

## PETER LATZ

Landscape Architect and Urban Planner

Prof. emeritus TU Munich



Born 1939 in Darmstadt, Germany

### Education:

9 year humanistic academic high school in Saarlouis with a break of one year at the age of 15: Practical training in architecture by helping his father, the architect Heinrich Latz, to build a family home, and practical training in landscaping by working in the firm Hans Lang in Bous. 1960 - Graduated from high school.

1960 – 1964 Studied landscape architecture at the Technical University Munich (TUM) – Weihenstephan.

1964 - Graduated from the TUM as a master of landscape architecture.

1964 – 1968 Postgraduate research and studio work in town planning led by Prof. Kühn at the Institute of Urban Development and Regional Planning, Northrhine-Westfalian Technical University (RWTH) in Aachen; this was linked with intensive practical involvement in urban renewal projects mainly in the Ruhr District.

### Experience in Teaching and Lecturing

1968 – Began his academic career as a lecturer at the Limburgse Akademie van Bouwkunst Maastricht, running architecture training projects that were closely linked with practice.

1973 – Was offered a full professorship at the Gesamthochschule (GHK) - University of Kassel and accepted.

1973 – 1983 Held the chair of landscape architecture, advocating project-oriented studies from the outset, and running applied research for alternative construction technologies in open spaces and architecture with his colleagues.

1983 - Was offered a full professorship at the Technical University Munich (TUM) – Weihenstephan and accepted.

1983 –2009 Held the chair of Landscape Architecture and Planning at the TUM, from which he retired after 25 years of increasingly international teaching activity. This and his strong commitment to education caused the president of the TUM to prevent the imminent closure of the department of landscape architecture in spite of extensive economies the university had to make in the crisis of the late nineties.

In spring 2009 the TUM honoured his work as a researcher and teacher by bestowing the title “Emeritus of Excellence” on him which also means further active engagement in university projects.

## **International Teaching and Lecturing**

2000 - Was offered an adjunct professorship at the GSD, Harvard University; did not accept because Harvard does not allow concurrent appointments with other universities.

2001 - Was a visiting professor at the GSD, Harvard University, running a project-oriented studio in the spring term in cooperation with the Carnegie-Mellon University Pittsburgh.

2000 - Was offered an adjunct professorship at the GSFA, University of Pennsylvania (later Pennsylvania School of Design) and accepted.

2000 – 2009 Worked as a part-time adjunct professor at PennDesign, running project-oriented studios, partly in cooperation with his home university, and mainly addressing the transformation and social and economic upgrading of former industrial sites.

Design Master Classes, workshops and seminars e.g.

Sept.1998 - Sydney University of New South Wales,

Nov/Dec 2001 - Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane,

May 2008 - Chung Yuan Christian University, Taiwan.

Until to date worldwide continuous lecture activities at universities and public institutions, participation in juries and discussion forums etc.

## **Research / Innovation**

1973 – 1983 Was an active member of the “Research Group of Alternative Technologies” (AFA) at the University of Kassel, doing research together with his colleagues on

- Green roofs and low-cost-housing, integrated studio project “Biobau” (bio-construction).
- Passive energy systems (green building envelopes).
- Thermal buffer zones, passive solar houses, self-sufficiency gardens, using amongst others the example of family house and garden Latz in Kassel, integrated studio project “Pullover”.
- “Energy houses”, e.g. International Meeting Center of the Free University Berlin.

1983 - 2009 Technical University Munich:

- 1988 - Installation of a research station for alternative technologies.
- Series of projects with interdisciplinary search for the possibilities of passive and active solar energy use, rain water management and recycling.
- Research on and development of roof greening systems (NOVOTERRA).
- City climate and micro climate research connected with case studies.
- 2007 - 2009 Innovation project promoted by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research: “Development of repertoires of analysis and methods for the re-integration of former industrial areas into functional urban spaces, by means of case examples in Germany and the USA” together with experts of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

## **Practice as a landscape architect**

1968 - Foundation of the landscape architecture practice in Aachen together with Anneliese Latz,

1970 – 1976 SLS Practice for interdisciplinary urban planning, system planning and landscape planning together with the architect C. Schmitz in Aachen and Saarbrücken.

1974 - Family and landscape architecture practice followed the appointment as a university teacher and were transferred to Kassel.

1976 – 1988 Family life and work tied into a long-term research project on passive solar energy and self-sufficiency.

1988 - Family and practice followed again the appointment as a professor into the region north of Munich.

Since 1991 - Kranzberg–Ampertshausen has housed the practice and the family home, a 100-year-old agricultural estate turned into an experimental field for horticulture and an ecological demonstration project; since then the practice Anneliese + Peter Latz operates under the name Latz + Partner.

2001 – Tilman Latz, architect and landscape architect, joined the practice as a partner. He runs the office since 2011.

### **Selection of projects:**

**Since 1968** - One focus lying on new open space concepts in the urban environment and large scale urban and landscape planning, often in group work with architects, artists, sociologists, economists and/or other experts. Examples are:

1969 – 1980 Urban renewals in towns along the Saar, a region characterized by coal mining, blast furnace plants and steel mills.

1970 – 1985 Wattenscheid – Höntrop: Urban development and planning for a new town quarter in the Ruhr district; master plan, design and realization of traffic concept and public open spaces.

1973 – 1976 Saar Hunsrück Nature Park: Research program and general landscape planning, creation of an instrumentarium for the long-term realization of 1000 square kilometers of a recreation region in the uplands of the Saarland.

1976 – 1980 University of Marburg, new university campus on the Lahnberge: General development plan for open spaces and infrastructure as a set of instruments for developing the general building program.

1988 – 2001 University of Ulm, Science City on the Eselsberg, University West: Sustainable urban extension of the science town's architecture and landscape with efficient rain water management.

1990 – 1992 Green Belt Frankfurt am Main: Overall plan for the long-term development of the landscape around the German metropolis, as a legal instrument for the long-sighted political achievement of a coherent public green belt around the German metropolis.

1990 – 1993 Europe Town on the Plateau de Kirchberg, Luxembourg: Masterplan for urban, landscape and artistic renewal and development of a town of the sixties into a viable city of high identity, with the functions of living, working, education and leisure mixed thoroughly; with characteristic town quarters structured by the “green model of the inner city”, with avenues, squares, gardens and parks along an old Roman road; with the aim of urban density in consideration of a deliberate use of resources, the least possible sealing of surfaces and a specific rainwater management.

Since 2008 - Ariel Sharon Park Tel Aviv, Israel: Development of the Ayalon river plain into a park being both a huge retention basin and a public recreation landscape.

**Since the mid seventies** - Another focus lying on alternative building technologies, e.g.:

1979 – 1983 Studio, family house and garden in Kassel: Conversion of an old building and garden into a long-term research project for passive solar energy and self-sufficiency.

1982 – 1985 “Green Houses”, a project of the 1985 International Garden Show in Berlin, also a studio project with students of the TUM – Weihenstephan.

1991 – 1993 Studio, family house and garden in Kranzberg – Ampertshausen.

1993 – 1996 DeTeMobil Headquarters Bonn: Courtyards on roofs, energy-concept for the facades (green envelope), rainwater-cooling-system, rooftop planting.

**Since the mid eighties** - Main focus on the reuse of redundant industrial areas, their rehabilitation and cultural use and reintegration, distilled into teaching, research and practical planning for a theory on the transformation of the post-industrial landscape; in this context also humanization of infrastructure. Examples are:

1985 – 1989 Citizens' Park Hafeninsel, Saarbrücken: Conversion of the former coal port filled with debris after extensive political decision-making process into a park; heart of an ecological urban renewal and natural part of the city centre.

1990 – 2002 Landscape Park Duisburg Nord: Metamorphosis of the blast furnace plant Thyssen-Meiderich into a landscape park, by integrating, shaping, developing and interlinking the existing patterns formed by its previous industrial use, and finding a new interpretation with a new syntax. Design and realization of 9 partial projects resulting from independently operating layers like the low-lying water park or the railway park with its high level promenades.

Since 2004 - Hiriya Landfill Rehabilitation: Transformation of Tel Aviv's disused garbage mountain in the midst of the Ayalon plain by preserving its striking silhouette from the outside, and changing the inside into an open and public landscape, in its core the "oasis" as the symbol for nature.

2004 – 2012 Parco Dora Turin together with Tilman Latz: Transformation of the largest intra-urban industrial waste land into a park near the city centre; corresponding to the former property lines consisting of five separate areas, whose functional differences and aesthetic impact are based on the quality of the industrial remains.

1993 – 2015 Avenue John F. Kennedy, Luxembourg: Transformation of the Kirchberg motorway into an urban boulevard; once a road system organized almost only for individual traffic, now a generous tree-lined open space for pedestrians, cyclists, cars and public transport, connecting formerly separated quarters to a vivid urban district.

From the beginning also gardens for family houses, gardens for residential and office buildings, exhibition gardens, projects of a particular task; examples are:

1991 – 1997 Residential and Office Block Prinzregentenstraße, Munich: Gardens on roofs in the city centre of Munich, incl. opening of two streams which had been covered for more than 100 years, and a new riverbed on top of a two storey underground garage.

1996 – 2003 Administration Building SOKA-Bau, Wiesbaden: Gardens and courtyards predominantly on roofs, representing the combination of office buildings and open space for climatically and energetically optimized working and recreation areas.

1998 - Fog Garden, Chaumont-sur-Loire, France: Exhibition garden for the Festival des Jardins de Chaumont-sur-Loire; mist events, changing the scenery by creating different microclimates.

2014 - „Peter Latz Master Garden“ Beijing: Show garden for the 9<sup>th</sup> China International Garden Expo and permanent installation within a new park.

2002 – 2009 Concentration Camp Memorial Site, Dachau: New entrance area and open space design for the new visitor centre.

### **Professional organizations**

Member of the Bavarian Chamber of Architects

Member of the Ordre des Architectes et des Ingénieurs-Conseils du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg (Chamber of Architects and Engineers of the Grand Duke of Luxembourg)

Member of the Deutscher Hochschulverband (German Federation of Universities)

Honorary Fellow of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), awarded in February 2016

### **Publishing**

Numerous contributions in national and international professional magazines and books

Theses and work are represented and commented in

“Syntax of Landscape - The Landscape Architecture of Peter Latz and Partners”, developed on basis of interviews by Udo Weilacher, publ. 2008,

“Learning from Duisburg Nord”, statements of renowned experts and colleagues from all over the world, publ. 2009.

At present he works on a book about his most prestigious project, the Landscape Park Duisburg Nord: “Rust – Red” will be published by Hirmer, Munich, in spring 2016.

Realized projects are featured in numerous international publications and exhibitions including amongst others:

1996 - Venice Architectural Biennial,

1999 - CCC Barcelona: “Reconquest of Europe - European Public Space 1980 – 99,

1998 - 2003 Several exhibitions at Harvard University,

2005 - MOMA NY: “Groundswell – Constructing the Contemporary Landscape”,

2008 - “Landscapes of the Imagination” at Paleis Het Loo, Apeldoorn, NL,

2008 - 2013 "Bad Places and Oases" (Latz + Partner presents Latz + Partner) in Berlin, Bremerhaven, Munich, Turin, Geneva,

2013 - Oslo Architecture Triennial,

2014 - 6<sup>th</sup> Architecture Biennial Rotterdam.

### **Awards honouring the person**

2001 - Grande Médaille d’Urbanisme of the Académie d’Architecture Paris,

2010 - Green Good Design Award “People” for being a leader, pioneer + innovator in Green Design”,

2013 - TOPOS Landscape Award,

2014 - Friedrich Ludwig v. Sckell–Ring of Honour of the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts

### **Awards honouring a particular project**

1989 - BDLA - Award for Hafeninsel-Park, Saarbrücken,

2000 - 1st European Prize for Landscape Architecture Rosa Barba, Barcelona, for Landscape Park Duisburg Nord,

2005 - EDRA Place Planning Award for Landscape Park Duisburg Nord,

2010 - Green Good Design Award for Landscape Park Duisburg Nord + Kirchberg, Luxembourg

2012 - International Architecture Award for Parco Dora, Turin.

Others see pages with presentation of graphics.