Water feature: brown water etc.
- Agripuncture
- Parade ground
- Agriculture
- Fruit tree orchards
- Urban garden
- Flowers picking
- Summer terrace
- Greenhouse
- Community firespace
- Urban plantation
- Shared space
- Park



Project site  
1:1000



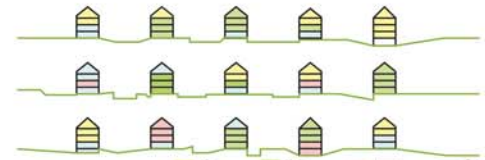


SUSTAINABILITY

Despite the fact that Heidelberg is not a compact city, we attempt to generate density that in turn creates a sustainable development. It reduces distances and infrastructures and creates a social melting pot for the residents and visitors of the Campbell barracks. We also propose to consolidate heating, cooling and electricity generation facilities and thus to reduce redundancy in energy consuming equipment and a better use of the communal resources.

A NEW-OLD IDENTITY TO THE CAMPBELL BARRACKS

We re-invent the identity of the Campbell barracks rather than inventing a new one, to re-program the existing buildings and to re-use the urban open spaces by using a simple and efficient design. With the "landscape carpet" strategy, we suggest to adapt the barracks to current and future needs. Rather than creating a prominent architecture that forces a new identity and closes options as it obliges a choice we create a new kind of urbanism - one that is generous and democratic.

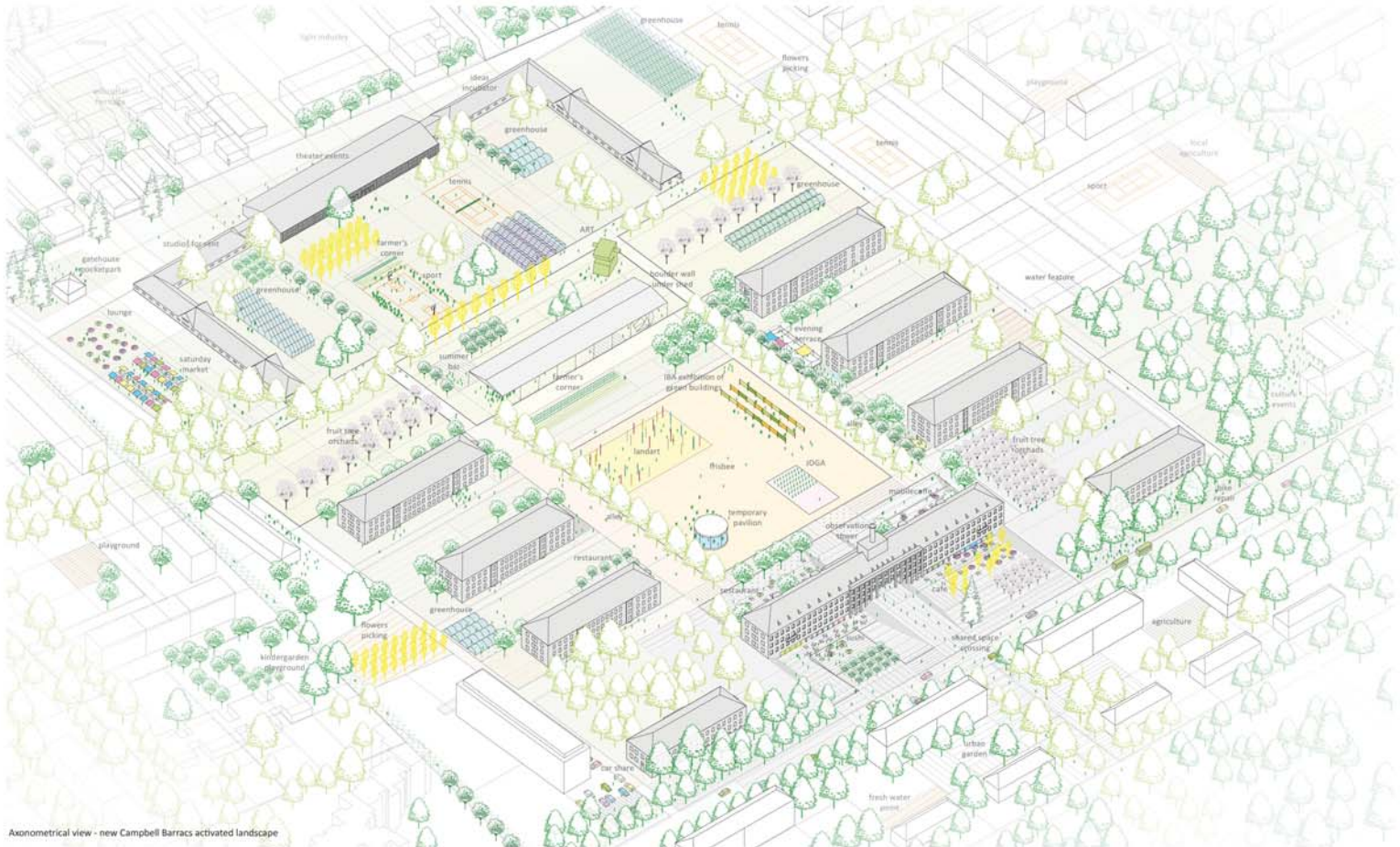


Schematic section through Campbell Barracks with mixed program



Programmatic section through Campbell Barracks main axis 1:500

0 20m



Axonometrical view - new Campbell Barracks activated landscape



View from old Stables